

Frequently Asked Questions

PFAS, a Water Utility Emerging Contaminants of Concern

What are PFAS?

- * **Per and Poly - fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**
- * **Group of man-made chemicals**
 - * non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics, carpets, some cosmetics, some firefighting foams, and products that resist grease, water, and oil
- * **PFAS can be found in:**
 - * Food
 - * The workplace (especially manufacturing environments)
 - * Drinking water
 - * Living organisms (including fish, animals and humans)



Why are PFAS Important?

- * **Most people have been exposed to PFAS**
- * **Evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse health outcomes in humans**
- * **Drinking water and wastewater identified as containing PFAS**

How are people exposed to PFAS?

- * **Contaminated soil and water used to grow food**
- * **Food packaging, and equipment that used PFAS during food processing**
- * **Commercially-treated products that are stain and water-repellent or nonstick**
 - * Carpets
 - * Leather and apparel
 - * Textiles
 - * Paper and packaging materials
 - * Non-stick cookware
- * **Drinking water from contaminated water supplies**
 - * Typically localized and associated with PFAS manufacture and use

Are there health effects from PFAS?

- * **PFOA and PFOS can cause:**

- * reproductive and developmental issues
- * liver and kidney issues
- * immunological effects in laboratory animals

- * **Some findings are:**

- * increased cholesterol levels
- * infant birth weights
- * effects on the immune system
- * cancer
- * thyroid hormone disruption

My water is supplied to me by a public water system, is it safe to drink?

- * **Milford's water is safe to drink**
- * **Our water system provides safe drinking water**
- * **Our water system samples the water for these PFAS**
- * **If any drinking water standard is not met we must promptly notify our customers and provide water that meets drinking water standards**



My water is from a private well, does it meet public water standards?

- * Rules for a public water supply do not apply to private well owners
NHDES recommends that anyone with a private well should periodically have their drinking water tested
- * The NHDES list of recommended tests for private well water is available at
https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/well_testing/index.htm
- * If a private well owner decides to test for PFAS and finds levels above the drinking water standards they can consider installing a treatment system
- * NHDES has posted in-home water filtration information at
https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-PFASinvestigation/?page_id=171

What are the next steps for NHDES on PFAS?

- * **NHDES will assist drinking water and wastewater systems to achieve compliance with these new standards**
- * **All hazardous waste/landfill sites and groundwater discharge sites will need to comply with the new rules**
- * **NHDES will also continue to investigate potentially impacted areas**
- * **NHDES and DHHS will continue to review the latest science and work to educate and inform citizens, healthcare providers, municipalities and other stakeholders about PFAS**



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What is Milford Water Utilities PFAS information?

- * **MWUD expects to follow NHDES water and wastewater PFAS standards**
- * **NHDES drinking water standards in place in 2019**
 - * PFOA= <12 ppt
 - * PFOS= <15 ppt
 - * PFHx5= <18 ppt
 - * PFNA= <11 ppt

Milford drinking water PFAS information

- * **2016 voluntary testing of our drinking water had results of: PFOA <2ppt, PFOS <4ppt**
 - * This is well within the current standard
- * **NHDES 4th Quarter required testing has begun**
 - * Results will be reported and recorded with NHDES for public information

Milford Wastewater PFAS information

- * **Wastewater Treatment Facility *incoming* wastewater was tested in 2017:**
 - * PFOA= 5.59 ppt
 - * PFOS= Not Detected
- * **Wastewater Treatment Facility *out-going* treated water was tested in 2017:**
 - * PFOA= 10 ppt
 - * PFOS= 13.5 ppt
- * **Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge was tested in 2019:**
 - * PFOA/PFOS combined total 8.31 ppt
- * **Wastewater Treatment Facility Closed Sludge landfill routine groundwater monitoring was tested in 2019(prior to latest standards):**
 - * PFOA/PFOS combined total 88.1 ppt
 - * Exceeds the NHDES standard
 - * NHDES has required us to present an assessment and corrective action plan
 - * We have an assessment monitoring and potential corrective action plan being developed with the assistance of a geological engineering firm and presented to NHDES



Questions?

Thank You