IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Rowley Water Department has levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard

This report contains important information about your drinking water.
Please translate it or speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.

What happened?

Our water system had PFAS6 results at one of the two points of entry (POE), where water enters the pipes serving the Town, that exceeded the PFAS6 MCL drinking water standard for the period from October 2024 to December 2024. The Haverhill St GP Well No. 2 (Well No. 2) located at 435 Haverhill Street was the POE that exceeded the PFAS MCL and has since been shut down so that it is no longer feeding water into the system. The Rowley Water Department is working to evaluate short-term and long-term solutions to address PFAS in its water supply.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Although this is not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did and are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). See our latest results in the table below.

PFAS6 Results for Haverhill St GP Well No. 2 (02G)

Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L
Quarter 3, 2024	Month 1	7/29/2024	25.1	**23**	**20**
	Month 2	8/5/2024	24.1		
	Month 3	9/4/2024	20.9		
Quarter 4, 2024	Month 1	10/11/2024	22	**22**	**20**
	Month 2	Well offline	NA		
	Month 3	Well offline	NA		

* If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.

The location where elevated levels of PFAS6 were reported, Well No. 2, is one of two entrance points (or sources) that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ppt MCL at Rowley's Water Treatment Plant.

Our results are above the MCL for PFAS6. This is typically the average of three months' of PFAS6 results that caused the quarterly average to exceed the PFAS6 MCL. Quarter 4, 2024 only has an October 2024 result listed because the well stopped serving water to our customers on October, 18th 2024. To comply with the drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system.

Some people who drink water containing PFAS6 in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS6 may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. For more information on PFAS, see the links below.

What is PFAS6?

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). PFAS are human-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes.

What should I do?

You do not need to do anything at this time because the source with PFAS6 greater than the MCL, Well No. 2, has been shut off as of October 18th, 2024 and is not delivering water to our customers.

Please note: Boiling water with PFAS6 will not destroy the PFAS6 and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.

What is being done?

Rowley Water Department has taken the following pro-active measures:

- All water feeding the Rowley system is being provided by the Water Treatment Plant on Pingree Farm Road where PFAS6 levels were reported between the range of non-detect (ND) – 2.7 ng/L, below the MCL of 20 ng/L.
- Continuing to sample all water sources for PFAS6 in accordance with required protocols.
- Conducting an evaluation with assistance from Tata & Howard on maximizing water production from the existing WTP at Pingree Farm Road and potential short-term and long-term treatment options for future use at Well No. 2 (any treatment facility will likely be separate from our current WTP located at Pingree Farm Road which is not designed to remove PFAS6).
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

Where can I get additional information?

If you have questions about your water system's operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system operator directly. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by this contaminant you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: program.director-dwp@mass.gov or (617) 292-5770. If you have questions about specific symptoms, you can contact your doctor or other health care provider. If you have general questions about public health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-624-5757.

For additional information, please contact Robert Swiniarski of The Rowley Water Department at 978-948-2640, Rob@rowleywater.com, or 401 Central Street, Rowley, MA 01969. Also see the weblinks listed below:

- **MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers** (https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351)
- **CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals** (https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html)
- **Massachusetts Department of Public Health information about PFAS in Drinking Water** (https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water)

This public notice is being sent to you by:
Rowley Water Department. PWS ID#: 3254000. 1/22/2025

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

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