

UPDATE – April 26, 2022

The Springvale H&T GAC Filters (for removing PFAS) Are Now Active

The Natick Department of Public Works Water/Sewer Division has some exciting news!

After much hard work and coordination between contractors and Town staff, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has completed inspections and granted approval for the operation of the newly installed PFAS-removal Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters, which will treat the H&T portion of the Springvale Water Treatment Facility. The new GAC filters are anticipated to remove levels of PFAS down to “Not Detected” in the H&T portion. These results are supported by initial test runs through the filters.

The Springvale Water Treatment Facility is made up of two treatment operations, which combine prior to entering the distribution system: the H&T treatment portion and the Tonka treatment portion. The H&T treatment portion will be run at max capacity, with the GAC filters anticipated to remove levels of PFAS down to “Not Detected.” During periods of higher demand, the H&T portion alone cannot provide enough water to supply the entire Town. Thus, the filtered H&T water will be blended with the Tonka treatment portion to supply the Town with adequate drinking water supply. The resulting blended water will be reliably and consistently below the MassDEP required MCL, or safe level, of 20 ppt.

Additionally, the Natick Department of Public Works Water/Sewer Division is constructing two GAC filters that will remove PFAS from the Tonka treatment portion of the Springvale Water Treatment Facility. These additional filters will operate seasonally, during the high demand season for the Town (typically May to October). These seasonal filters are scheduled to be in operation by the summer of 2022. With these additional filters, Natick’s treatment operations at Springvale will be more flexible and further reduce PFAS concentrations.

By providing drinking water in compliance with State regulations, the Town and MassDEP will no longer suggest use of bottled water for the sensitive subgroup.

For additional information regarding PFAS and regular updates, please check the Natick PFAS webpage at <https://www.natickma.gov/1753/PFAS>. On this page, we post the most recent monthly PFAS sample results as soon as they are confirmed by the State, important announcements, and other helpful information concerning PFAS.

If you have any further questions, please email water@natickma.org or call 508-647-6557.



H&T GAC Filter Building Under Construction



Newly Installed H&T GAC Filter Vessels