

Pfas timeline link:

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September 5 Letter Link:

[September 5 Discolored Water Letter.pdf](#)

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS - MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, SEPTMEBR 30, 2024

1. Introduction of the Board and Water Staff
2. Overview of how we got here. The GWD has been mandated by the EPA which is enforced by the State DEP to provide PFAS treatment to three of our wells by 2029. The GWD has taken a proactive approach to start this process early. Starting early hopefully avoids the possible shortages of engineering firms, contractors and products needed to build the treatment plants. This process is slow taking upwards of 3-5 years from the start. We are already at the end of year 2. As a result of the PILOT TEST at Worcester street the GWD had to pump the well at full capacity to obtain water quality data to be able to design the proper treatment for PFAS. EPA also mandated 4-log chlorine requirements which increased the chlorine levels injected at wells from .25 PPM to 1.0 PPM or more. As a result of the mandated high chlorine levels created higher dissolved iron and manganese levels in the water system resulting in dirty water.
Also, pumping requirements to meet usage demand during the summer months, June through September increases dramatically. Peak days during the winter are around 1.3 million gallons a day vs 1.7 million gallons a day during summer months. Seasonal increases can be attributed to lawn watering.
3. What have we done. The GWD has been flushing for a week and we will continue to flush the entire system until it is as clean as it can get. We will be flushing nights also from 7-midnight in addition to flushing days from 8-3:30PM. Weekend flushing is not being done as we felt it would give the wells time to rest and water might be cleaner when everyone is home on the weekend. Flushing is limited to the amount of water we can produce in a day, without jeopardizing fire protection and domestic use.
4. Where do we go from here. The GWD will continue flushing until the water is as clear as possible. The Board will meet on October 9th and discuss options regarding rebates for “in home” treatment systems. Operations staff has also reduced the number of hours they use the Worcester street well. Reduction of water being pumped in the fall/winter will allow then to use other sources to keep up with demand. The GWD has also asked DEP to withdraw additional volumes of water from the Follette Street well on an emergency short-term base. This may or may not be allowed and may take months for approvals. We are also asking, DEP for a longer-term approval for use of Follette street during the PFAS construction phases, this started a year ago and we hope to have an answer early next year.

5. Treatment timelines. GWD has 3 treatment plants to build. Realistically the first plant will not be on-line until fall of 2027 and the other 2 to follow over the next year after that. Timing is very fluid due to permitting, DEP approvals, construction activities and supply chain issues. Right now, everything has been moving along as expected with minor delays. GWD needs the support of the customers and the Town permitting Boards to facilitate this project.
6. Costs. These projects are going to total around \$50 million dollars. We have been approved for a loan through the State program for a \$23 million zero percent loan. We have submitted an application for \$32 million in this year's application round. Results of our eligibility for the latest round will not be known until around January 2025.
7. Public comment.

PFAS TIMELINE

NOTE: Prior to the 2-year timeline 4-Log chlorine mandates were instituted by EPA which changed our chlorine injections levels from .25 to over 1. This required increase had a significant impact on the amount of dissolved iron and manganese that went into the water system.

In October of 2020 DEP sets MCL for PFAS at 20 PPT GWD, all wells test under MCL. So at this time no treatment was required by GWD.

YEAR 2023

In JANUARY 2023 EPA talks about setting their own MCL for PFAS may be as low as 0 to 20 PPT
GWD continues to test for PFAS as required by State and continues to be under the State MCL
In JUNE Board discusses joining PFAS class action suit.

GWD also thinks EPA is going to set limits below 20 PPT so they take a proactive approach and decide to move forward with treatment options understanding this is a long process and any State or Federal funding options will be used up quickly.

In JULY GWD sends SRF funding application to State for East st and Worcester st wells requesting \$23 million of low or zero interest loan.

In AUGUST Board votes to join PFAS law suit.

IN SEPTEMBER Board realizes that additional water may be needed during construction and starts the process of getting an amendment to the Follette WMA permit allowing for more water withdrawal. They understood that this process may take over a year and may not even be approved by the State DEP.

In OCTOBER Annual System wide hydrant flushing started

In NOVEMBER Annual System wide hydrant flushing completed

In DECEMBER Board acting proactively calls a Special Meeting appropriates \$250,000 for pilot study at East/Worcester street also approving Special meeting appropriated \$50,000 for land acquisition study at Trinity ave. Trinity ave well site has no land capacity for a treatment plant.

In DECEMBER GWD receives approval from SRF for \$23 million zero interest loan. Now they start the process of hiring an engineering firm to start the design, permitting construction phases.

2024

During JANUARY-MARCH GWD hires firms to investigate the use of Town land on Powerline Drive to put Trinity avenue well site. Also, continues talks with engineering firm to look at options for treatment at East street and Worcester Street wells.

In APRIL EPA sets MCL for PFAS at 4 PPT all GWD wells impacted requiring treatment. Treatment compliance by EPA is by 2029

In April at their Annual Meeting GWD appropriates \$23 million for PFAS treatment plants East/Worcester Street. This now allows the Board to spend money on the project.

In MAY. The Board discusses and hires an engineering firm to evaluate combining Trinity and Follette street wells as one treatment plant on land already owned by the District. Board votes that this is the best option. The Follette street well has no PFAS but planning for treatment is the best proactive approach now and will be cheaper in the long run.

In MAY Pilot study starts at Worcester Street well.

In mid-June dirty water complaints start to come into the office.

In JUNE Board hires Tata and Howard Engineers to perform a capacity study to determine the ability of our current wells to supply the existing housing units approved and in the planning board process. Results of study show that we have the capacity.

In JUNE Board signs preliminary design with engineers for East street and Worcester street PFAS plants.

In JULY Application for SRF funding submitted for Trinity/Follette wells \$32 million. Will not know till January 2025 if funds are approved.

In OCTOBER Flushing starts

FUTURE DATES

JANUARY 2025 Status of award on \$32 million SRF application for Trinity/Worcester street to be announced by State.

Construction Timelines: Pilot testing, Design, Permitting, Bidding, Construction

WORCESTER STREET: PRESENT TO START UP OF PLANT 18-24 MONTHS PENDING SUPPLY CHAIN*

EAST STREET: PRESENT TO START UP OF PLANT 18-24 MONTHS PENDING SUPPLY CHAIN*

TRINITY AVE FOLLETTE STREET: PRESENT TO ????? PENDING SRF FUNDING AWARD

*Completion dates on projects is subject to: permit timelines, supply chain issues, DEP approvals, and construction delays such as weather or change orders. There may be significant delays in product availabilities as everyone will be starting to build these types of plants and there are limited treatment options.