NOTICE OF NEW MCLs & AGQS Effective 10/1/19

The state of New Hampshire has recently passed legislation to lower the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for drinking water, as well as Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS), specifically for four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

As you may be aware, in 2016 MVD wells 4 and 5 were determined to exceed previous PFAS standards, and are therefore presently temporarily out of service. Construction of a PFAS treatment facility is currently under way at wells 4 and 5, and is targeted for completion by July 2020, at which time we expect to bring them back into production at non-detectable levels of PFAS.

While all other MVD wells are compliant with previous PFAS standards, all remaining active MVD wells are near or above the new MCLs. Water supplies are considered to be compliant with the new MCL regulations while one year of required PFAS sampling is conducted. The new PFAS MCL regulations indicate that compliance with PFAS regulations will be based on whether future PFAS sampling results indicate PFAS concentrations above the new MCLs for the average of four consecutive quarters beginning October 1, 2019. If average future PFAS sample results do exceed new MCLs, water suppliers would need to begin planning for treatment to reduce regulated PFAS compounds.

Fortunately, Merrimack is ahead of many other communities because the MVD has prepared a PFAS treatment cost and rate impact study in late 2018, and this information was used by voters in petitioned warrant articles that were voted on and approved in March 2019, for installation of PFAS filtration plants on all MVD wells. MVD has since been actively pursuing design of these PFAS filtration plants, and as such, MVD will be in a position to have all MVD well water filtered for PFAS sooner than other communities.

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Merrimack Village District
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Despite this advantage, customers need to be aware of the interim period until all MVD wells are treated for PFAS, so they may decide on interim measures if they so choose. This note is intended to inform you of the facts. The following chart allows you to compare previous with current MCLs and recent averages of contamination levels on our wells:

Contaminant	Previous NHDES standards	New MCL & AGQS[1]	Average PFAS Results August 2018 - July 2019 (in ppt)					
			MVD Well 2	MVD Well 3	MVD Well 4[2]	MVD Well 5[2]	MVD Well 7	MVD Well 8
PFOA	70 ppt	12 ppt	11.98	24.00			21.67	17.92
PFOS	70 ppt	15 ppt	1.78	2.16			2.81	1.88
PFOA & PFOS (combined)	70 ppt	N/A	13.76	26.16			24.48	19.80
PFHxS	N/A	18 ppt	0.83	0.71			1.45	1.31
PFNA	N/A	11 ppt	0.45	0.76			0.71	0.41

[1]effective 10/1/2019 [2]currently offline - targeted completion date for filtration plant to non-detect: 07/2020

PFOA: Perfluorooctanoic Acid ▪ PFOS: Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid ▪ PFNA: Perfluorononanoic Acid ▪ PFHxS: Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid

The water supplied to our customers is a constantly varying mix of all active wells in production. Depending on time of the day and usage, the ratio changes and is different throughout town, as a result of random consumption at each point of use throughout the distribution system. Therefore, the actual PFAS concentrations in your MVD water service may fluctuate between the lowest and highest sampled PFAS levels in our active wells.

After the non-detect PFAS filtered water from wells 4 and 5 is introduced into the drinking water system next summer, the overall PFAS concentrations will be reduced. The current plan is to have all active MVD wells filtered to non-detectable PFAS concentrations by the end of 2022.

More information can be found on the MVD website at www.mvdwater.org/pfas_info, as well as FAQs, information resources, maps, in-home water filtration options, and other PFAS information at the NH Department of Environmental Services website at www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation.