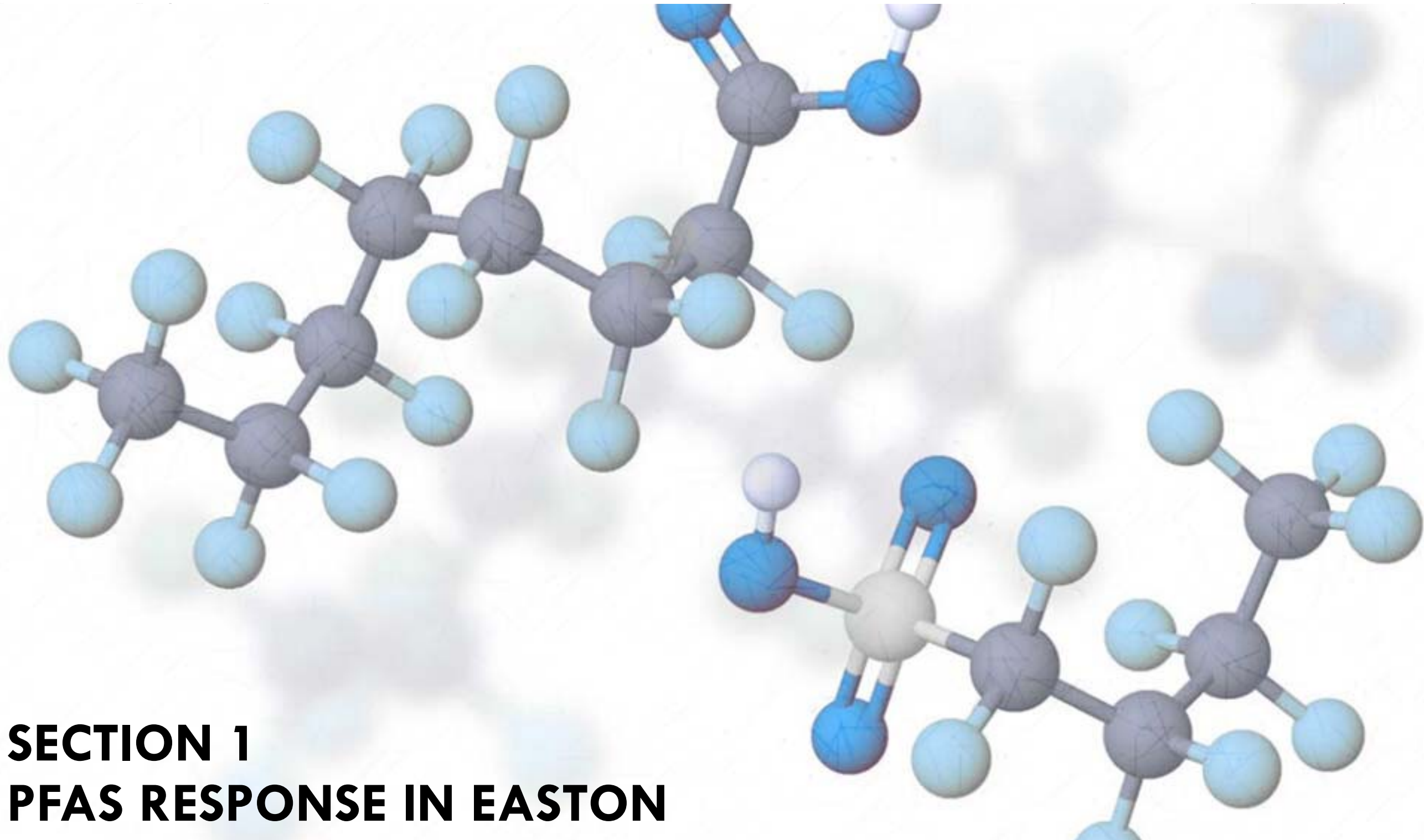


# PFAS RESPONSE ON THE LOCAL LEVEL - EASTON

CONNOR READ, EASTON TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
MASSACHUSETTS PFAS INTERAGENCY TASKFORCE MEMBER

JULY 21, 2021



**SECTION 1**  
**PFAS RESPONSE IN EASTON**



## PFAS RESPONSE ON LOCAL LEVEL: TOWN OF EASTON – WATER DIVISION



Easton Water Division supplies water to 7,500+ customers.



95% + of service for 25,000 residents is via PWS.



Easton water is sourced from seven (7) ground water wells.



# PFAS RESPONSE ON LOCAL LEVEL: TOWN OF EASTON – TESTING FOR PFAS

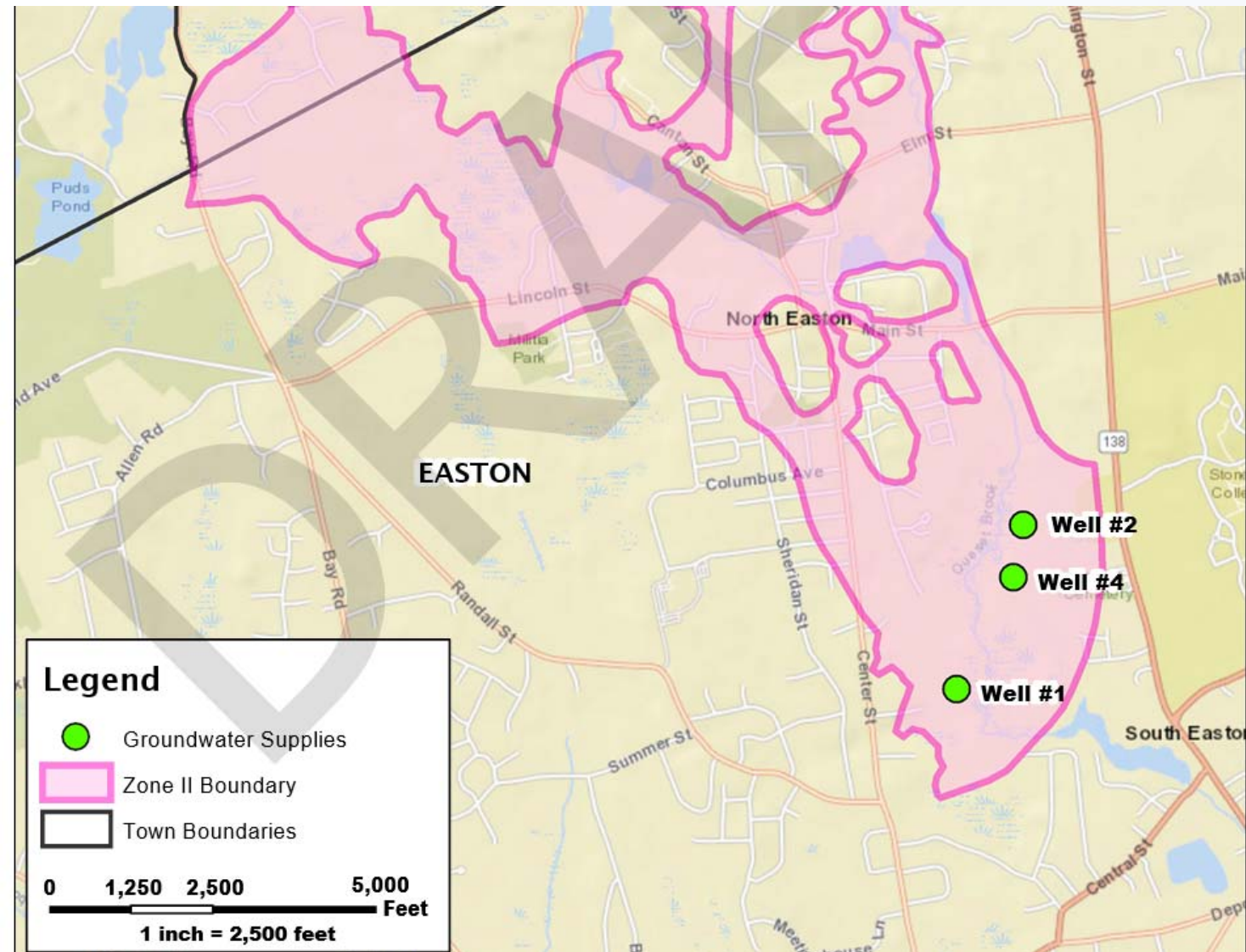
Tested for PFAS under USEPA UCMR3 in 2014 (ppb scale) and received NDs.

During well replacement in 2019, DEP required Easton test at ppt scale.

To our surprise, PFAS was detected (15.6 ppt).

This surprise was repeated at other wells tested throughout that summer / fall.

Like many administrators, directors and water superintendents since – we had to get up to speed on PFAS – fast.





# DEVELOPING A PFAS RESPONSE STRATEGY

- DEP SUGGESTED THE TOWN PUBLISH A NOTICE ON WEBSITE DESPITE LACK OF MCL.
- TOWN WORKED WITH DEP TO EXPAND ON THAT APPROACH TO BE AS FORTHRIGHT WITH PUBLIC AS POSSIBLE:
  - PUBLIC MEETINGS, INFORMATION SHARING, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC RESPONSE PLANNING.
- EARLY EFFORTS ESTABLISHED THE FRAMEWORK FOR ONGOING RESPONSE THROUGH TODAY.....





# DEVELOPING A PFAS RESPONSE STRATEGY

**Communicate**

**Educate**

**Mitigate**



# PFAS RESPONSE ON LOCAL LEVEL: COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

## Communicate

What is PFAS and why is it a problem?

When did the Town learn about it?

What is the scope and what are the Town's responsibilities?

## Educate

What steps can I take today to promote my health?

How can the Town address the problem long term?

What options do we have in the interim period?

Can we hold the manufacturers accountable?

## Mitigate

Engineering

Capital Plan

Town Meeting Approvals

Design, Bid, Build



# COMMUNICATION



Water Commission  
Easton, Massachusetts

11/18/ 2019 6:30 pm





# COMMUNICATION

## The Enterprise

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### **Easton alerts residents about chemicals in water supply**

By Donna Whitehead

[dwhitehead@wickedlocal.com](mailto:dwhitehead@wickedlocal.com)

Posted Nov 20, 2019 at 9:15 AM

The tests showed levels of PFAS between 0 and 51 parts per trillion in Easton's finished drinking water.

EASTON — While sampling related to a replacement of one of its wells, the town discovered the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS in the town's water supply.

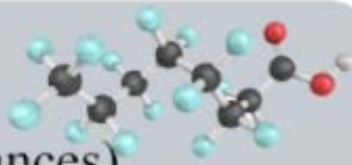


# COMMUNICATION

## PFAS Information

[Home](#) | [Department of Public Works](#) | [Water Division](#) | [PFAS Information](#)

### PFAS Information (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)



*For questions please contact the PFAS Hotline at (508) 230-0642.*

*Last updated 6.9.2021*

#### WHAT ARE PFAS?

- [What are PFAS?](#)
- [New PFAS Regulations in Drinking Water](#)
- [Has Easton tested for PFAS?](#)
- [What does DEP recommend?](#)
- [What is Easton Water Division doing in response to these new regulations?](#)
- [What about Consumer Products, Food, and other Sources of PFAS?](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Additional Easton PFAS Information](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)



# EDUCATION

## WHAT IS EASTON DOING IN ANTICIPATION OF THE DEP PROPOSED PFAS DRINKING WATER STANDARD? [FEB. 2020]



### Immediate Term Options Available to Sensitive Subgroups Right Now

- ✓ Easton Water Division PFAS Home Filter Rebate Program
- ✓ Massachusetts DEP PFAS-Tested Bottled Water Company Information

July 2020 - Ongoing / Available Now

### Medium Term Responsive and Proactive Planning for Permanent Treatment [6-12 months]

- ✓ Ongoing Quarterly Testing and Publication of Results
- ✓ \$100,000 Capital Funding Program for FY2021 (July 1, 2020) to fund PFAS Preparedness Engineering Study
- ✓ Policy and Financial Planning / Advocacy with State Regulatory and Legislative Partners

July 2020 - Ongoing / NEW – NWRA Class Action Complaint vs. PFAS Manufacturers

### Long Term Financing and Construction, if necessary, of Public Treatment Solutions [1 year – permanent]

- Publication and Public Review of PFAS Preparedness Study Outcomes and Recommendations
- Capital Planning and Funding for Possible Study Recommendations – such as Treatment Plant(s)
- Possible Water Rate Increases to Finance Bonds for Construction

VISIT [www.easton.ma.us/departments/dpw/water\\_division/pfas\\_information.php](http://www.easton.ma.us/departments/dpw/water_division/pfas_information.php) FOR MORE INFORMATION, QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS



# EDUCATION

## FY22 Capital Budget – Water Div

### PFAS Treatment Plant(s) – up to three - \$9.2M

- PFAS treatment will respond to new MassDEP regulation on PFAS6 to remove PFAS from wells testing over 20 parts-per-trillion (1,2 and 4).
- Design is ongoing – funding will finish design and advance to bid / construction with target of 18-24 months for buildout.



# EDUCATION



**Town of Easton MA** @townofeaston · Jun 10

...

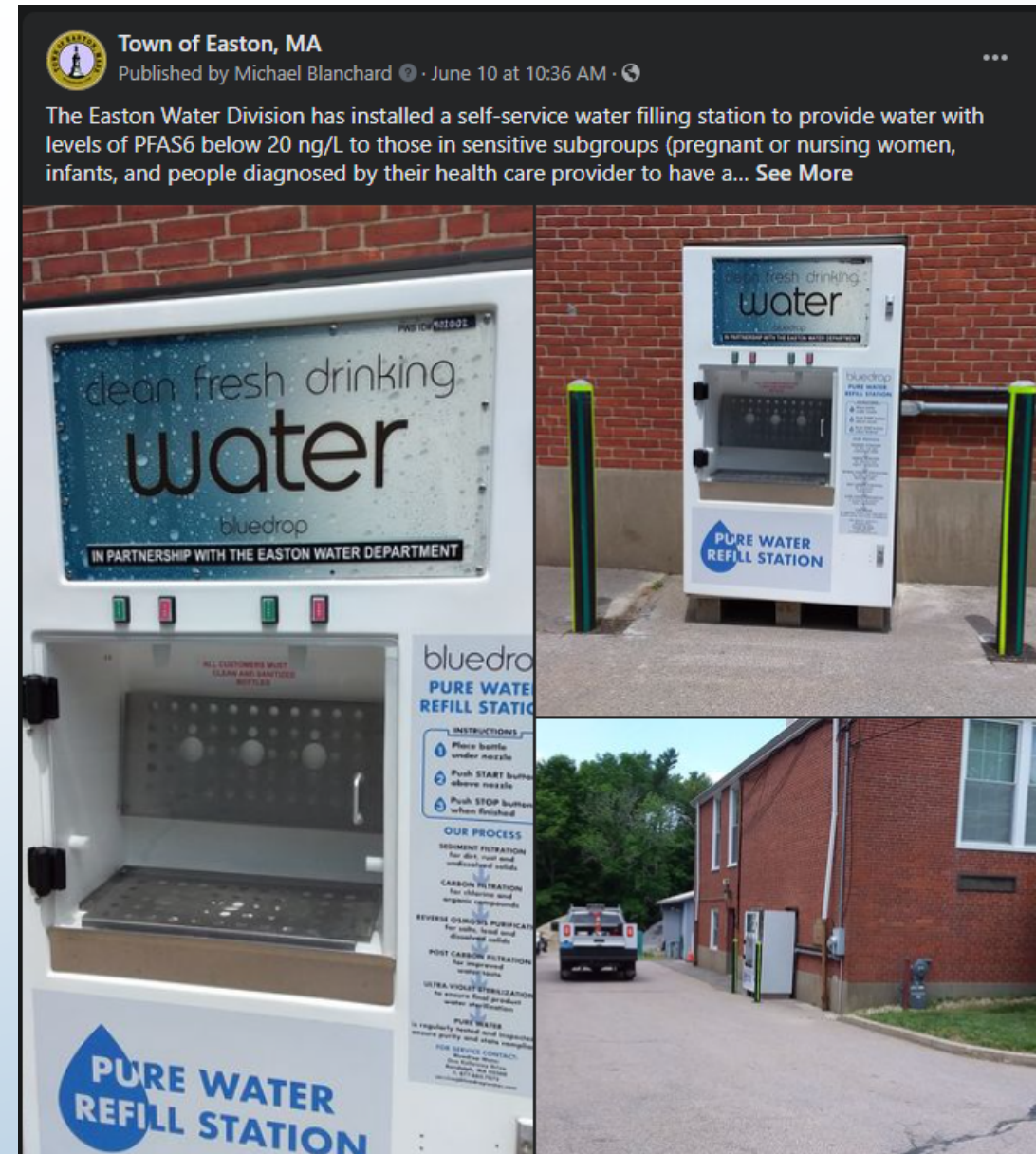
The Easton Water Division has installed a self-service water filling station to provide water with levels of PFAS6 below 20 ng/L to those in sensitive subgroups. The filtration station is located on the side of the Water Division building at 417 Bay Rd. [easton.ma.us/departments/dp...](http://easton.ma.us/departments/dp...)





# PFAS MITIGATION – IMMEDIATE / MEDIUM TERM

- THERE IS NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL-PWS MITIGATION.
- IMMEDIATE TERM:
  - EASTON COULD NOT OFF-LINE THE CONTAMINATED WELLS IN QUESTION BASED ON LOCATION AND DEMAND OR GUARANTEE THAT BLENDED YIELD WOULD ALWAYS <20 PPT.
  - INNOVATIVE 2019 MITIGATION – AT-HOME-FILTER REBATE PROGRAM – NO LONGER COMPLIED WITH 2021 MASSDEP MCL.
  - PE/PN NOT SUFFICIENT – *NEW IMMEDIATE TERM OFFERING REQUIRED.*
  - BLUE DROP WATER FILTER SITE FREE FOR RESIDENTS INSTALLED - EST. ANNUAL COST - \$44,000.
  - 24/7 HOTLINE AND EMAIL ESTABLISHED. EST ANNUAL COST - \$42,000





# PFAS MITIGATION – LONG TERM

## Permanent treatment via 3 WTPs - \$9.2M

- Wells 1, 2 and 4
- WTP likely to be GAC – final design is ongoing
- ETA construction to conclude by June 2023

## Future proofing other WTPs

- Other wells are not above MCL, but designs will make plant “PFAS ready” with sufficient space for GAC / other treatment media should contamination rise or regulatory thresholds change.

## Paying for it

- Financing via bond issuance with debt service funded by water user fees.
- Estimated impact to water rate is an increase of 10 % each year for the next 3 to 5 years.



PFAS Removal Pressure Vessel Installation (Hyannis, Massachusetts)



# PFAS MITIGATION – ONGOING

Ongoing action, which is resource intensive, is also required.

## Recurring action:

- Quarterly notices to all consumers – 8,000 mailings per quarter;
- Quarterly/monthly testing of wells and reporting to DEP;
- Ongoing Q&A with public via hotline;
- Regular presentations to public boards ;
- Social media information campaigns

### Town of Easton Water Division DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The Easton Water Division is providing this Public Information because of a PFAS6 detection in our drinking water that exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS6 in drinking water under recently established Massachusetts DEP regulations. An MCL exceedance or violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. A Massachusetts public water system has 30 days from the discovery of an MCL violation to provide consumers with PUBLIC NOTICE such as this.

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and MCL of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). Easton Water Division has seven groundwater source wells that enter the distribution system separately. Two of these seven wells were confirmed to have PFAS6 levels over the 20 ng/L MCL as provided below. The other five wells were reported below the 20 ng/L MCL.

**PFAS6 Results for Wells Entering Distribution Over the 20 ng/L MCL**

| Location of sample         | Date of sample |           | Result (ng/L) | Average (ng/L)* | MCL (ng/L) |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| Station #1 Gary Lane       | January        | 1/13/2021 | 31.2          | 33.8            | 20         |
| Station #1 Gary Lane       | February       | 2/3/2021  | 31.4          |                 |            |
| Station #1 Gary Lane       | March          | 3/4/2021  | 38.9          |                 |            |
| Station #4R Washington St. | January        | 1/12/2021 | 27.1          | 27.3            | 20         |
| Station #4R Washington St. | February       | 2/3/2021  | 24.8          |                 |            |
| Station #4R Washington St. | March          | 3/4/2021  | 30.1          |                 |            |

\*Quarterly Average = (January + February + March) divided by 3.





**SECTION 2**  
**LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE**  
**MASS. PFAS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE**



## LOCAL FEEDBACK PROVIDED TO PFAS TASK FORCE

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There is a mismatch of understanding, resources, and action between regulators, legislators, and implementers (municipalities / water districts).

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Rapidly evolving regulatory field creates a disincentive structure – proactivity on the local level is risky when so much on the state and federal level is in flux.

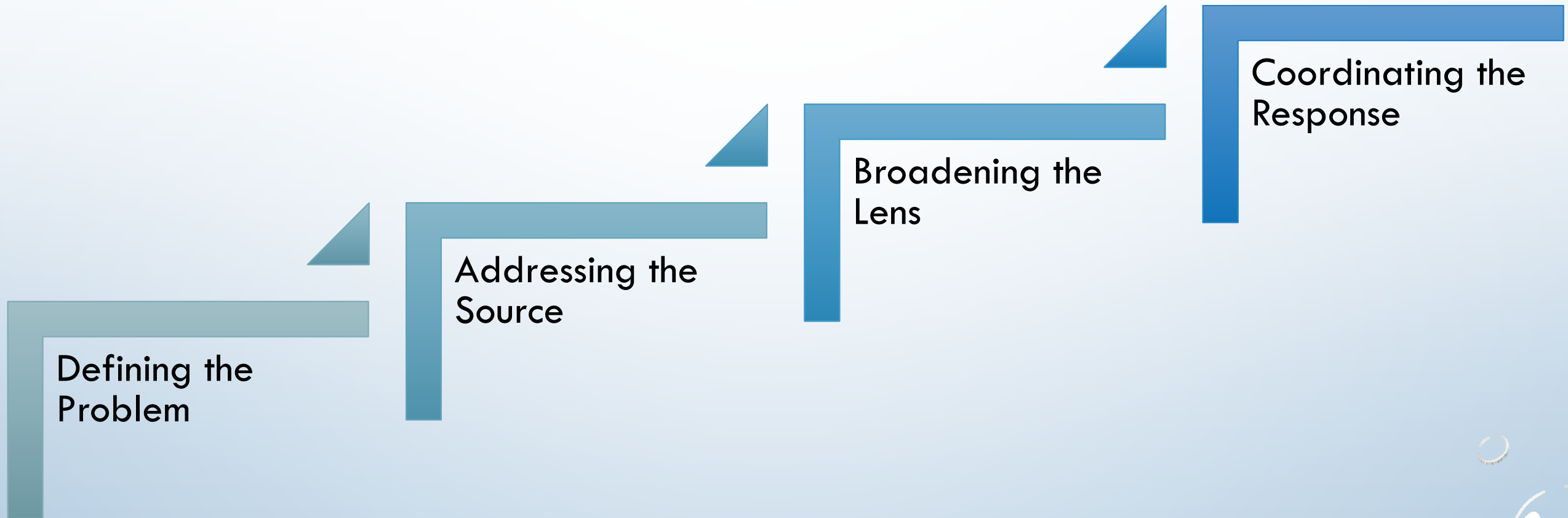
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The Task Force is a critical step towards addressing those challenges, which (from the local perspective) include...

Several decorative bubbles of various sizes are scattered in the bottom right corner of the slide, adding a visual element to the design.



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR MASSACHUSETTS PFAS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE





# CONSIDERATIONS FOR MASSACHUSETTS PFAS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE

## Addressing the Cost

Funding available for mitigation is limited and existing means for raising funds (i.e. water user fees) are regressive and have a disproportionate negative economic impact on those of limited financial means.

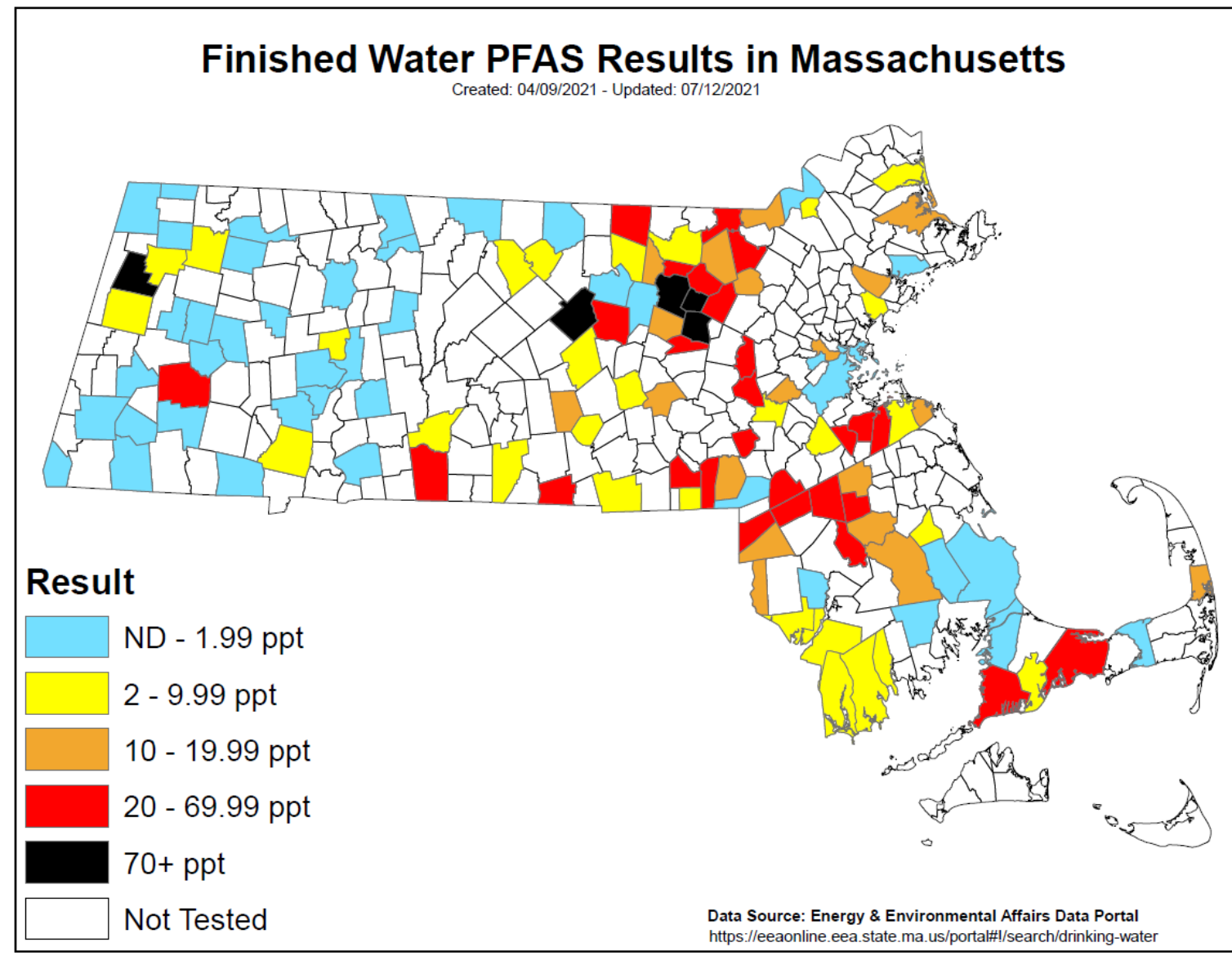
No easy answers. Tax on manufacturers? State bonds? SRF and engineering grants are not enough to address local government (and rate payer) costs.

Absent state action – the answer to “how do we pay for this” is by raising the cost of water for residents of Massachusetts to pay for the contamination of their public water by chemical manufactures who have made billions on the products.



**SECTION 3**  
**LESSONS LEARNED FOR MUNICIPAL LEADERS**

Get prepared.



Source: MWWA – preliminary illustration data not yet confirmed.



## LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

Unified messaging and team based approach is vital.

- Align the messaging from top to bottom.
- Share what you know – and what you do not.
- Be proactive and have the discussion.
- Advocates can be allies.



## LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

### Understand the cost.

- Seek grants where you can (design, testing).
- SRF and grants help – but they will not be enough.
- Many treatments are expensive and can require Town Meeting / Council.





## LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

Lean on your peers.

- You are not alone.
- Work with DEP on interim steps.
- Borrow ideas from your peers.



## LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

Support and connect with state leaders and experts who are advancing the conversation.

- PFAS Interagency Task Force is going to be a critical component of where PFAS regulation goes in coming years.
- The hearings are public and their website is a trove of great information.

<https://malegislature.gov/Commissions/Detail/556/Documents>



**THANK YOU**

