

MassDEP Responds to PFAS Rulemaking Petition

On October 25, 2018, the Conservation Law Foundation and Toxics Action Center filed with MassDEP a “*Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Treatment Technique Drinking Water Standard for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.*” As required by state regulations, on January 16, 2019, MassDEP held a public meeting to take testimony from the petitioners and from other stakeholders. In addition to the oral testimony received at the hearing, MassDEP received 45 written comments from various organizations and individuals.

Briefly, the CLF/TAC petition requested that MassDEP adopt a drinking water treatment technique standard for more than 3,000 members of the PFAS class of chemicals or, alternatively, to establish a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for the PFAS class of chemicals or for each individual member of that class that posed a risk to Massachusetts water supplies. As an interim measure, the petition asked MassDEP to “immediately adopt Vermont’s PFAS Health Advisory of 20 ppt [parts per trillion] for the PFAS class as an MCL.”

In its January 28 response to the petitioners, MassDEP indicated that it would “initiate the process, pursuant to all applicable statutes, rules and executive orders, for development of a PFAS MCL.” However, rather than proposing a treatment-based standard for the entire class of PFAS compounds right away, MassDEP will solicit additional public comment on whether and how it should implement such an approach.

MassDEP also committed to developing waste site cleanup standards for PFAS; to having the Office of Research and Standards review the Vermont Health Advisory limit as it reevaluates its own current 70 ppt standard; to developing a targeted PFAS sampling program for those public water supplies not previously tested for those compounds; to evaluating the need for additional program actions regarding PFAS; and to working to develop analytical techniques for achieving the necessary detection limits for PFAS in water supplies. To access the full text of the CLF/TAC petition and MassDEP’s response to this petition, [CLICK HERE](#).

GZA has been at the forefront in the characterization and remediation of PFAS at numerous sites around the United States, serving as a responsible technical advocate for industries, attorneys, and municipalities.

For more information, please contact one of the GZA PFAS team members listed below or visit our website at www.gza.com/PFAS.

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