



# LITTLETON

# LELWD

## ELECTRIC LIGHT & WATER DEPARTMENTS

## Water Mixing to Lower PFAS Levels Will Pause for April

- **Read this important update.**
- **Temporary water mixing to lower PFAS levels will be paused in April.**
- **Spectacle Pond well may be directly used to meet consumer demand.**
- **The well has exceeded state limits in prior PFAS tests.**
- **Consumers advised to follow MassDEP recommendations.**

The Littleton Water Department expects it will be necessary in April to pump water directly into the system from a well that has previously exceeded state limits for PFAS chemical compounds. The current solution for reducing PFAS levels below state limits prior to distribution must be offline in April. LWD is providing this information to address concerns consumers may have about this temporary change.

### Why is this happening?

Since testing positive for PFAS in 2019, use of the Spectacle Pond well has been limited to periods when its water was mixed with water from the Beaver Brook wells. Blending the two sources reduces PFAS levels to below state limits prior to delivery to customers. This is a temporary measure until a new water treatment plant can be built. The Beaver Brook wells require critical maintenance and must be offline in April for cleaning. They will return to service in May. In April, LWD expects demand for water

to exceed the supply available from its other wells on Whitcomb Avenue. As a result, LWD anticipates utilizing the Spectacle Pond well on days of high demand.

### How does this impact customers?

The Spectacle Pond well has been previously shown to have PFAS above the state limit of 20 parts per trillion. When water has PFAS above 20 ppt, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recommends pregnant and nursing women, infants and people diagnosed with compromised immune systems not use the water for drinking, infant formula or cooking pasta or other foods that absorb the liquid.

For consumers not in one of those four categories, there is no recommendation by MassDEP to avoid consumption and use of the water. (See reverse side for more information on PFAS.)

### What should customers do?

For those consumers who are pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed with compromised immune systems, LWD offers a water bill credit. Call 978-540-2222 for more information. For a list of PFAS-free bottled water brands, visit [lelwd.com/pfas](http://lelwd.com/pfas) and click the link for the MassDEP resource page.

All consumers can assist LWD by reducing their water use in April. The lower the demand, the less water LWD will need to pump from the Spectacle Pond well.

## Water Treatment Plant Construction Starting Soon

LWD will soon break ground on the new water treatment plant project on Whitcomb Avenue. Located behind the VFW, the new treatment plant will filter PFAS, iron and manganese from raw water pumped out of the five Whitcomb Avenue wells and the Spectacle Pond well.

Construction bids will be open in early April and construction will take about 16-18 months. In addition to a treatment plant, the project includes installation of a water main to transport raw water from the Spectacle

Pond well to the new treatment plant.

This project will result in all LWD water being treated and filtered. Originally proposed to remove iron and manganese, two naturally occurring nuisance minerals, the project expanded to include filtration to remove PFAS, a manmade chemical found in a wide range of products. PFAS refers to a family of chemical compounds known for their non-stick properties and durability, which means they do not break down in the environment.



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**Office Hours:**

Mon. - Thurs. 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Fridays

[www.LELWD.com](http://www.LELWD.com)

# Important Information Regarding Water Quality. Read & Understand the Enclosed Information. Visit [www.lelwd.com/PFAS](http://www.lelwd.com/PFAS) for more details

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

**What are PFAS?**

PFAS are a family of manmade chemicals used for non-stick coatings and firefighting foams. While largely discontinued in the U.S. about 30 years ago, they may still be used in imported products. PFAS do not degrade easily and are widely found in the environment.

**What are the health concerns?**

There are scientific studies that suggest potential links between exposure to certain PFAS and health effects. The studies have looked at the effects on the development of fetuses and infants, the thyroid, the liver, kidneys, hormone levels and the immune system, as well as if a cancer risk exists for people exposed to levels well above the drinking water standard. The standard is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water and shorter duration

exposure presents less risk for most of the population. MassDEP also notes "that consuming water with PFAS above the recommended limits does not mean that adverse effects will occur."

**Why does Spectacle Pond have PFAS?**

Littleton is not alone in dealing with PFAS. Acton, Ayer, Bolton, Chelmsford, Devens, Harvard, Shirley and Tyngsborough are nearby communities where elevated PFAS levels were detected in public water supplies. LWD is working with the MassDEP to determine the source of PFAS.

**Where can I get more information?**

More information is available at [www.lelwd.com/pfas](http://www.lelwd.com/pfas) and at [www.safewatermass.org](http://www.safewatermass.org). Customers may call LWD at 978-540-2222.