

# DRINKING WATER NOTICE

GARDINER WATER DISTRICT (PWSID# ME0090610)

## LEVEL OF PER- & POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) EXCEEDS STATE DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Water for the “Hayford Heights” service area In Farmingdale is purchased from the Hallowell Water District. This area consists of the following:

- Maine Ave- from Bowman St to the Hallowell Town line
- First, Second, Third, and Fourth St.
- Merrill, James St and Pit St.
- Almar St. from Maine Ave, to Beech St.
- 200-244 Park St.
- Louden St., Lonsdale, Windsor Terrace, Whitney, Orchard, Pine, Edmond St. and Oak St.
- Ash St, Hayford St., Hasson St.
- Peter Path, Hill St, Riverview St, KV Lane, 12-18 Kennebec Drive and Greely Drive.

Water tests collected 12/23/2025 for our system show that the level of PFAS in the water at this facility is **30.8** parts per trillion (ppt). This is above the State drinking water standard for PFAS which is **20 ppt (parts per trillion)**. PFAS refers to a family of chemicals that have been used for a long time in many household and industrial products. PFAS in drinking water can come from industrial or agricultural sources. We are required by State rule to inform you of these levels, let you know the health risks and let you know what is being done to address this issue.

### **What You Should Do:**

Consider actions that may reduce your exposure to PFAS by using either bottled water or another alternative water source that has been verified as PFAS-free, or water that has been filtered through a device capable of reducing PFAS to non-detectable levels for drinking and cooking purposes, including food preparation and making ice. Use bottled water to prepare water, juice, and formula for children. Boiling, filtering, or letting the water stand does not reduce PFAS levels. You may continue to use water for bathing, washing clothes and dishes, etc. If you are concerned about a specific health issue, you can consult with your doctor and take any precautions your doctor advises.

### **Possible Health Effects:**

PFAS can build up and stay in the body for long periods of time. Scientists are still learning about the possible health effects of PFAS in drinking water. Most people have low amounts of these chemicals in their blood because the chemicals were used for several decades in many household and industrial products. Drinking water with high levels of PFAS can increase the level of these chemicals in the blood. Studies of populations with high levels of PFAS in their drinking water have reported an increased risk of kidney and testicular cancer, decreased immune system response, pregnancy-related complications, increased cholesterol levels and changes in liver enzymes.

### **What is Being Done:**

Hallowell Water District is taking the following steps to correct the problem;

-Hallowell Water District has contracted in May 2024 with Wright-Pierce to design the development of a PFAS removal water treatment plant. Pilot testing of treatment options has been completed, and design of the best available treatment option is currently being engineered. Hallowell Water District will continue to quarterly monitor PFAS Levels in the Drinking water. Quarterly test results can be found at [www.Hallowellwaterdistrict.com/pfas](http://www.Hallowellwaterdistrict.com/pfas)

-Hallowell Water District activated a PFAS Free water spigot at 52 Winthrop Street, Hallowell, ME 04347 on April 15, 2024. This facility is open Daily to all customers of the Hallowell Water District & Gardiner Water District.

-Hallowell Water District anticipates resolving the problem by 2028. We will inform you when this problem has been corrected.

For more information about PFAS and our water system, please contact:

Gardiner Water District

P.O. Box 536 Gardiner, Me 04345

(207) 582-5500

[Zlovely@gardinerwaterdistrict.com](mailto:Zlovely@gardinerwaterdistrict.com)

For general information on PFAS and the State requirements, please visit the Maine Drinking Water Program’s website at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/pfas.shtml>

*\*If you receive this notice, please share this information/notice with other people who drink this water, especially if they may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*



## PFAS UPDATES From HWD

Hallowell Water District is moving the normal scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting to the City of Hallowell's Auditorium to accommodate more citizen attendance and to inform HWD customers on the progress to remove PFAS from the HWD drinking water supply.

**Board of Trustee Meeting  
March 11, 2025, 6:00pm  
City of Hallowell Auditorium  
1 Winthrop Street, Hallowell Maine**

### **Updates to the State of Maine Drinking Water Rule. Updated Rule Took Effect December 1, 2025**

The Maine CDC Drinking Water Program (MDWP) has amended the state drinking water rules (10-144, Chapter 231) in order to adopt the new Federal PFAS standard by reference. Maine will align with the federal timeline of initial monitoring due **April 26, 2027**, and compliance with the rule by **April 27, 2029**.

The new federal standards will regulate all community and non-transient non-community public water systems for six PFAS compounds: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and mixtures containing PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, or PFBS. The Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) will be based on a running annual average (RAA) with a combination of individual MCLs and Hazard Index calculations.

<b>Compound</b>	<b>Final MCLG</b>	<b>Final MCL (enforceable levels)</b>
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless) Hazard Index	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

**The current interim standard of 20 ppt for six PFAS compounds (alone or in combination) is still in effect for community and school/childcare facilities. All actions to address PFAS levels in exceedance of the interim standard must continue. The new federal PFAS Standards become enforceable after the initial monitoring completion deadline of April 26, 2027.**



**Here is some more information on the PFAS free tap:**

- Tap is tested for PFAS compounds quarterly & bacteria monthly as required by Maine DWP
- 5-gallon limit set to avoid long-term home water storage possibly creating bacteria contamination
- Hours of operation are expanded to 9:00 PM but please respect next door neighbors with respect to lights and noise
- Improvements to the tap are underway to minimize ice buildup and allow containers to be supported while filling

**There have been some questions about the attached PFAS exceedance notice:**

- Notice language is mandated by EPA and cannot be edited per State & Federal regulations
- Public notification to water users is required each time a quarterly sample exceeds 20 parts per trillion (total of 6 compounds) of PFAS
- State of Maine current interim standard of 20 parts per trillion then once the EPA initial monitoring date of April 26, 2027, the standard will change to 4ppt for PFOA and PFOS
- HWD will include additional information with each notice as appropriate

**What about alternative water sources? (more information to be provided at March 2026 Board of Trustees meeting and all Customers are invited to attend):**

- Jamies Pond supply would exhibit significant constraints due to stringent surface water treatment regulations, prohibitive capital and operations costs, and reduced quality and quantity reliability
- Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD) interconnection exhibits constraints with water compatibility, water pressure differential, and loss of local control of water supply



**When will the PFAS treatment system be finished?**

TASKS	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b>PHASE I – Due Diligence</b>						
Preliminary Site Investigations	█					
Pilot Testing & Alternatives Report	█	█				
<b>PHASE II – Facility Design &amp; Bidding</b>						
Concept Design and Permit Approvals		█				
Final Design			█			
Solicitation of Bids			█			
<b>PHASE III – Facility Construction</b>						
PFAS Treatment Facility Construction				█	█	
Ferry Road Wells Renovations					█	
Commissioning and Start-up					★	
EPA/M-CDC Mandated Compliance Date						★