

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.
- Loudon 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 recently collected for our system show that the level of PFAS in the water at this facility is **20.1** 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 sources 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.

-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

Zlovelygwd@yahoo.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.*