



# CITY OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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PAUL HEROUX, MAYOR

DT: Thursday, June 9, 2022

This press release serves to notify the public of the reopening of Attleboro's Wading River Water Treatment Plant in order to increase capacity to meet water demand this summer.

The City of Attleboro needs to provide about 6.5 to 8 million gallons per (MGD) day of water to its users during the summer months. The West Street water plant currently produces about 4 MGD. It has the functional capacity to produce more than it is permitted to produce, but the available reservoir reserves would quickly be depleted. Wading River can produce about 2 MGD.

This reopening of Wading River is noteworthy because Wading River was taken offline in September of 2021 due to non-compliant PFAS levels because of a change in state PFAS level standard.

The City of Attleboro is faced with no good option. One option is to leave the Wading River Plant offline, which would make it necessary for the City to impose extreme water use restrictions. This option would likely deplete the reserves feeding the West Street water treatment plant, eventually causing the need to restart the Wading River Plant.

To help alleviate depletion of healthy reservoir levels throughout the summer, the second option is to restart the Wading River Plant this month. In addition to protecting our water resources, this option also makes extreme water use restrictions later this summer far less likely.

The City remains well within the PFAS standard prescribed by the federal government and is in a similar position to many Massachusetts municipalities after the state recently changed their standards

The City of Attleboro has been working with Tata & Howard, a firm with expertise in water treatment infrastructure, to install a permanent PFAS filtration solution. The City is in the design phase for a PFAS filtration system that will be in compliance with the new state standard. It takes months to engineer and years to install a new filtration system needed to accommodate up to 2 MGD.

The City is going to use federal APRA grant money to offset much of the cost of the new infrastructure as a way to avoid a large rate hike to pay for the filtration infrastructure. PFAS is a statewide problem and a problem found in many states and many countries. The Massachusetts State Attorney General is suing manufacturers of PFAS, as this is a product that they are responsible for producing.

Wading River will be brought back online on or about June 20, 2022. For those residents concerned about water quality, water free of charge will be made available to residents at the West Street Facility. The fill site is at the first building to the right when entering the plant grounds. Residents are asked to bring their own containers.

For more information about PFAS and what the Water Department is doing to solve this issue, please visit the Water Department website at <http://www.cityofattleboro.us/1633/PFAS-Information>.

For questions, please contact the Water Department at 774-203-1850 or [water1@cityofattleboro.us](mailto:water1@cityofattleboro.us).