



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Haloacetic Acid 5 (HAA5) MCL Violation**

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Este relatório contém informações importantes sobre a água potável. Ter alguém que traduzi-lo para você, ou falar com alguém que entende-lo.

Báo cáo này có chứa thông tin rất quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng dịch nó hoặc nói chuyện với một ai đó hiểu nó.

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) (PWS ID# 1281000) recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation.

The Commission routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from March 6, 2019, showed that levels for HAA5 at 5 of our 8 sample locations exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) established by drinking water regulations. The MCL for HAA5 at each location is 60 parts per billion (ppb), calculated as a 12-month running average of quarterly samples. The averages at the 5 locations were 65.7, 63.6, 62.9, 65.8 and 63.2 ppb.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. HAA5 are five haloacetic acid compounds that form when a disinfectant (chlorine) reacts with dissolved natural organic matter in the water.

The MCL is based on the potential health risks associated with drinking water with elevated levels of HAA5 over decades or a lifetime. *People who drink water containing HAA5 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.* Please see <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/haa5-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers> for a fact sheet on HAA5.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. You do not need to drink bottled water or use a filter. If a situation arises where the water is not safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

Why did this happen?

The higher than normal rainfall in 2018 resulted in a 50 percent increase in the amount of dissolved natural organic matter (NOM) in Cobble Mountain Reservoir, which is the main source of the system's drinking water. The increased amount of dissolved NOM interacting with necessary disinfectant levels has resulted in higher than typical HAA5 levels in the Commission's treated water. Although the levels of dissolved NOM are decreasing, they are still elevated.

Sample Location	March 6, 2019 Result parts per billion (ppb)	Locational Running Annual Average (ppb)
1400 State St, Springfield	54.9	65.7
833 Page Blvd, Springfield	55.4	63.6
322 Main St, Springfield	64.7	62.9
No. Main St Fire, Springfield	68.2	65.8
1043 Sumner Ave, Springfield	66.6	63.2

What is the Commission doing to resolve the problem?

The Commission has modified its existing treatment process to the maximum extent possible to reduce the levels of HAA5 in the distribution system while maintaining safe chlorine levels. A return to more normal precipitation patterns in 2019 could also reduce the amount of NOM in the raw water and lead to a reduction in HAA5.

A comprehensive facilities improvement plan for West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant is also underway. The plan is analyzing various long-term treatment process upgrades to more effectively treat organic matter and reduce HAA5. A pilot study of differing treatment systems to determine the most effective technologies for removal of organic matter is underway and will be completed in 2019-2020. This study will help to determine the necessary investment to address long term water quality issues, including HAA5. The Commission also has a Source Water Protection Plan that identifies land management tools to optimize raw water quality. We will continue to explore and implement ways to optimize raw water quality.

What can I do to help?

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

What if I have further questions?

Please contact **413-310-3501** or info@waterandsewer.org if you have any questions about this notification.

More information is also available at <http://waterandsewer.org/haa5-frequently-asked-questions/>.

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