



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

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Contact: Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, (413) 310-3501
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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Disinfection Byproduct (DBP) MCL Violations**

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please translate it or speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.

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 traduza-lo para você, ou falar com alguém que entenda-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.

Elevated Disinfection Byproducts at the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (PWS ID# 1281000)

Your water system exceeded a drinking water standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for some water disinfection byproducts (DBPs). Testing results came from routine monitoring of drinking water contaminants from March 2022 to December 2022.

Testing results from December 1, 2022, showed that our system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) established by drinking water regulations for haloacetic acids (HAA5) at 8 sample locations and for total trihalomethanes (TTHM) at 3 sample locations, as shown in the table below. The MCL for HAA5 is 60 parts per billion (ppb) and for TTHM the MCL is 80 ppb. Both MCLs are calculated as a 12-month locational running annual average (LRAA) of quarterly samples. The Commission first experienced a violation of the HAA5 drinking water standard in Fall 2018.

DBP Sample Locations	Sample Result for Quarter 4 of 2022		Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) for Quarter 4 of 2022 ¹	
	TTHM (ppb)	HAA5 (ppb)	TTHM (ppb)	HAA5 (ppb)
10081- Chapin St Pump Station	85	38	88	69
10082 -1400 State St Vibra/PV Hospital	72	66	73	84
10074 - 833 Page Blvd	72	65	74	77
10089- 292 Main Street	71	70	73	84
10083 - North Main Fire Station	70	67	73	85
10085 - Center Street Fire Station	78	57	84	79
10086 - 1043 Sumner Ave	74	77	80	90
10075 - Catalina Pump Station	77	71	83	85

¹ LRAAs above the MCL for HAA5 (60 ppb) and TTHM (80 ppb) are in bold (ppb = µg/L = micrograms/Liter / 1000)

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Disinfectants added to drinking water sources can interact with natural material in the water to form DBPs.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethane in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

In addition, young children (including infants), pregnant women or those who may become pregnant may be potentially more susceptible to risks from exposures to chemicals, such as TTHM or/and HAA5.

What is being done?

The Commission's existing West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant was last modernized in 1974 and is not capable of removing the current levels of NOM to the extent necessary to meet DBP regulations. The Commission continues to adjust the existing treatment process to maximize NOM removal. As a permanent solution, the Commission is rapidly advancing the design of a new drinking water treatment plant:

- Design of the new water treatment plant is underway and on schedule.
- Construction of the new treatment plant is scheduled to start in 2024 and expected to be complete by December 2027.
- Phase 1 construction of other important plant upgrades began in December 2021.

Design and construction of a new treatment plant will ensure that 21st century standards for regulatory compliance, water quality, and reliability are met. Until the new treatment plant is fully online, the Commission expects there will continue to be exceedances of the MCL for DBPs. Customers will receive notification any time there is an exceedance.

What should I do?

You can choose to limit the amount of tap water used if you are pregnant, may become pregnant or are giving water to young children. For example, you can use water from another source, such as bottled water [or for TTHM let water sit in a pitcher overnight to allow the TTHM chemicals to leave the water. Most TTHM are volatile and will easily evaporate from the water at room temperature.]

While breast milk can be a source of HAA5 (or/and TTHM) exposure for infants, **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that nursing mothers continue to breastfeed their babies because of the numerous protective health benefits, despite the potential presence of environmental contaminants.**

You can also use home water filters to reduce exposures. (See MassDEP's *HAA5 and TTHM in Drinking Water Information for Consumers*, <https://www.mass.gov/media/2532606/download>.)

If you have questions about your water system's operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact 413-310-3501 or info@waterandsewer.org, or visit <https://waterandsewer.org/DBPs-FAQs>. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by these contaminants: you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: program.director-dwp@mass.gov. If you have questions about specific symptoms, you can contact your doctor or other health care provider. If you have general questions about your health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at [617-624-5757](tel:617-624-5757). Further information is available in Fact Sheets for TTHM or HAA5 referenced above as "Information for Consumers."

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.

This notice is being sent to you by Springfield Water and Sewer Commission. PWSID #1281000.

Date distributed: January 6, 2023 Phone: **413-310-3501** Email: **info@waterandsewer.org**