

Ayer's Water Supply Challenges Before PFAS

- Very high iron (2.5 to 3.4 ppm)
 - *Secondary MCL 0.3 ppm*
- Very high manganese (0.85 to 5.66 ppm)
 - *Secondary MCL – 0.05 ppm*
- Lead and Copper Rule
- Total Coliform Rule
- Aging infrastructure
- Aging workforce
- Capital funding through water rates



The Ayer PFAS Experience

- Discovered PFAS in 2016 – Health Advisories / MCL have evolved 4 times since
- Response was a learning experience for DPW, consultants and MassDEP
- How do you answer “is my water safe to drink?”
- Solve the PFAS problem but create other water quality and quantity problems
- Impact on small to medium water systems like Ayer (budget, operations, staffing)

PFAS Response Related Issues

- Dirty water complaints due to water chemistry changes (and stress on WTP)
- Positive Total Coliform in August 2018
- Lead and Copper Rule
- WWTP Copper violation
- Outdoor Water Ban - was not popular and loss of revenue
- Operators have additional responsibilities



Some Recommendations to Consider

- Have a single MassDEP Technical Response Group
- Develop guidance documents for water suppliers / engineers
 - Short term actions
 - Treatment solutions
 - Costs
- Provide “talking points” for communication with public
- Provide funding for all phases of the PFAS solutions

Grove Pond PFAS Treatment Plant

- Completed in October 2020
- Treats approximately 50% of Town water supply
- PFAS is removed to non-detect levels

