

## **PFAS UPDATE April 22, 2026**

Hastings has PFAS contamination in all six of our municipal wells (specifically PFOA in all six wells and PFOS in two wells). The City has completed a feasibility study to consider alternatives to remove the PFAS. The study recommended constructing three water treatment plants (WTP) for PFAS and Nitrate removal. The general plan is to build one WTP per year for three years. The central WTP began construction in September 2025 and will be completed in early 2027. This WTP will include a self-serve fill station as an option for residents to obtain treated water before all three WTPs are completed, which is expected in early 2029. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made it federal law for public drinking water systems to reduce PFAS to Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) by April 2029, and Hastings intends to meet the federal regulation.

The current construction cost estimate is \$70.3M, plus upwards of \$1M annually for operation and maintenance. The City has been pursuing multiple opportunities to offset this budget-buster expense. So far, we've obtained \$23.3M in outside assistance:

- \$3.2M Planning & Design Grant (toward all 3 WTP)
- \$15.1M from East Metro 3M Settlement (Well #5 portion of central WTP)
- \$5M Emerging Contaminants Grant (central WTP)

As you know, we've had to raise water rates the last couple of years. Even with \$23.3M in grants, water rates will increase a total of 159% phased in 2024-2028. We continue to pursue additional assistance to bring this down.

We have been approved for additional funds, but contracts are not yet finalized:

- \$5M Emerging Contaminants Grant (eastern WTP)
- \$1M Congressionally Directed Spending (western WTP)

These will help reduce some of the expense. And we continue to pursue additional assistance, including applications for State Bonding funds (which we may learn about in mid-May 2026). We are working with our state legislators, Senator Judy Seeberger ([sen.judy.seeberger@mnsenate.gov](mailto:sen.judy.seeberger@mnsenate.gov) or 651-297-8060) and Representative Tom Dippel ([rep.tom.dippel@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.tom.dippel@house.mn.gov) or 651-296-3135), to get financial assistance this session.

**We need help from both of our state legislators! Please contact them to voice your support for state funding now to ease the burden of planned increases in water rates.**

In April, the City Council hired Pawa Law Group, a litigation and trial firm with extensive experience in complex environmental tort litigation, for potential lawsuits against one or more defendants. Assuming we file litigation, it is a long process that could easily be several years to resolution. This is an important step but not immediate relief, and we will continue seeking State Bonding, grants, and other outside assistance in the meantime. Unfortunately, unless we get additional outside funding, water rates are also projected to continue increasing in the meantime.

Please see the City website [www.hastingsmn.gov](http://www.hastingsmn.gov) for detailed information about PFAS.