



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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Date: 3/9/2026

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Reminder: Sanitary Survey Cybersecurity Program/Assessment Report Inspection

Dear Public Water Supplier,

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program (DWP) records indicate that your public water system (PWS) is scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2026. As a part of the sanitary survey process, MassDEP/DWP will also inspect/review your cybersecurity assessment, findings, and plans. Your PWS must take the action that is applicable to your system requested below.

Based on the review, your PWS will receive a separate report which will include a cyber security corrective action plan (CSCAP).

BACKGROUND ON DWP CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM:

MassDEP/DWP requires all PWS to have a completed cybersecurity assessment and/or maintain a cybersecurity plan/program as part of their emergency planning responsibilities (310 CMR 22.04 (13)) and have a subsequent plan to address all findings/gaps listed in their assessment report. **PWS with operational technology (OT) presenting a cybersecurity risk as described below must complete a cybersecurity assessment (see action requested below for free assessment).**

OT equipment is defined as hardware and software that detects or causes a change through the direct monitoring or control of physical devices, processes, and events in the enterprise. "OT equipment presenting a cybersecurity risk" include equipment that is or may occasionally be connected after initial installation:

- to a computer (for any reason including alarm reporting and patching) or
- to a network (local, wide area or internet), or
- is remotely accessible (either for control or monitoring)

ACTION REQUESTED:

- 1. If your PWS has OT conditions that present a cybersecurity risk, but your PWS has not completed a cybersecurity assessment**, please prepare your PWS for the MassDEP cybersecurity assessment review. Preparation may include:
 - Signing up for a **FREE USEPA Cybersecurity Assessment** at [EPA's Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program Registration Webpage](#). For additional options, see the attachment.If preparation for your MassDEP cybersecurity inspection and assessment review may take longer than 30 days, such as waiting for a scheduled Cybersecurity Assessment, your MassDEP/DWP cybersecurity inspection may be scheduled for a later agreed upon date.

Note: If your PWS has OT conditions that present a cybersecurity risk and your PWS has already completed a cybersecurity assessment, please contact MassDEP/DWP to arrange a 90-minute secure online or in person inspection/review of your PWS cybersecurity assessment, findings, and plans, at your earliest convenience, at program.director-dwp@mass.gov , Subject: "Cybersecurity Assessment Inspection/Review Request."
- 2. If your PWS has already determined that your PWS does not have OT conditions that present a cybersecurity risk**, based on the definition above, please complete and return the [ERP-CS-OT form](#) at your earliest convenience but not to exceed 30 days of receiving this notice, to MassDEP/DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, and CC your MassDEP Regional Drinking Water Program Office Subject: "Cybersecurity Assessment ERP-CS-OT".

MASSDEP/DWP CYBERSECURITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT FOR SMALL SYSTEMS (SERVING LESS THAN 10,000 PEOPLE), OR PWS LOCATED IN A [DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY](#)

Upon completing your cybersecurity assessment, your system may be eligible to apply for the following cyber grant opportunity!! MassDEP/DWP in collaboration with the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust created the [Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program](#) to offer PWS the opportunity to receive as much as \$50,000 to improve their cybersecurity defense, mitigate the risks of cyber-attacks, and enhance overall resiliency and compliance. To date, more than 30 PWS have taken advantage of this opportunity. For details check "[funding and grant section](#)".

Please Note: MassDEP includes cybersecurity checks in capacity evaluations for PWS for DWSRF grants and loans, during or after sanitary surveys, or as needed. In addition, the DWSRF program encourages cybersecurity assessments through its Asset Management Planning Grant activities, as well as offers financing for cybersecurity-related equipment and software. See details at [State Revolving Fund \(SRF\) Financial Assistance Program Webpage](#).

If you have any questions on this information, contact the MassDEP/DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject: Cybersecurity Assessment.

Thank you for your continued work to ensure safe drinking water and protect public health.

Sincerely,

Michael Celona

Michael Celona
Acting Program Director
MassDEP Drinking Water Program

MassDEP Drinking Water Program Attachment: Additional Resources
eCC MassDEP/DWP Regional Section Chiefs
DWPArchive/ Sanitary Survey-Cybersecurity Inspection Reminder-2026

Attachment/Additional Resources

Non-Community PWS

Transient Non-Community Water System (TNCs) and Non-Transient Non-Community Water System (NTNCs) may not have any operational technology (OT) presenting a cybersecurity risk as described above, but MassDEP will continue asking basic questions during a sanitary survey to evaluate the cybersecurity posture of the PWS. If it is determined that PWS has any OT-related risk conditions, they will need to complete a cybersecurity assessment.

Options for Receiving a Cybersecurity Assessment

PWS can receive an assessment by:

1. **Recommended:** USEPA Free Cybersecurity Assessment: [Apply USEPA's free cybersecurity evaluation program](#)

2. CISA Free Cybersecurity Assessment: A free CISA cybersecurity assessment can be arranged through MassDEP or by contacting CISA's Massachusetts Cyber Security Analyst (CSA). If your PWS is interested in participating in this free in-person assessment, contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov: Subject: CISA Cybersecurity Assessment.
3. Self or Consultant Cybersecurity Assessment: Finally, a PWS can perform a free self-assessment using [USEPA's Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool](#) or arrange for outside consultants to perform assessments using other accepted approaches, including those utilizing the National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST CSF](#)), the International Society of Automation/International Electrotechnical Commission standard 62443 ([ISA 62443](#)), the International Organization for Standards/ International Electrotechnical Commission standard 27001 ([ISO 27001](#)), and the American Water Works Association Cybersecurity Assessment Tool ([AWWA](#)).

Protecting Sensitive Information

The cybersecurity assessment report* includes sensitive information. Please do not email the report to anyone, including MassDEP. *Please be aware that the Massachusetts Public Records Law - MGL c. 4, § 7(26) contains provisions that exempt certain records from disclosure see [A Guide to the Massachusetts Public Records Law](#). Your cybersecurity assessment reports contain sensitive information that must be protected from disclosure.

Cybersecurity Resources

- [MassDEP/DWP Resource Hub](#)
- [USEPA Cybersecurity Resources Webpage](#)

Sanitary Survey Resources

- [MassDEP DWP Guidance- Preparing for Sanitary Survey](#)
- [USEPA Sanitary Surveys Guidance Webpage](#).