



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)/Drinking Water Program (DWP)

In the Main Newsletter – 01/23/2026

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In The Main - The Drinking Water Updates can be found online at the [MassDEP Communication to Public Water Suppliers Website](#) or at the [Statehouse Archives](#) which has a searchable database.



Jamaica Pond, Boston, Photo by: Eric Cheung

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Are you looking for past issues or topics in our *In the Main* newsletter?

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1. Retirement of Yvette DePeiza, Drinking Water Program Director

Yvette DePeiza, Drinking Water Program Director, will be retiring effective **January 30, 2026**, with limited availability as of **January 16, 2026**.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Yvette DePeiza for her extraordinary service to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Since joining the Department in 1980, and serving as the Drinking Water Program Manager since 2013, Yvette has demonstrated unwavering dedication, leadership, and integrity in protecting public health and ensuring safe drinking water for communities across the Commonwealth.

Yvette’s institutional knowledge, steady guidance, and commitment to excellence have been an inspiration to colleagues across the Department. Her impact will be felt long after her retirement, and she will be deeply missed. We wish her all the very best in this well-deserved next chapter.

When it comes to In the Main, specifically, she’s guided this newsletter for years and made communication, outreach, and training a major part of her tenure as program director. She always sought to maintain an open line of communication with the drinking water community and looked for new and innovative ways to continue that mission.

Until an Acting Director is announced, please continue to send all (e)mail/inquiries for the DWP and the Program Director to program.director-dwp@mass.gov with a cc to Michael.Celona@mass.gov, or reach out by phone at 617-292-5770.

2. The Importance of Including Accurate Required Identifying Information in all Communications (e.g., Emails) with MassDEP

Happy New Year to everyone involved with Public Drinking Water in Massachusetts. Thank you for your commitment to providing safe drinking water and protecting public health across the Commonwealth!

When emailing MassDEP information or questions related to your PWS, remember to include the following information in the email or correspondence subject line:

- **PWS Legal Name, PWS ID #, Municipal Location - Topic**

For instance, when sending an email, the information in the subject line should read as provided in the examples below:

- Andover Water Department, PWS 300900, Andover - Secondary Contaminant Report
- Long Pond Realty Trust, PWS 4239051, Plymouth – Invoice
- Barnstable Fire District Water Department, PWS 402000, Barnstable – Contract Documents
- Wannacomet Water Company, PWS 4197000, Nantucket - Lead Copper Question

We appreciate this level of detail as the information helps us address your questions by ensuring the message is forwarded to the appropriate person in a timely manner.

3. Updates to *Guidelines* Chapter 5 – New Section for PFAS Treatment

DWP has published a new section for PFAS Treatment in the Public Water Systems Guidelines (Section 5.11). This new section is located within Chapter 5 – Treatment and describes the different PFAS treatment technologies and design recommendations that can be implemented in a water treatment plant to remove PFAS from drinking water.

DWP has incorporated information from the EPA; national working groups including ASDWA, AWWA, Ten States Standards, other state programs; water works associations; and DWP’s established approval and permitting process and comments from our Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee (SDWAAC) to develop consistent guidelines that uphold the protection of public health while ensuring safe drinking water and supporting regulatory compliance.

The new section was developed based on a review of the following references:

- MassDEP Drinking Water Policy #90-04, (2000)
- 10 State Standards for PFAS (2020)
- AWWA publication: “PFAS Treatment Evaluation: Framework for Approaching Permit Plan Approval” (April 2025)
- EPA Treatment Options for Removing PFAS from Drinking Water
- Water Research Foundation, Treatment Mitigation Strategies for Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substance
- NY Interim Recommendations for Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Installations - Design Review, Startup and Operations (2021)
- NJ PFAS Treatment and Construction Permit Guidance
- State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, PFAS GAC Treatment Design Checklist
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, PFAS Treatment Submittal and Pilot Study Guidance

According to MassDEP/DWP water quality records approximately 163 Community (COM) and Non-transient Non-Community (NTNC) PWS will need to address PFAS in order to comply with the EPA MCLs by EPA’s 2031 deadline. Currently, 38 Communities/PWS have received EPA/MassDEP Emerging Contaminant for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grants and there are currently 24 PFAS treatment systems under construction with Mass DWSRF loans right now. See Tab 6 on the [PFAS storymap](#) for details on PFAS treatment projects constructed throughout the state.

To date, MassDEP/DWP has approved 81 permits for PFAS treatment and simultaneous compliance applications and 20 new statewide technology/product applications from manufacturers. See DWP Approved statewide technologies at [MassDEP's List of Approved Technologies](#).

In addition to statewide manufacturer's approvals, PWS may apply for site-specific approval for other forms of PFAS treatment not on the statewide technologies list noted above.

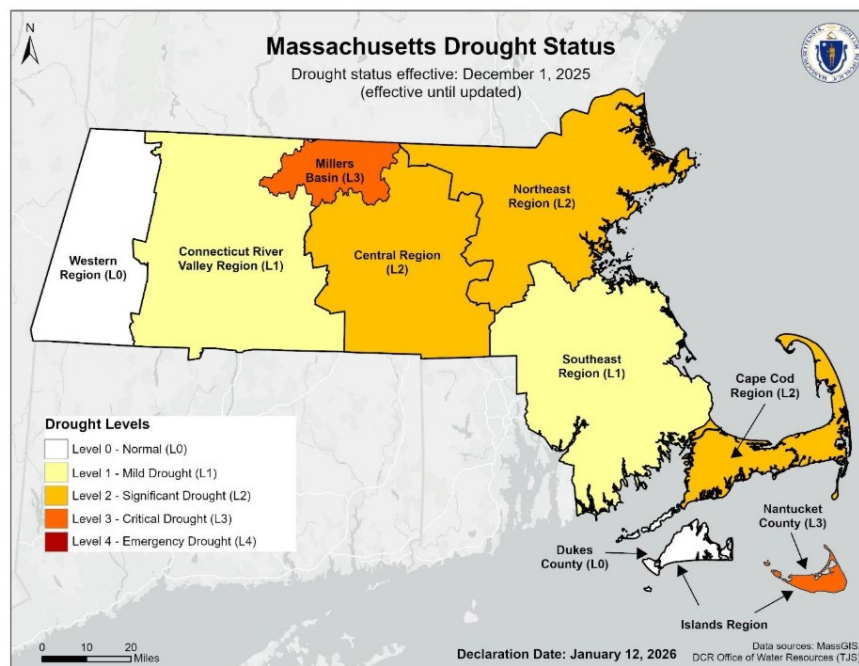
The new PFAS treatment section in the Guidelines will support consistent, standardized guidance for all public water systems regarding the permitting and approval of PFAS treatment systems.

To access the document, please visit the [Public Water System \(PWS\) Guidelines main website](#) or use the following link: [Chapter 5 - Treatment](#)

If you have questions, please contact MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov

4. Significant Drought Conditions Declared in Central and Northeast Regions

On January 12, 2026, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) declared the Central and Northeast Regions have worsened to a Level 2–Significant Drought. Conditions also declined in nearly all other regions, moving the Southeast Region to a Level–1 Mild Drought and the Millers River Basin to a Level 3–Critical Drought. In the Islands Region, Dukes County has returned to Normal Conditions, and Nantucket County has moved to a Level 3–Critical Drought. Conditions remain unchanged in the Western, Connecticut River Valley, and Cape Cod Regions.



Drought declarations require detailed monitoring of drought conditions; continued coordination among state and federal agencies to advance the implementation of water use restrictions; and engagement with municipalities, including local Boards of Health, to provide technical outreach and assistance to water suppliers and affected municipalities.

Below is a list of resources for communities to use related to drought outreach and education, water conservation, and drought status monitoring.

- The [Massachusetts Drought Dashboard](#) provides regularly updated maps monitoring drought conditions across the state.
- The [Drought Alert Flyer](#) provides information about current drought conditions and how communities across the state can help promote water conservation, fire prevention, and drought preparedness.
- The [Drought Management in Massachusetts webpage](#) includes several recommendations for residents, businesses, and communities during each level of drought (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4) related to water conservation and fire prevention.
- The [Water Resources Toolkit](#) offers many examples of outreach materials for communities to use related to droughts.
- Utilities are encouraged to develop a [Drought Management Plan](#) to identify preparedness, monitoring, response, and outreach procedures related to droughts.
- Information for private well owners can be found at the webpage [Information for Private Well Owners During a Drought](#)
- [Previous issues of In the Main](#) include additional resources related to drought preparedness and response resources.

5. UMass Amherst Student Engineers Working to Improve Water Access in Remote Kenya Village



1-A group of locals in Kenya surrounding a well in use to provide drinking water.

Providing a spotlight on MassDEP/DWP partners and their continued work to provide safe drinking water access across the globe, the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass) is working with the UMass Engineers Without Borders student team to provide improved water access for a very remote village in Kenya, Africa.

6. Is Your TNC at Risk? Cybersecurity Requirements Explained!

MassDEP/DWP considers cybersecurity as part of the routine operations and maintenance of a PWS to ensure the continuous delivery of safe drinking water. Public Water Suppliers must address Cybersecurity in their Emergency Response Plan (ERP) as it can be an act of vandalism or sabotage that has the potential to impact the quality or quantity of water available to the system [310 CMR 22.04(13)(a)9].

MassDEP/DWP requires all PWS to complete a cybersecurity assessment or maintain a cybersecurity plan/program **unless the PWS determines it has no operational technology (OT) presenting a cybersecurity risk.**

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)

Transient Non-Community Water System (TNCs) may not have any operational technology (OT) presenting a cybersecurity risk as described above, but MassDEP will continue asking the minimum three basic questions below during a sanitary survey to evaluate the cybersecurity posture of the PWS.

1. **Have you conducted a cybersecurity assessment?**

Yes

No: Please take the following actions within the next 30 days

Register/Complete a cybersecurity assessment for your PWS. Options include the [FREE EPA's Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program | US EPA](#) .

If your PWS does not have Operational Technology (OT) conditions that present a cybersecurity risk (see conditions/definitions of OT risks above), complete and return the [ERP-CS-OT form](#) to MassDEP/DWP via email program.director-dwp@mass.gov, and CC your MassDEP Regional Drinking Water Program office Subject: “Cybersecurity Assessment ERP-CS-OT”, at the earliest convenience but not to exceed 30 days.

*** Question 2 must be completed if you answer “Yes” for Question 1 above*

2. **Has your cybersecurity assessment report been reviewed/inspected by the MassDEP/DWP cyber team?**

Yes: What is the MassDEP/DWP review date? _____

No: Please contact MassDEP/DWP to schedule a MassDEP/DWP cyber security assessment review via email at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: “Cybersecurity Assessment Review Request”. **MassDEP/DWP will arrange a 1 hour and 30 minutes meeting with your PWS via a secure online method to perform the cybersecurity assessment review.**

3. **Who is the primary cybersecurity contact for your PWS** (staff responsible for cybersecurity activities within PWS)?

Name _____ Title: _____

Email _____ Phone: _____

If a PWS (including a TNC) determines it has no OT presenting a cybersecurity risk, it must provide MassDEP/DWP with its determination in writing by completing and returning the [ERP-CS-OT form](#) to MassDEP/DWP via email program.directordwp@mass.gov within 30 days of receiving notice to complete a cybersecurity assessment. MassDEP/DWP will follow up with all systems that submit the form. Please note that if it is determined that the PWS has any OT-related risk conditions, they will need to complete a cybersecurity assessment.

Even small systems can be targets for cyber incidents, staying up to date on good cyber practices helps reduce the risk of service disruptions, data loss, or unauthorized system access. Taking proactive steps now can prevent bigger issues down the road and help ensure the continued safety and reliability of your system.

Cybersecurity Resources

- [EPA Cybersecurity for Water and Wastewater Systems](#)
- MassDEP Drinking Water Program: For cybersecurity updates, alerts and up to date grant opportunities please visit [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\)](#)

If you have questions on this information, please contact MassDEP DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

7. LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates

Available Funding Resources for Lead Service Line Replacement

0% Interest SRF Funding for Lead Service Line Planning and Replacement (Rolling Applications)

To support compliance with LCRI requirements, MassDEP and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust are offering 0% interest SRF financing to help PWS achieve measurable progress on lead removal. Through the State Revolving Fund (SRF), systems can access 0% Interest Lead Service Line Planning Loans and 0% Interest Lead Service Line Construction Loans to support LCRI-required activities, including:

- Update your service line inventory, including resolving and identifying unknowns and documenting service line connector materials to meet the LCRI baseline inventory requirements.
- Develop or update your lead service line replacement plan and get ready to execute.
- Complete lead service line replacement through construction, with an emphasis on full replacements (not partial).
- Meet transparency expectations by making inventory and program information accessible to the public.

Eligible projects may receive loan forgiveness based on affordability tier (baseline begins at 6.6% and increases by tier). See information on Loan forgiveness at [The Disadvantaged Community Loan Forgiveness Program | Mass.gov](#)

Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve rolling basis while funding is available.

Applications can be submitted through the [SRF Portal](#). Please contact Kaitlyn Connors, Director of Water Investment, Kaitlyn.Connors2@mass.gov, for more information.

The Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Community (SUDC) Grant Program

The SUDC Grant Program assists eligible PWS meeting Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements. The program focuses on helping communities resolve health-based compliance challenges through targeted infrastructure improvements.

Eligible PWS:

PWS must meet the following 3 criteria to be eligible:

- **Small:** Serves a population under 10,000;
- **Disadvantaged:** Meets state affordability criteria based on the [Clean Water Trust's definition of a disadvantaged community](#); and
- **Underserved:** The PWS violated the EPA's SDWA standards, including maximum contaminant levels, treatment techniques, or action level requirements.

Eligible Activities:

This grant funding can be used to update infrastructure to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act, **including to replace lead service lines and removing other sources of lead in water**. Note that partial lead service line replacement and replacement of premise plumbing are not eligible activities under this grant.

Learn more about eligibility requirements and eligible projects through the [SUDC Grant Program flyer](#). For more information about the program, email program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject: "SUDC Grant Program".

Updates Regarding Service Line Inventory Importation Process into the MA Database

This article is meant to update PWS on the process for updated Service Line Inventory reviews and importation into the MA database **currently and until the next SLI Workbook update, the Baseline SLI Workbook**.

Currently and until the next SLI Workbook update, MassDEP DWP will not be importing full updated inventory files containing all service line data into the MA database. Instead, MassDEP DWP will be reviewing submitted inventories, and manually updating service line totals (total number of NON-LEAD, LEAD STATUS UNKNOWN, GALVANIZED REQUIRING REPLACEMENT (GRR), and/or LEAD Service) per PWS. The service line totals per PWS will then be reported to US EPA during reporting periods, and be updated in the MA SLI Summary Sheet (on a quarterly basis) which is available on the [Lead in Drinking Water Homepage](#), [the recent summary data from March 2025 is available here](#).

MassDEP DWP is not importing full updated inventory files as at this time, because we are finalizing a process to make sure that the locational identifiers in SLIs cannot be changed for existing service lines. As the Locational Identifier is the unique ID per service line which all updates will be tracked by, making sure this ID is consistent is key to all updates going forward. To ensure that all PWS keep the same locational identifier per round of updates, MassDEP DWP will begin processing full workbook updates after the MassDEP/DWP has updated the workbook to address the LCRI Baseline SLI Workbook requirements. This workbook is in development, and is expected to be released in late **Summer**

2026. This workbook will be prepopulated with SLI data for each PWS, which PWS can then update and resubmit. PWS will be notified when this revised workbook is final and ready for any PWS updating.

How does this impact PWS going forward?

1. PWS should continue to submit an updated SLI to MassDEP if your total number of lead, GRR, and/or Unknown service lines has changed since your last SLI submission, following the distribution of consumer notices. This is to make sure that MassDEP DWP can complete a review of your SLI CN Certification Form. Providing an updated SLI also allows MassDEP DWP to provide more accurate service line totals to EPA during reporting periods.
2. During SLI reviews, MassDEP DWP will reach out to PWS following the SLI review to confirm that their SLI has been reviewed, notify PWS of the next estimated Summary Sheet update their SLI totals will be included in, and provide recommended/required actions if needed. As the full SLI files will not be imported to the MA database at this time, minor validation errors will not impact the review of the inventory, if they do not impact the process to determine the total number of service lines per category.
3. Please note: MassDEP DWP will continue to provide error files based on inventory reviews, and note other errors found during the review process, which PWS are encouraged to review and correct now.
4. Once MassDEP/DWP notify PWS that the Baseline SLI is released, PWSs will be expected to review the information and make any updates using the Baseline SLI Workbook ahead of the LCRI deadline.
5. Upon confirmation that the PWS has checked and/or updated their inventory information, MassDEP DWP will then begin importing the PWS SLI files to the MassDEP/DWP database, include updated inventories in the [MA Service Line Inventory GIS Map](#) and also report the information to USEPA.

8. Water Smart

Water-Smart Program Update

Water-Smart (formally known as the Expanded Assistance Program) provides free analysis of lead drinking water samples and technical assistance to eligible public and private schools and early education and childcare facilities (EECFs) by assisting with sampling, results interpretation, and guidance on remediation actions. The program is funded by a grant from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

Currently, 1,231 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 1,085 (88%) of participating facilities are within economically disadvantaged communities. To date, 1,127 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 745 (66%) had one or more lead detections.

Do you know of any schools or childcare facilities that could benefit from the Water-Smart Program? Please identify and encourage schools and childcares within your service area to participate in the program. Eligible facilities may apply for assistance at: [Water-Smart Program Website](#) .



Get Ahead with Lead Testing: Join the Water-Smart Pilot Program for Public Water Systems

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is proud to invite all Community Public Water Systems (PWS) to the *Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS* – a forward-thinking initiative designed to help water systems stay ahead of upcoming federal regulations.

Starting **November 1, 2027**, PWS will be **required to offer** lead testing to all primary schools and childcare facilities under the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Only schools and childcare facilities that were built on or after January 1, 2014-or have not had plumbing replacements since that date-and are not served by lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), or lead status unknown service lines may be excluded from this requirement. Rather than wait, the *Pilot Program* gives PWS a head start—leveraging the well-established **Water-Smart Program**, which has already tested over 1,000 schools and childcare facilities across the Commonwealth.

Through the pilot program, MassDEP and UMass Amherst cover the cost of lead testing and provide all necessary outreach materials, sampling plans, and follow-up support. PWS simply help identify eligible facilities, assist with local outreach and help collect samples. The process is simple, cost-free, and designed to set you up for success when the rule goes into effect.

Participating in the Pilot Program allows PWS to:

- Offer a valuable service to schools and childcare centers now,
- Fulfill future federal requirements early,
- Build community trust, and
- Access expert technical support at no cost.

Don't wait for 2027—Be Proactive, get ahead today. For more information or to join the pilot program visit [Water-Smart \(Lead in School Drinking Water\) Pilot Program for Public Water Suppliers | Mass.gov](#), or email Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov with the subject line: “Pilot Program for PWS.”

9. Drinking Water Trivia!

Tickle your brain and test your knowledge on drinking water related information. In each issue, we will ask 1-3 questions and provide the answers somewhere else in the newsletter to encourage your sleuthing skills.

Approximately how many gallons is one inch of rainfall on one acre of land equal to?

- A. 10,000 gallons
- B. 25,000 gallons
- C. 50,000 gallons
- D. 100,000 gallons

Check out the other articles while looking for the answer. If you would like to send in a Trivia question or two, please email the question and answer to program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject DWP Trivia.

10. Training Calendar

When you need training, please look at the [MassDEP Training Calendar for Public Water System Operators](#).

Board of Certification Training Page and List of Approved Courses

You may also want to go to the [Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities Operators Training Webpage](#) and view the approved education courses to sit for examination.

Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar

Finding a Unicorn! Small Wastewater System Funding Series | State Revolving Funds: Navigating CWSRF for Your Project

Tuesday, January 27, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

In Part 2 of our State Revolving Fund (SRF) training, we'll cover how to find information pertaining to your location's SRF implementing agency and particulars needed to assemble your application. [Register for the webinar: Finding a Unicorn! Small Wastewater System Funding Series | State Revolving Funds: Navigating CWSRF for Your Project](#)

Measuring What Matters: Building Stronger Utilities Through TMF Metrics

Wednesday, January 28, 2026; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

This webinar will provide an overview and case studies of how utility performance metrics and targets tied to key performance outcomes can enhance utility technical, managerial, and financial capabilities (TMF), which aligns with Water 2050's One Water Governance strategic priority. \$75-member, \$120-nonmember. [Register for the webinar: Measuring What Matters: Building Stronger Utilities Through TMF Metrics](#)

Ask Me Anything! State Revolving Fund (SRF) Technical Assistance & Open Office Hours: DWSRF eligibilities

Wednesday, February 4, 2026; 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

Ask Me Anything SRF Office Hours will expand your knowledge and enhance your ability to navigate the SRFs. These sessions are tailored for state agencies, utility operators, and stakeholders who support water infrastructure projects. Each session will feature a specific theme, providing clarity, strategies, and practical insights for preparing and managing an SRF funded project. Participants can attend all sessions or select those that best meet their needs. [Register for the webinar: Ask Me Anything! State Revolving Fund \(SRF\) Technical Assistance & Open Office Hours: DWSRF eligibilities](#)

Better Together: How WIFIA and SRFs Can Power Your Water Infrastructure Projects

Thursday, February 5, 2026; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced \$6.5 billion in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding for water systems, plus an additional \$550 million available to state infrastructure financing authorities through the State WIFIA program. Want to get in on the action? Join us to learn from agency experts on how the WIFIA and State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs are accelerating investment in our nation's water infrastructure by providing low-cost (or below market rate) financing to help utilities solve their water infrastructure challenges. [Register for the webinar: Better Together: How WIFIA and SRFs Can Power Your Water Infrastructure Projects](#)

RCAP: Virtual Operator Conference

February 3-5, 2026; 11:30-4:30 p.m. ET; webinar

This free, virtual training conference offers drinking water operators a chance to learn more about timely topics, improve fundamental skills, and get support for specific challenges while earning up to 12 hours of TCH credit. While there is no substitute for in-person training, this online event was created to specifically target operators of small and rural public water systems who may not have the means or ability to travel. Conference instructors are technical assistance providers from the RCAP network. Presentation topics during the conference include drinking water regulations, treatment and distribution, disinfection by-products, asset management, corrosion control, and GIS. [Register for the webinar: RCAP Virtual Operator Conference](#)

EFCN Webinar – Better Together: How WIFIA and SRFs Can Power Your Water Infrastructure Projects

Thursday, February 5, 2026; 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced \$6.5 billion in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding for water systems, plus an additional \$550 million available to state infrastructure financing authorities through the State WIFIA program. Want to get in on the action? Join us to learn from agency experts on how the WIFIA and State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs are accelerating investment in our nation’s water infrastructure by providing low-cost (or below market rate) financing to help utilities solve their water infrastructure challenges. In this webinar, EPA experts will discuss the WIFIA, Clean Water SRF ([CWSRF](#)), and Drinking Water SRF ([DWSRF](#)) programs, and how WIFIA and the SRFs can work together. Following the overview, attendees can engage in an interactive Q&A session to ask EPA experts any questions they may have about the programs and accessing these funds. [Register for the webinar: Better Together: How WIFIA and SRFs Can Power Your Water Infrastructure Projects](#)

Trainings by Organization

- **MassDEP**

- **Previous Cybersecurity Trainings now on YouTube:**

- [Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water Utilities](#)
 - [Ransomware Experiences, Defense, and Response](#)

- [Environmental Finance Center Network Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)

- [EPA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)

- [Mass Rural Water Association Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)

- [MWWA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)

- [NEWWA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)

- [Water ISAC Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)

- [RCAP Solutions Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [AWWA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [New England Section of AWWA, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- **SkillWorks**
 - SkillWorks offers Board-approved home-study correspondence courses to satisfy license renewal continuing education requirements. All correspondence courses use paper-based study materials and exams. Course work is submitted by mail. Mailed returns are processed and graded within 24 hours at no extra charge. Courses with optional online exams are processed and graded automatically to provide exam results and a printable Certificate of Completion instantly. View the list of approved courses and purchase a course online at [Massachusetts SkillWorks Trainings](#) website.

Training Refresher

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at [The MassDEP Drinking Water Training YouTube Playlist](#).

11. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

PLEASE SHARE THIS CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION WITH YOUR SCADA & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STAFF

For additional information and alerts see [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\)](#). The purpose of this hub is to provide resources for public water systems (PWS) to improve cybersecurity defenses, mitigate cyber-attack risks, and enhance overall resiliency and compliance.



Cybersecurity Biweekly Spotlight

CISA and Partners Released Secure Connectivity Principles for Operational Technology (OT)

- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the UK National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC-UK), in collaboration with federal and international partners, have released guidance on Secure Connectivity Principles for Operational Technology (OT).
- This guidance aims to assist asset owners in addressing the growing business and regulatory demands for connectivity within OT networks. It outlines eight principles that serve as a framework for designing, securing, and managing connectivity in OT environments. These principles are especially important for operators of essential services.
- The eight principles are listed below:
 - Principle 1: Balance the risks and opportunities
 - Principle 2: Limit the exposure of your connectivity
 - Principle 3: Centralize and standardize network connections
 - Principle 4: Use standardized and secure protocols
 - Principle 5: Harden your OT boundary
 - Principle 6: Limit the impact of compromise

- Principle 7: Ensure all connectivity is logged and monitored
- Principle 8: Establish an isolation plan
- More details on [CISA webpage](#).
- Access/ Download [the full report in pdf here](#).

Internet-Exposed Modbus – Systemic Cyber Risks in Industrial Control Systems (source WaterISAC)

- A recent analysis by [Chawkr Reports](#) examined more than 1,600 internet-exposed Modbus industrial control systems and found that security weaknesses are widespread and systemic, not the result of isolated mistakes.
- The research shows that many systems share identical default configurations, certificates, and unpatched software, creating predictable and easily exploitable paths of attack.
- **To reduce risk**, water systems can limit internet exposure, eliminate default settings, segment operational networks, and prioritize basic cybersecurity hygiene tailored to OT environments. Many resources exist to help guide utilities in these areas, including WaterISAC’s [12 Cybersecurity Fundamentals for Water and Wastewater Utilities](#) and CISA’s [Top Cyber Actions for Securing Water Systems](#).
- For more details visit [WaterISAC](#).

Grants and Fundings

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in partnership with MassDEP/DWP, is offering grants funds of up to **\$50,000**, to PWSs that have a cybersecurity risk assessment and use operational technology equipment with an identified cybersecurity risk.

Details here: [Public Water Suppliers Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program | Mass.gov](#).

Important Reminder: Is your PWS scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2026?

If your PWS is scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2026, MassDEP/DWP will inspect your cybersecurity assessment findings and plans during the upcoming sanitary survey cycle. Details [here](#).

Please prepare your PWS for the MassDEP cybersecurity assessment review. Preparation may include:

- Signing up for a FREE USEPA Cybersecurity Assessment [EPA’s Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program | US EPA](#).
- For additional options see <https://www.mass.gov/doc/reminder-sanitary-survey-cybersecurity-programassessment-report-inspection/download>

12. Supply Chain Reminders

PWSs are reminded to implement the steps identified by DWP using the [Steps to Prepare Your PWS For Supply Chain Disruptions Flyer](#) and keep MassDEP/DWP informed of all Supply Chain issues.

[EPA Chemical Supplier and Manufacturer Locator Tool](#): This tool allows water and wastewater utilities to search for suppliers and manufacturers across the U.S. that may be able to fulfill their chemical

supply needs and increase resilience to supply chain disruptions. This tool can also be useful for finding alternative chemical suppliers in the case of supply chain shortages.

13. *How To Subscribe to the In The Main Newsletter*

To subscribe to the *In The Main Newsletter*, send a blank email to join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us.

MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS. Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. To subscribe to the *In The Main Newsletter*, send a blank email to join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us. This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, visit to the [Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment Advisory Committee \("Section 70" Committee\) Homepage](#).

Drinking Water Trivia! Answer

Answer: B