MassDEP / Drinking Water Program
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Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov or 617-292-5770
In The Main - The Drinking Water Updates can be found online at:
mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers or at the Statehouse Archives at:
https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119 which has a searchable database.

Harbor Point, South Boston Photo by: Anonymous

This *In The Main* newsletter has these topics of interest 2024-01-25

1. It's a New Year: CCRs for Calendar Year 2023 are due by July 1, 2024
2. UMass and MassDEP Still Searching for Cybersecurity TAPs!
3. Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health Fluoride Update
4. Lead and Copper 90th Percentile Update
5. PFAS Update
6. Training Calendar
7. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!
8. Supply Chain Reminders

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

Use the search function in the Statehouse Archives at:
https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119

It's a New Year: CCRs for Calendar Year 2023 are due by July 1, 2024

All community drinking water systems in in the U.S. must make a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and deliver it by July 1st to all customers and designated government agencies.
Your CCR must be delivered to your customers, MassDEP, Mass DPH, and your local board of health by July 1, 2024, or your PWS is at risk of ~~compliance~~ enforcement.

Please see https://www.mass.gov/info-details/consumer-confidence-reports for guidance on making, distributing,

and submitting your 2023 CCR to MassDEP.
There are no major changes to the CCR Rule for this year. Just be sure to include any UCMR5 results if you have them.

Please contact program.director-dwp@mass.gov if you need CCR assistance or have any questions.

UMass and MassDEP Still Searching for Cybersecurity TAPs!

MassDEP/DWP partners with UMass Amherst to provide training and on-site assistance to help with technical, financial, managerial, and operational aspects of small public water systems (PWSs) in Massachusetts. The assistance is designed to help PWSs provide safe drinking water while helping the systems remain in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

MassDEP/DWP and UMass Amherst are still looking to hire Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) to help ensure the security and cyber hygiene of a PWS. TAPs on this team will review cybersecurity assessment reports, guide and prompt PWS in addressing gaps, provide and help identify technical support, and contribute to overall cybersecurity resilience.

Job Description

- **Cyber assessment review**: Assist MassDEP/DWP and surveyors to review PWS emergency response plans (ERP) and cybersecurity evaluation reports.
- **Reporting and Documentation**: Develop/generate the Sanitary Survey Inspection Report/Cyber Security Corrective Action Plan (CSCAP).
- **Develop/Implement Remediation Strategies:** Work with PWS and MassDEP/DWP to develop and implement cyber mitigation strategies and discuss remediation actions promptly.
- **Communication:** Maintain communication and follow-up with PWSs to ensure they are addressing identified cyber gaps and maintaining their cybersecurity hygiene.
- **Training Development:** Provide training/guidance to PWSs, MassDEP/DWP, etc.
- **Informational Material Creation:** Assist in the development of informative materials such as flyers and posters on cybersecurity awareness and best practices.
- **Identify Funding Sources:** Research and identify potential funding opportunities to support PWS in enhancing its cybersecurity posture.
- **Query Resolution:** Respond to phone and email inquiries about cybersecurity and emergency response.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Actively participate in meetings and collaborate with various stakeholders to promote cybersecurity awareness and coordination.

Qualifications

Several positions available. Candidates of all experience and skill levels are encouraged to apply. The selected candidates will provide assistance in-person or virtually. Applicants must understand water utility operations. Familiarity with cybersecurity principles, concepts, and best practices skills preferred but training will be provided. Background in IT is not required. Ability to travel is required.

Schedule

10-40 hours per week

Compensation

$18-45 per hour, depending on experience. This is an hourly, non-benefitted position.

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please send a resume and a brief statement of interest to Patrick Wittbold at pwittbold@umass.edu, Subject: Cybersecurity TAP.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health Fluoride Update

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health, has updated its' Community Water Fluoridation Status webpage to reflect 2023 data for Massachusetts.

For any questions on this information please contact Massachusetts DPH, Office of Oral Health at oral.health@mass.gov

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Lead and Copper 90th Percentile Update

It is that time again!

MassDEP Drinking Water Program routinely posts 90th percentile results for the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) on our web page. This posting occurs 3 times per year after each round of LCR monitoring (March 1, September 1 and December 31). Please see the latest update at https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-water-systems-90th-percentile-lead-sampling-results.

Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

Expanded Assistance Program Update

The Expanded Assistance Program for Lead in Schools and Early Education and Care Facilities (EECF) Drinking Water provides free analysis of lead drinking water samples and technical assistance to schools and 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. MassDEP also worked with the Clean Water Trust to secure additional funding to expand assistance to private schools.

Currently, 799 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 516 (65%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 623 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 418 (67%) had one or more lead detections.

Do you know of any schools or childcare facilities that could benefit from the Expanded Assistance Program? Please identify and encourage schools and childcares within your service area to participate in the program.

Eligible facilities may apply for assistance at https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbyr_U8wEMrA-Q2XifkK4l58x4GDtYrItvpKIKUAhSxpw9pSZtA/exec

PFAS Update

The Draft DWSRF IUP includes 28 PFAS Projects

The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Draft Intended Use Plan (IUP) for 2024 includes 21 new construction projects to address PFAS in drinking water and 7 multiyear carryover projects. The IUP can be found on the MassDEP SRF web page: https://www.mass.gov/lists/2024-draft-srf-intended-use-plans

Public Hearing: MassDEP will hold a virtual public hearing on the Draft IUPs on Wednesday January 31, 2024, at 10 AM. Registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcuutrjsoHtBjoYoyVJxC0d9A0T9lf1H6

Looking for PWS testing data for PFAS?

Massachusetts' PWS PFAS testing results are available to the public on the web in the EEA data portal. Search under the chemical name: "PFAS6" or to see all the PFAS chemicals, search under the contaminant group "PFAS".

EPA national occurrence data and data summary from the Fifth Unregulated Contaminate Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) are posted here: https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/occurrence-data-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule#5.

An Analysis of the UCMR5 PFAS data

According to this commentator, an analysis of the UCMR5 data shows that EPA significantly overestimated the number of large water systems impacted by PFAS and underestimated the impact on small water systems across the country. https://waterfm.com/commentary-new-drinking-water-data-uncovers-flaws-in-epas-proposed-pfas-rules/

Training Calendar

When you need training, please look at the training calendar located at: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html.

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 page and view the approved education courses to sit for examination. Go to: https://www.mass.gov/doc/drinking-water-board-approved-education-courses-updated-september-2020/download.

Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar

What is Reliability and Why Should You Care?
Wednesday, January 31, 2024; 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET; webinar
Are you at risk? Do you know of impending asset failure before it impacts the utility? Did you know that when a mechanical failure occurs during operation, it often results in additional damage, parts, and costs? Wouldn't it be better to have an effective strategy and to know of impending failures early enough to properly take care of the issue safely and with less impact to the operation? In this webinar, we will discuss the approach of asset management and reliability. Focusing on a basic level of understanding of concepts and how they apply to water utilities this webinar will demonstrate the value potential of approaching maintenance differently. Register now.

PFAS Today, Tomorrow, and Forever: MCLs are Coming… Very Soon!
Tuesday, February 6, 2024; 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET; webinar
EFCN is hosting a no-cost webinar about PFAS. The EPA expects to finalize the PFAS MCLs in "early 2024." This webinar will explore the EPA's proposed PFAS MCLs for six PFAS constituents. Topics covered will include UCMR5 testing results and the potential impact on small and large public water systems across the United States. The webinar will also explore the regulatory timeline and requirements that PWS will face once the MCLs are finalized, and discuss how to prepare for the additional requirements and challenges that systems will face. Register now.

AI Series, Part 1: AI/ML Applications & Implementations in the Water Sector: Harnessing Technology
Wednesday, February 7, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET; webinar
AI and machine learning (ML) provides diverse tools for utilization within the water sector. These technologies offer substantial benefits, including enhanced predictive analytics, insights, and data management. Ultimately, they streamline both daily operations and long-term planning processes. Our panel will discuss and explore technologies and opportunities we can harness within the water industry. Purchase individually or register for the full series and get 3 webinars for the cost of 2! The webinars in this series are also included in AWWA's 2024 Annual Webinar Subscription. Member: $150 Non-member: $240 Register now.

Addressing Emerging Contaminants in Source Water Using BIL Grants and Forgivable Loans
Thursday, February 8, 2024; 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET; webinar
The national Source Water Collaborative is hosting this webinar as its first installment in the new SWC Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Webinar Series. Through BIL, $10 billion in grant or grant-like funding is being made available to fund projects that address Emerging Contaminants (ECs) in drinking water and wastewater through EPA's Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF, CWSRF) and new Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program. This webinar will introduce the large influx of BIL funding for ECs, showcase the ways BIL funding can support source water protection, and feature a case study highlighting how the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) accomplished their goals of tackling PFAS and identified future project ideas using EC-SDC funding. The webinar is designed for states, water utilities, source water protection staff, state BIL funding program staff, source water collaboratives, federal agencies, and other water stakeholders. Register now.

- **MassDEP**
  Previous Cybersecurity Trainings now on YouTube:
  - Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water Utilities: https://youtu.be/78v3eAyf1yE
  - Ransomware Experiences, Defense, and Response: https://youtu.be/eisIsdQnXqE

- **Environmental Finance Center Network**
  For a complete list of trainings webinars and in-person trainings please go to:
  https://efcnetwork.org/upcoming-events/

- **EPA**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training.

- **Mass Rural Water Association**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  https://www.massrwa.org/p/14/Trainings—Events.

- **MWWA**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  MWWA Calendar

- **NEWWA**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:

https://communityhub.newwa.org/nc__upcomingevents.

- **Water ISAC**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to: https://www.waterisac.org/resources.

- **RCAP Solutions**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to: http://www.rcapsolutions.org/community-resources-events/.

- **AWWA**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to: https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Events-Calendar?utm_term=AWWA+Connections+10-8-2021&utm_content=Connections+10-8-2021&utm_source=communications&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=connections.

Training Refresher

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m
or click here: YouTube

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. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

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, go https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee-section-70-committee.

Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

2024-01-24

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

Be Vigilant!

Report all incidents and anomalous activity to CISA and/or the FBI via your local FBI field office or the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch at 855-292-3937 or cywatch@ic.fbi.gov

Regularly review CISA'S Shields Up page.

EPA FREE CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

All PWS should have a baseline cybersecurity assessment. Take advantage of this opportunity and join the group of proactive PWS that have done so. MassDEP/DWP will be inspecting your PWS's cybersecurity programs and plans including assessments during sanitary surveys, permitting and approval or as needed. Strengthen your PWS cybersecurity routine operations and register for the EPA Cybersecurity Assessment. Register with simple steps by using the following link: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program. For additional resources visit EPA Cybersecurity for the Water Sector | US EPA.

CISA Free In-Person Cybersecurity Assessments for Selected PWS in Massachusetts

Do you want a cybersecurity assessment from the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)? MassDEP/ DWP is working collaboratively with CISA to provide in-person cyber assessment to 20 pre-selected Public Water Systems (PWS) in Massachusetts. These PWS will be chosen based on criteria such as PWS type, size, and particularly the timing of their sanitary surveys.
If you are interested, please let us know at your earliest convenience at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject: CISA Cybersecurity Assessments

COMING SOON- Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program for Public Water Suppliers

- MassDEP/DWP is pleased to inform you of an **upcoming grant opportunity** to support cybersecurity improvements in PWS throughout Massachusetts. This program will offer eligible PWS the opportunity to be granted up to $50,000 per system*to improve their cybersecurity defense, mitigate the risks of cyber-attacks, and to enhance overall resiliency and compliance. This grant program will be funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.
- **MassDEP plans to accept grant applications as soon as the solicitation is announced and will stop accepting applications by June 1, 2024. Applications or any submissions for this grant program will not include any security sensitive information.**
- Due to the sensitive nature of the information, MassDEP will not accept actual cybersecurity program information (e.g., Emergency Response Plans, cybersecurity assessments, etc.) from applicants.

To ensure your PWS is ready to apply for this program as soon as it is officially announced, MassDEP/DWP encourages you to make sure your PWS meets all the requirements by familiarizing yourself with the grant program's prerequisites listed below.

PWS Eligibility for the grant will include the following:

1. All PWS that are a **small system** (serving a population under 10,000) or a PWS that serves a population over 10,000 that also serves a **disadvantaged community**. To see if your system serves a disadvantaged community, see: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-disadvantaged-community-program.
2. PWS must also meet the following two conditions:

   a. Operation Technology (OT) Conditions: PWS must have OT equipment with a cybersecurity risk. OT equipment is defined as hardware and software that detects or causes a change to water treatment and/or distribution processes 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)
   - to a network (local, wide area or internet), or
   - is remotely accessible (either for control or monitoring)

   AND

   b. Cybersecurity Assessment: PWS must have completed a cybersecurity assessment/evaluation program and have completed a cybersecurity assessment performed by either the PWS or a qualified entity such as EPA's free Cybersecurity Assessment or Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) assessment. Cybersecurity assessments must have been completed recently, but not later than two years prior to the grant application submittal date.

PWS PLEASE GET READY FOR THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY!!

-If your PWS is a small system or serves a disadvantaged community, and all of the OT requirements listed above are met, **get a cybersecurity assessment performed if you have not already**. This is a necessary step before applying for the grant. The findings of the cybersecurity report or mitigation plan will serve as the foundation for your grant application. To get an assessment, PWS have three options;

1. Apply for a free EPA assessment using the link below: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-

sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program.

2. Request a CISA free in-person cybersecurity assessment. PWS may contact the MassDEP/DWP about the CISA program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.
3. Conduct a free self-assessment using USEPA's Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/EPA%20Water%20Cybersecurity%20Assessment%20Tool%201.0_0.xlsx .

Stay tuned for the official program launch, and we hope you will participate in this important initiative. If you have any questions on this information, or need cybersecurity technical assistance you may contact MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: Cybersecurity, or 617-292-5770.

Please remember: Do not send any sensitive information over email.
*Grant amounts will vary from $15,000 to $50,000 per PWS and will depend on factors such as PWS type, size, and findings in cyber assessment report. MassDEP will determine the grant awards solely at its discretion.

Important Reminder: Sanitary Surveys and Cybersecurity

- **Is your PWS scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2024?** If your PWS is scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2024 **MassDEP/DWP will inspect your cybersecurity assessment findings and plans during your upcoming sanitary survey.** Any findings will be incorporated in a separate action plan and your PWS will receive technical assistance to assist you to address the findings. Please remember all cybersecurity information is considered as sensitive information and must be kept confidential.
- For details, please refer to the important notice, which was sent on December 28, 2023, to PWS, reminding them of their 2024 sanitary surveys and cybersecurity program assessment report/review: https://www.mass.gov/doc/important-notice-your-pws-2024-sanitary-surveys-and-cybersecurity-programassessment-report-inspection-reminder/download
- If you have any questions on this information, you may also contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:

Incident Response Guide for the WWS Sector

- CISA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Environmental Protection Agency released a joint Incident Response Guide for the Water and Wastewater Systems (WWS) Sector .
- The guide includes contributions from over 25 WWS Sector organizations spanning private industry, nonprofit, and government entities.
- This coordination enabled CISA, FBI, and EPA to develop a guide with meaningful value to WWS Sector organizations. Specifically, the guide provides information about the federal support available at each stage of the cyber incident response (IR) lifecycle and aims to enhance WWS Sector cybersecurity by:
    - ✓ Establishing clear guidance for reporting cyber incidents;
    - ✓ Connecting utilities with available cybersecurity resources, services, and no-cost training
    - ✓ Empowering utilities to build a strong cybersecurity baseline to improve cyber resilience and cyber hygiene; and PWS are strongly encouraged to integrate into their local cyber communities.
    - ✓ CISA, FBI, and EPA urge all WWS Sector and critical infrastructure organizations to review this guidance and incorporate it into their organizational cyber incident response planning. Organizations can visit CISA.gov/water for additional sector tools, information, and resources.

Threat Awareness – Outlook Calendar Invite Vulnerability Can Steal Passwords with One Click

- With Outlook being one of the most popular applications, it's important to keep it patched and to keep users aware of the types of threats that leverage Outlook to attack them.
- One of three Microsoft vulnerabilities recently disclosed by Varonis has the ability to steal hashed passwords through Outlook's calendar invitation with just one click. Full article

CISA ICS Vulnerability Advisories and Alerts, Updates, and Bulletins

- For Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) recent ICS vulnerability advisories, as well as alerts, updates, and bulletins, use the following link: https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories.

Upcoming Trainings

Reminder: EPA Exercise: National Water Sector Cybersecurity Drill - A Day Without SCADA
Thursday, February 29, 2024; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar
EPA will be hosting a free cybersecurity drill for drinking water and wastewater systems. You will gain vital training and experience on two of the most common cyber-attacks; phishing and ransomware. This drill will help your utility to test your ability to identify, report, and respond to these incidents. Join us in this free event that will support the Governance and Training section of your cybersecurity programs. Register now

MassDEP Cybersecurity Reminders:

- **Cybersecurity Continues to Be an Important Component of Providing Safe Drinking Water in Massachusetts**
- MassDEP posters with cybersecurity tips to help keep your systems secure https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-drinking-water-system-operations#cybersecurity-
- Public Water Systems may include cybersecurity planning in DWSRF Asset Management Grant applications https://www.mass.gov/service-details/asset-management-planning-grant-program
- Other Grants https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/cybersecurity-funding

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Supply Chain Reminders

PWSs are reminded to implement the steps identified by DWP at https://www.mass.gov/doc/steps-to-prepare-your-public-water-system-for-supply-chain-disruptions/download **and keep MassDEP/DWP informed of all Supply Chain issues.**
Resources:

- 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 be can also be useful for finding alternative chemical suppliers in the case of supply chain shortages.
- Join MassWARN.