



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

In the Main Newsletter – 03/06/2026

Address: 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

Phone: 617-292-5770 | **Email:** Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov

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.



Comeau Bridge, Haverhill, MA during the Frozen Shamrock 3-mile race. Photo by: Eric Cheung

This In the Main Newsletter has these topics of interest:

1. Reminder: 2025 Annual Statistical Reports (ASRs) Now Available!	2
3. Power Outages: Tips and Resources for Public Water Suppliers	3
4. Free PFAS Treatment Technologies and Grant Programs Webinar	5
5. Apply Today! 0% Interest Rate Lead Service Line Replacement Loans	5
6. MassDEP Trainings for TNCs and other PWS	6
7. Lead and Copper 90th Percentile Update	7
8. LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates	7
9. Water Smart	7
10. Drinking Water Trivia!	9
11. Training Calendar	9



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

Use the search function in the Statehouse Archives Website.

12.	Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!	14
13.	Supply Chain Reminders	15
14.	<i>How To Subscribe to the In The Main Newsletter</i>	16
15.	<i>Drinking Water Trivia! Answer</i>	16

1. Reminder: 2025 Annual Statistical Reports (ASRs) Now Available!

All systems active during the 2025 calendar year are required to submit an ASR per 310 CMR 22.15

- No need to create a new eDEP account. [Login to eDEP using your existing username and password.](#)
- After logging in to your account, verify your email by going to *My Profile* → *Update My Information*. Without a current and accurate email address, you will not receive an official receipt after submitting your ASR.
- Please note that you must open a new ASR each year. From your eDEP homepage go to *Forms* → *Drinking Water* → *2025 Public Water System Annual Statistical Report*.
- Hardships may be granted on a yearly basis for those with no computer access. You must apply for a hardship every year to receive a paper version. Contact information is below.
- **The due date for the 2025 ASR is Friday April 10, 2026.**
- [Instructions, tips, and WMA worksheets for filling out the ASR](#) can be found on the mass.gov website.

For assistance with eDEP (logging in, resetting passwords, etc.) [email the eDEP Support Desk \(edep-support@mass.gov\)](mailto:edep-support@mass.gov)

For assistance with filling out the Annual Statistical Report email [Sage Grace \(sage.grace@mass.gov\)](mailto:sage.grace@mass.gov), [Tio Yano \(tio.yano@mass.gov\)](mailto:tio.yano@mass.gov), or [Andrew Durham \(andrew.durham@mass.gov\)](mailto:andrew.durham@mass.gov)

For assistance with filling out the Water Management Act Forms of the Annual Statistical Report email [Jen D'Urso \(jen.durso@mass.gov\)](mailto:jen.durso@mass.gov)

2. Reminder: Notice of Publication of Proposed Regulations Revisions: 310 CMR 22.00 Drinking Water and 314 CMR 5.00 Ground Water Discharge Permit Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is proposing revisions to 310 CMR 22.00, the Drinking Water Regulations, and 314 CMR 5.00, the Ground Water Discharge Permit Program.

The proposed revisions to the Drinking Water Regulations incorporate EPA-mandated revisions to the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) (310 CMR 22.05) that would allow MassDEP to maintain its primacy for the RTCR. In addition, the proposed changes include language highlighting federal requirements for public water systems to plan for and address cybersecurity risks, remove historically discriminatory language (“grandfathering”), adopt a definition of water supply land and incorporate it into existing groundwater supply protection requirements, align existing definitions of surface water source protection areas with those in the surface water quality standards, remove URLs (as they frequently change) unless required by EPA, harmonize multilingual requirements across several sections and makes them consistent with MassDEP Environment Justice policies, adopt updated PFAS analytical methods, clarify Consumer Confidence Report requirements, add minor clarifying language in several sections, and correct typographical and formatting errors.

The proposed revisions to the Ground Water Discharge Permit Program include the addition of managed discharge of polluted or potentially polluted water from new or existing wells during drilling, pump testing and purging for the purpose of sampling as an additional activity that does not require a ground water discharge permit. The proposed changes deregulate certain discharges of water from new or existing wells, known or suspected to contain pollutants, where specified best practices are followed. The deregulation would be accomplished by the addition of a new permitting exemption, 314 CMR 5.05(20), within the Ground Water Discharge Permit Program.

MassDEP published the draft regulations for comment on Friday, February 13, 2026. MassDEP will conduct two virtual public information sessions followed by two virtual public hearings as part of the 30-day public comment period. The public hearings will be held under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30A on the following dates to receive comments on the proposed changes. Testimony may be presented orally at the public hearings or in writing by email to the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov using the subject line: Public Comments – Proposed DWP and GWDPP Amendments.

- [March 10, 2026, at 1:30 pm](#)
- [March 10, 2026, at 6:30 pm](#)

Written comments will be accepted until **5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026**. MassDEP strongly encourages electronic filing. In lieu of electronic submittal, please send a paper copy to Damon Guterman, MassDEP, Drinking Water Program, 100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114. All comments submitted must include the name and contact information of the person providing the comments.

Copies of the proposed regulations will be made available on MassDEP’s website at [310 CMR 22: The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations](#) for the proposed changes to 310 CMR 22.00 and at [314 CMR 5: Ground Water Discharge Permit Program](#) for the proposed changes to 314 CMR 5.00.

If you have any questions, please contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770.

3. Power Outages: Tips and Resources for Public Water Suppliers

Losing power in a drinking water facility due to natural events such as a hurricane, flood, blizzard, or ice storm, or due to human/cyber interference could have devastating effects. Some of the consequences of

losing electric grid power at drinking water facilities might include pressure loss and boil water advisories or a reduction or cessation of water treatment.

In light of recent snow storms that have left utilities without power, MassDEP recommends Public Water Systems exercise the following precautions, especially before known storm events, to not only prepare for but mitigate such power outage crises from occurring:

- Review your Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for procedures related to responding to power outages.
- Top off all fuel tanks of emergency vehicles.
- Exercise all emergency generators under load and make sure you have an adequate fuel supply for these generators.
- Ensure you have an adequate supply of all bulk chemicals and contact your chemical suppliers to ensure that adequate disinfection chemicals are available.
- Review communications plans, prepare preliminary notices, and test communications equipment.
- Check the status of water quality sampling equipment and contact laboratories to ensure they will be available to conduct sample analysis, if necessary.
- Join MA WARN to obtain rapid mutual aid from neighboring PWS in the event of an emergency

In an emergency where you suspect contamination from oil and/or hazardous materials, contact both your local fire department and MassDEP Emergency Response: 1-888-304-1133.

Always remember it is better to be **proactive** when it comes to Emergency Response Planning than *reactive*, as the damage a power outage can do to a public water utility is too serious to be overlooked, even before an emergency occurs.

Additional Resources:

- [Power Resilience for the Water and Wastewater Sector | US EPA](#)
- [Incident Action Checklist - Power Outages](#)
- [Preparing for Extreme Weather Events and Response Guidance | Mass.gov](#)
- [Storm Preparedness & Emergency Response Resources | Mass.gov](#)

Sign Up for MA WARN for Mutual Aid During Emergencies

[MaWARN](#) is a mutual aid program available for all publicly-owned water and wastewater systems in Massachusetts. Participation in MaWARN allows participating systems to receive rapid mutual aid and assistance from other public systems in Massachusetts to restore services damaged by natural or man-made incidents. Participation in MaWARN is completely voluntary: your PWS is not required to join MaWARN, and even if your system joins, you are not required to request or offer mutual aid.

More information about MaWARN and instructions on how to sign up can be found at the [MaWARN](#) website.

4. Free PFAS Treatment Technologies and Grant Programs Webinar

MassDEP Drinking Water Program and UMass Amherst: PFAS Treatment Technologies: Options, Trade-Offs, Decision Factors, Technical Support, and Grant Programs Training

Wednesday, March 18th, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 a.m. EDT; Webinar

MassDEP Drinking Water Program and UMass Amherst are hosting an important **free** training related to the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant. This webinar will present a high-level overview of the most commonly used PFAS treatment technologies for drinking water, including how they work in practice and where they fit best within a treatment process. The webinar will discuss and compare key pros, cons, and real-world considerations, including performance, costs, operations, residuals, and implementation, to help you make informed treatment decisions. This webinar will also go over available technical support and a brief summary of the Emerging Contaminants Grant Programs. There will be an open forum/Q&A session at the end of the training. The training portion of this webinar will be recorded and available on the MassDEP YouTube channel for later viewing. We strongly encourage all interested PWS personnel, including operators, and authorized representatives to attend. **Certified operators can earn 1 TCH by participating in the training.** Registration is required and each attendee must register individually: [Please register for the webinar "MassDEP Drinking Water Program and UMass Amherst: PFAS Treatment Technologies: Options, Trade-Offs, Decision Factors, Technical Support, and Grant Programs Training"](#)

5. Apply Today! 0% Interest Rate Lead Service Line Replacement Loans

Rolling Applications Open for 0% Interest Rate Lead Service Line Replacement Planning and Construction Loans with 40% Loan Forgiveness!

To support compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the Trust) are offering 0% interest Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) financing to help public water systems (PWS) achieve measurable progress on lead service line (LSL) removal. Eligible PWSs can access 0% interest loans to support LCRI required activities, including service line inventory work, replacement planning, unknown service line investigations, and full lead service line and/or galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) service line replacement. For more information on this time-limited opportunity, see the [DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement Program webpage](#).

Importantly, 40% loan forgiveness is now available to all eligible public water systems!

For the first time, under the LCRI, by November 1, 2027;

- Community and Non-Transient Non-Community PWSs must submit a baseline service line inventory;
- PWSs with at least one LSL, GRR, or service line of unknown material must submit a replacement plan; and,

- PWSs must start replacement programs and complete replacement within 10 years.

Which financing option is right for you?

- **0% Interest LSL Construction Loans:**
 - Full LSL/GRR replacement work
 - Investigations that require excavation or other invasive methods
- **0% Interest LSL Planning Loans:**
 - Inventory development and updates
 - LSL replacement plan development
 - LSL-replaced planning and prioritization activities

Apply today for 0% interest financing to get a headstart on LCRI required work. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, while funding is available. Apply through the [Loan Application for Lead Service Line Replacement](#).

For questions or application assistance contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or the MassDEP DWSRF program at srfmadep@mass.gov.

6. MassDEP Trainings for TNCs and other PWS

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program is committed to supporting all PWS including TNCs with accessible, practical training opportunities throughout the year.

MassDEP updates and maintains [training calendars](#) that include no cost and fee-based trainings for PWS operators and personnel. These include upcoming virtual and in-person trainings covering regulatory updates, compliance best practices, and more. These sessions are designed to help PWS staff to stay informed, maintain compliance, and feel confident navigating program requirements.

In addition to live trainings, MassDEP also records important trainings and make them available on the MassDEP [YouTube channel](#) so operators can access them at their convenience. Whether you're onboarding new staff, reviewing a specific topic, or need a refresher before completing a requirement, MassDEP's archived trainings are a valuable resource.

MassDEP encourages all TNC systems to regularly review the Training Calendar and take advantage of both upcoming and recorded sessions.

View the Training Calendars: [Trainings for Public Water System Operators](#)

Watch Past Trainings on YouTube: [Drinking Water Training - YouTube](#)

If there are specific topics you would like to see covered in future trainings, please let MassDEP know - we welcome your feedback! Please refer to the "Training Calendar" section of the ITM Newsletter for more information about upcoming trainings. If you have any questions, please contact MassDEP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

7. Lead and Copper 90th Percentile Update

It is that time again!

MassDEP DWP 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 [Results of lead sampling for Public Water Systems | Mass.gov](#). PWS should note that this latest posting includes a total of 7 PWS which exceeded the current Lead Action Level (AL) of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

Getting Ready for the LCRI

Under the upcoming Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), the lead action level will be reduced to 10 parts per billion (ppb). Based on the most recent 90th percentile sampling results noted above, approximately 13 PWS are expected to exceed this new threshold (exceeding 10 ppb, but not exceeding 15 ppb).

Please see the latest update at [Results of lead sampling for Public Water Systems | Mass.gov](#) and if your latest 90th percentile result is above 10 ppb but below the current LCR lead action level of 15 ppb, now is a good time to begin preparing. Contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject: LCRI, to be connected with one of our technical assistance providers for support.

8. LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates

Reminder: PWS are required to Use eDEP For Lead and Copper Sample Reporting (Including School Sample Reporting)

To maintain compliance with Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, PWS are reminded that a minimum of 4 lead and copper sampling results (2 samples per school) must be submitted through **eDEP** per monitoring period (310 CMR 22.06B(7)(a)(9)). **MassDEP requires PWS to use electronic reporting for Lead and Copper sample results;** only PWS with an electronic filing requirement waiver approved by MassDEP may be excluded from this requirement (310 CMR 22.03(13)).

For PWS which are schools, school sampling results must be submitted using the reporting code “LCR”. For Community PWS which serve schools and are required to sample from at least 2 schools per monitoring period under 310 CMR 22.06B(7)(a)(9), the results for the schools must be submitted with the reporting code “LCCA”.

9. 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, 1,270 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 1,116 (88%) of participating facilities are within economically disadvantaged communities. To date, 1,154 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 763 (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 had full 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.”

In addition, please join our upcoming informational webinar on **March 18 from 12:30-1:30 PM** to learn more about the program process and requirements, followed by a Q&A session to answer your questions.

Register for the webinar at: [Webinar Registration](#)

10. 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.

What is the name of the world's first trial station for drinking water purification?

- A. Thule Station
- B. Outpost 31
- C. Wall Experiment Station
- D. Lawrence Station

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.

11. 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

Digital Transformation at Columbia

Tuesday, March 10, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join us for an exclusive conversation with Columbia Water as they share their real-world journey from fragmented legacy systems to an integrated, modern utility operation and how they're now exploring modern technology like AI while creating exceptional customer experiences. In this webinar, you'll hear directly from Columbia Water about their strategic approach to digital transformation: updating to meters, replacing siloed legacy infrastructure with integration-ready technology, exploring AI capabilities, and reallocating maintenance costs to initiatives that turn customers into superfans.

[Register for the webinar: Digital Transformation at Columbia.](#)

Finding a Unicorn! Small Wastewater System Funding Series: Federal Procurement

Tuesday, March 10, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This webinar will focus on federal standards for acquiring goods and services with public funds. This session will also cover the competitive bid process, OMB procurement requirements and contracting public works projects. [Register for the webinar: Finding a Unicorn! Small Wastewater System Funding Series: Federal Procurement.](#)

How States Track Hazardous Waste: Data Systems and Tools

Tuesday, March 10, 2026; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

As RCRAInfo and e-Manifest evolve, states are adapting - from flat-file uploads to API pilots, system upgrades, and QA/QC improvements. This roundtable will explore how programs are managing hazardous waste data, integrating state systems with federal platforms, and addressing common issues such as data accuracy, workload, and system design. Come ready to share your state's approach, successes, and needs. As a reminder, these events are open to state and federal government employees only. We kindly ask that you do not share registration links outside of your organization. Pre-registration is required. [Register for the webinar: How States Track Hazardous Waste: Data Systems and Tools.](#)

Essential Policy Updates from AWWA's DC Office

Wednesday, March 11, 2026; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

AWWA's DC Office will host its first legislative update of 2026. The webinar will also summarize recent federal actions with respect to fluoride in drinking water and highlight decisions that water systems should consider now to prepare for non-lead validation studies in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements. With the House and Senate having been in session for most of the year-to-date after an extended hiatus in the late 2025, now is a moment to look at the status of legislation of interest to the water sector. As well as a chance to explore the prospects for legislation, as the number of legislative days before mid-term elections rapidly declines. 2026 is also a critical year for systems preparing to comply with the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements. \$75-member, \$120-nonmember. [Register for the webinar: Essential Policy Updates from AWWA's DC Office.](#)

EPA Emergency Response Research Webinar Series: Emergency Deployment of Water Treatment Systems During Disasters

Wednesday, March 11, 2026; 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Following an emergency event, communities need access to clean water for various daily activities and medical purposes. EPA partnered with WaterStep to develop a modular, mobile water treatment system known as Water on Wheels – Emergency Mobile Water Treatment System (WOW Cart). The WOW Cart is an inexpensive and versatile water treatment system about the size of a shopping cart that has been deployed in response to hurricanes, tornadoes, and other disasters. Multiple deployments and discussions with stakeholders have highlighted the lack of a pre-approval process for short-term emergency drinking water systems among many states. This may limit the ability to use such capabilities and get clean water to affected areas quickly. This webinar will provide an overview of the WOW Cart and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators will discuss their survey of state programs on pre-approval of short-term emergency drinking water systems. It will discuss Kentucky's Lily Pad program, including guidelines for acceptance and monitoring of systems, pre-deployments, and training water utility staff in the operation of these systems. [Register for the webinar: Emergency Deployment of Water Treatment Systems During Disasters.](#)

The Benefits of Internships for Wastewater Systems

Thursday, March 12, 2026; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

The webinar will explore why establishing an internship program can be highly beneficial for utilities. We will share practical ways to fund internships, where to find potential interns, and the types of tasks they can support to ease supervisory workloads. We'll also cover strategies for helping interns transition into full time roles. [Register for the webinar: The Benefits of Internships for Wastewater Systems.](#)

Water Online Webinar - Securing Tomorrow's Water: Strategies For Source Water Protection

Thursday, March 12, 2026; 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

During the webinar, water leaders will provide actionable insights to protect drinking water sources by mitigating upstream risks, strengthening watershed partnerships, deploying smarter monitoring, and reducing treatment strain. The speakers will discuss how source water protection can help participants stay ahead of regulatory, operational, and supply challenges as they face water scarcity, climate volatility, and emerging contaminants challenges. [Register for the webinar: Securing Tomorrow's Water: Strategies For Source Water Protection.](#)

Ask Me Anything! State Revolving Fund (SRF) Technical Assistance & Open Office Hours: What are the important SRF documents?

Monday, March 16, 2026; 2:00 – 4:00 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: What are the important SRF documents?.](#)

Mass DEP Drinking Water Program and UMass Amherst: PFAS Treatment Technologies: Options, Trade-offs, and Decision Factors, Technical Support, and Grant Programs Training

Wednesday, March 18th, 2026 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. EDT; Webinar

MassDEP Drinking Water Program and UMass Amherst are hosting an important **free** training related to the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant. This webinar will present a high-level overview of the most commonly used PFAS treatment technologies for drinking water, including how they work in practice and where they fit best within a treatment process. The webinar will discuss and compare key pros, cons, and real-world considerations, including performance, costs, operations, residuals, and implementation, to help you make informed treatment decisions. This webinar will also go over available technical support, and a brief summary of the Emerging Contaminants Grant Programs. There will be an open forum/Q&A session at the end of the training. The training portion of this webinar will be recorded and available on the MassDEP YouTube channel for later viewing. We strongly encourage all interested PWS personnel, including operators, and authorized representatives to attend. **Certified operators can earn 1 TCH by participating in the training.** Registration is required and each attendee must register individually. [Register for the webinar: Mass DEP Drinking Water Program and UMass Amherst: PFAS Treatment Technologies: Options, Trade-offs, and Decision Factors, Technical Support, and Grant Programs Training](#)

Federal and State Funding: Virtual Roundtable

Wednesday, March 18, 2026; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

This interactive dialogue with leaders from the water utility, financial, and consulting sectors will take a deep dive into key aspects of federal and state funding of water infrastructure and operations as 2026 gets underway. Discussion topics will include an update on water-related funding in the FY2026 federal budget, evolving budgeting and water funding-related activities at EPA and other agencies, congressional

actions impacting water-related funding, and an overview of water funding vehicles in various states. \$75-member, \$120-nonmember. [Register for the webinar: Federal and State Funding: Virtual Roundtable.](#)

Headworks: The Start to Wastewater Treatment

Thursday, March 19, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join us for a one-hour essential overview of headworks—the critical first line of defense in wastewater treatment facilities. This one-hour webinar is designed for wastewater operators, utility board members, and municipal decision-makers seeking to understand how headworks systems protect and support treatment facilities. We'll cover the essential components found in headworks (screens, grit removal, and flow measurement), explore common operational and maintenance considerations, and explain how effective headworks performance impacts the entire treatment process. Whether you're hands-on in daily operations or making strategic decisions about your utility's infrastructure, you'll gain practical knowledge about this vital preliminary treatment stage and its role in protecting downstream equipment and ensuring regulatory compliance. Presenter: James Markham, Research Engineer at the Southwest Environmental Finance Center [Register for the webinar: Headworks: The Start to Wastewater Treatment.](#)

Building Drought and Wildfire Resilience for Water Sector Utilities: Technical Assistance and Resources from EPA SWIFT

Wednesday, March 25, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

SWIFT's experts can provide hands-on technical assistance to help your utility build resilience to drought and wildfire hazards through risk-informed project planning and investment. Learn about the SWIFT technical assistance process, explore online tools for understanding and assessing system risk to these hazards, and review resources for identifying resilient infrastructure projects. [Register for the webinar Building Drought and Wildfire Resilience for Water Sector Utilities: Technical Assistance and Resources from EPA's SWIFT Initiative.](#)

Building Coastal Flooding and Hurricane Resilience for Water Sector Utilities: Technical Assistance and Resources from EPA SWIFT

Wednesday, April 22, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Get ahead of hurricane season! Learn how SWIFT's experts can provide customized technical assistance to help your utility build resilience to **coastal flooding and hurricane hazards** through risk-informed project planning and investment. Review this year's hurricane season outlook, learn about the SWIFT technical assistance process, and explore tools that can help your utility better understand and assess system impacts and identify resilient solutions. [Register for the webinar Building Coastal Flooding and Hurricane Resilience for Water Sector Utilities: Technical Assistance and Resources from EPA's SWIFT Initiative.](#)

How Water Sector Utilities are Building Resilience to Natural Hazards: Utilities Recount their Engagement with EPA SWIFT Technical Assistance

Wednesday, May 20, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

SWIFT technical assistance is tailored to meet the needs of each utility request, from improving the understanding of natural hazard impacts to their system to quantifying the potential reductions in risk that specific projects can deliver. Learn how water sector utilities are benefitting from SWIFT technical

assistance. **Hear directly from utility representatives** across the country that have engaged in the process to build system resilience to various natural hazards. [Register for the webinar How Water Sector Utilities are Building Resilience to Natural Hazards: Utilities Recount their Engagement with EPA SWIFT Technical Assistance.](#)

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](#).

12. 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

Be Vigilant!! The Ongoing geopolitical Tensions with Iran Is Causing a Heightened Threat Environment in the United States

- Critical infrastructure including water and wastewater systems (WWS) continues to be a potential target for malicious actors. During periods of geopolitical tension, the risk of cyber activity against infrastructure sectors often increases.
- In the case of Iran, we have already seen their state-funded group, known as CyberAv3ngers, attacking WWS by compromising default credentials in Unitronics devices.
- While threats connected to Iran remain a big concern, they are not the only risk. Cybercriminal groups and other nation-state actors around the world could take advantage of periods of global instability.
- Also, with the rise of automated software tools (Such as A.I.) your system can be found with very little effort. It is critical to act now by taking advantage of the resources below.
- Strengthening cybersecurity practices can significantly reduce risk. Key steps include using strong passwords, implementing multifactor authentication, limiting OT exposure to the public facing internet, keeping software and firmware updated, replacing all default passwords on OT devices with strong, unique passwords, and monitoring networks for unusual activity.

Cybersecurity Resources:

In light of recent increases in cybersecurity threats, particularly those aimed at WWS, it is critical for all systems in the sector to remain vigilant and proactive in protecting their routine operations.

- Perform a free cybersecurity assessment for your system: MassDEP strongly encourages you to take advantage of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) free cybersecurity assessment program. This great initiative provides a thorough assessment of your system's cybersecurity posture, all virtually for your convenience. It's better the EPA highlights potential attack vectors before a bad actor takes advantage of them. Apply here today: [EPA's Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program | US EPA](#)
- MassDEP DWP Self-Paced Course on Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water and Wastewater Systems in Massachusetts (1 TCH). Enroll Here For Free: [Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water and Wastewater Systems in Massachusetts](#)
- Apply Today - MassDEP DWP Public Water Suppliers Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, in partnership with the 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. Apply here: [Public Water Suppliers Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program | Mass.gov](#)

- Visit the MassDEP [Cyber Resource Hub](#) for additional alerts, tools, and guidance.

CISA and Partners Release Guidance for Ongoing Global Exploitation of Cisco SD-WAN Systems (Source: CISA and WaterISAC)

- CISA issued an [Alert](#) and “[Emergency Directive 26-03: Mitigate Vulnerabilities in Cisco SD-WAN Systems](#)” in response to cyber threat actors’ observed exploitation of Cisco Software-Defined Wide-Area Networking (SD-WAN) systems on Federal Civilian and Executive Branch (FCEB) networks. While only FCEB agencies are required to implement CISA Emergency Directives (EDs), the risks extend to every organization and sector using these systems, and we strongly urge all utilities to review and adopt the actions outlined in the ED and associated resources.
- CISA and partners have observed malicious cyber actors targeting and compromising Cisco SD-WAN systems of organizations, globally. These actors have been observed exploiting previously undisclosed authentication bypass vulnerability, CVE-2026-20127, for initial access before escalating privileges using CVE-2022-20775 and establishing long-term persistence in Cisco SD-WAN systems.
- To address malicious activity involving vulnerable Cisco SD-WAN systems, CISA issued [Emergency Directive 26-03: Mitigate Vulnerabilities in Cisco SD-WAN Systems](#), which outlines requirements for FCEB agencies to inventory Cisco SD-WAN systems, update them, and assess compromise.
- Further, CISA released [Supplemental Direction ED 26-03: Hunt and Hardening Guidance for Cisco SD-WAN Systems](#) to provide prescriptive actions for FCEB agencies.
- For additional 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 [MassDEP's Letter on Sanitary Survey Cybersecurity Program/Assessment Report Inspection](#)

13. 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.

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

[Subscribe to the *In The Main* Newsletter here!](#)

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*, subscribe by completing the quick [ITM Newsletter Sign-Up Form](#). 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](#).

15. *Drinking Water Trivia! Answer*

Answer: D, though C counts as well

When it was first established, the station was known as the Lawrence Experiment Station. In 1993, it was renamed after state senator William X. Wall