



MassDEP / Drinking Water Program

100 Cambridge Street – 9th Floor; Boston, MA 02114

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.



Solar Eclipse Photo by: [Luc Viatour](#)

This *In The Main* newsletter has these topics of interest

2024-04-04

1. Annual Statistical Report (ASR) Assistance: ASRs Due Monday
2. Letter From Deputy National Security Advisor Anne Neuberger and Water Systems Cybersecurity Action Plans
3. Contract Operator Directory Update
4. Drinking Water Week Activities for Staff, Community, and Schools
5. Safe Drinking Water Act
6. New Manganese Webpage and Map
7. The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) & PWS
8. Getting Ready for the LCRR
9. Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update
10. PFAS Update
11. Training Calendar
12. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!
13. 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>

Annual Statistical Report (ASR) Assistance:

ASRs Due Monday



Annual Statistical Report (ASR)

Please be aware that your 2023 Annual Statistical Report (ASR) is due by **Monday, April 8, 2024**. Failure to submit the ASR by April 8th, 2024, via eDEP at <https://edep.dep.mass.gov/eDEP/> is a violation of 310 CMR 22.15 and may result in enforcement. If you have not already started work on your ASR, do so now by following the instructions below.

To access your ASR:

Log in using your existing username and password at <https://edep.dep.mass.gov>

- Verify your email by going to My Profile > Update My Information. You need a current and accurate email address to receive an official eASR receipt.
- Open a new ASR each year. From your eDEP homepage go to Forms > Drinking Water > 2023 Public Water System Annual Statistical Report.
- **Your 2023 ASR is due Monday, April 8th, 2024.**

Instructions:

For instructions to fill out your ASR: [https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates#statistical-reporting-forms-](https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates#statistical-reporting-forms-Online/Remote Assistance)

Online/Remote Assistance: MassDEP staff are available during normal office hours to assist PWS completing their ASRs. Contacts for eDEP, ASR, and Water Management Act Form assistance are listed at the bottom of this article.

Step-by-Step Tutorial: Watch the MassDEP and Massachusetts Water Works Association training session on how to complete and submit your ASR correctly at [Tips for Completing the Annual Statistical Report \(ASR\)](#).

ASR Tips Sheet: Check out this tips sheet for how to solve common problems when completing the ASR: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates#statistical-reporting-forms->

Important Reminders:

On the *Staffing and Contact Information* form make sure the start date of your current primary distribution operator's record is **correct and that the end date is blank**. An example of a current primary distribution operator record can be seen below. *Note that the End Date is blank for the current primary distribution operator. If you do not have a current primary distribution operator, please contact your MassDEP regional office at:* <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-regional-offices-by-community>.

PERSONNEL INFORMATION		Edit		Delete	
Grade	27/3D	License #	78810988		
Phone	508-517-4368	Email	rtd@chamberswater.com		
Role Assignments					
Function	Begin Date	End Date			
PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR	06/01/1987		Edit	Delete	
Add New Function/Role					

Assistance:

For assistance with eDEP (logging in, resetting passwords, etc.), contact:

- eDEP Support Desk at edep-support@mass.gov

For assistance with filling out the Annual Statistical Report, please contact:

- Sage Grace at sage.grace@mass.gov OR
- Andrew Durham at andrew.durham@mass.gov

Please CC program.director-dwp@mass.gov for all MassDEP help requests.

For assistance with filling out the Water Management Act Forms of the Annual Statistical Report, contact:

- Jen D'Urso at jen.durso@mass.gov

You may also contact the Drinking water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: ASR or 617-292-5770.

Letter From Deputy National Security Advisor Anne Neuberger and Water Systems Cybersecurity Action Plans

- On March 28, 2024, Deputy National Security Advisor Anne Neuberger sent a letter to governors asking for assistance in addressing the cybersecurity of water and wastewater systems.
- DNSA Neuberger requested that each state share a cybersecurity plan by June 28, 2024. The cybersecurity plans should include details on how states are collaborating with both drinking water and wastewater systems to identify vulnerabilities to cyberattacks and the measures they are taking to implement cybersecurity protections. The letter also provides guidance to the states for developing these plans.
- MassDEP/DWP is working on the development of the water systems cybersecurity action plan. For additional information and to see the Readout from State Convening to Discuss Cybersecurity and the Water Sector visit <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/readout-state-convening-discuss-cybersecurity-and-water-sector>

For more information on cybersecurity see the Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You section below and the new MassDEP/DWP cybersecurity resource hub (StoryMap) at [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\) \(arcgis.com\)](#).

Contract Operator Directory Update

This week, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water Program (MassDEP/DWP) reached out to contract operators regarding their contact information as included in the Contract Certified Operator Directory, which can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/certified-operator-directory#directory-of-certified-operators>. The letter can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers#emails-and-direct-mail>.

MassDEP is strengthening its posture on cybersecurity in response to recent cyberattacks and phishing incidents in water systems throughout the country. As part of this initiative, MassDEP is working to remove contact information from webpages that may be **personal** in nature. **Personal data**, as described in Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) Ch. 66A § 1, is any information about an individual that would be able to identify them or be readily associated with them. Personal data can include, but is not necessarily limited to, an individual's personal telephone number (home or

cell), email address, social security number, driver's license/state-issued ID card number, or financial account number(s).

The Contract Certified Operator Directory (Individuals) currently contains each contract operator's mailing address, phone number, and email address. As MassDEP makes updates to the directory, MassDEP wants to confirm with contract operators that the contact information they have provided can be used for work-related correspondence, even if it may be considered personal information.

If you are an individual contract operator (i.e. do not work for a contract operator company) and have previously provided contact information to MassDEP/DWP for use in the Contract Certified Operator Directory that may be personal information that you would like to update to contact information that can be used for work-related correspondence, please use the Contract Operator Information Form found at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/contract-certified-operator-directories> to update your contact information.

If your contact information previously provided to MassDEP can be used for work-related correspondence, even if it may be considered personal information, then no further action is needed.

If you have any questions, you may contact MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: Contract Operator Contact Information.

Drinking Water Week Activities for Staff, Community, and Schools

Drinking Water Week 2024 is May 5th through May 11th. Drinking Water Week is the perfect time to highlight your 24-hour a day job of providing clean and safe drinking water to the public. Here are ideas for Drinking Water Week activities for your staff, community and schools. You can partner with other community organizations for some of these events. This year is also the 50th anniversary of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act!

Ideas for Public Water System Staff Education During Drinking Water Week

Did you know that MassDEP's Drinking Water Program (DWP) manages over 50 Safe Drinking Water Act programs? Are you aware of DWP's training and compliance assistance programs? How familiar is your staff with these programs?

Show your staff DWP's 13-minute video titled **Who We Are and What We Do**, created by MassDEP/DWP staff, is posted on MassDEP's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZbKpdjtVTA>.

Encourage your staff to take DWP's new **Source Water Protection in Massachusetts** self-guided training for 0.5 TCH at <https://wateroperator.thinkific.com/courses/source-water-protection-in-massachusetts>.

Ideas for Community Education During Drinking Water Week

There are lots of existing programs available to use during Drinking Water Week to educate your community about water supply operations; the challenges of maintaining clean drinking water 24 hours a day and how they can support you locally.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) website offers examples of programs for community events and communication.

For downloadable logos, social media posts, radio public service announcements and press releases, go to <https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Drinking-Water-Week/DWW-Materials>.

Other **Celebration Ideas** are available at <https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Drinking-Water-Week/Celebration-Ideas>.

Here are some ideas for activities.

1) Community Events

Create a display at the public library with a local water supply map and other information.

Partner with your local garden club to plant a small garden with labeled drought resistant plants in a public space.

Hold a contest for the best ideas for local water conservation.

2) Youth Focus

Hold a children's coloring, essay or poster contest about the local water supply.

Videotape a tour of your water facility and offer it to teachers.

Tell kids what water operators do.

3) Public Communication

Describe a day in the life of a water operator.

Coordinate distribution of AWWA news releases to your local newspaper.

Publicize your Consumer Confidence Report.

Ideas for School Education During Drinking Water Week

Activities for students, lesson plans and teacher guides are posted at the links below. Public water suppliers can partner with local teachers to plan Drinking Water Week events, or these materials can be used any time.

If you want to plan Drinking Water Week activities, here is a weeklong program.

Monday: preschool

[Resource: Water | Worksheet | Education.com](#)

<https://www.mwra.com/02org/html/edresources.htm#printable>

Tuesday: elementary grades – K-3

https://www3.epa.gov/safewater/kids/kids_k-3.html

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/documents/ws-earth-day-kids-tips-puzzles.pdf>

Wednesday: middle school – 4-8

<https://drinktap.org/Kids-Place>;

https://www3.epa.gov/safewater/kids/pdfs/activity_grades_9-12_qagamee.pdf

<https://drinktap.org/Kids-Place/The-Story-Of-Drinking-Water/What-is-the-water-cycle>

Thursday: high school – 9-12

https://www3.epa.gov/safewater/kids//teachers_9-12.html

Friday: community colleges, other higher education – Building Your Own Watershed & Discussions

https://www3.epa.gov/safewater/kids//activity_grades_9-12_buildyourownwatershed.html

<https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education>

Safe Drinking Water Act

Did you know?

The 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is coming up in seven months on **December 16, 2024**. Over the next few months, MassDEP/DWP will be highlighting the importance of the Act in ensuring safe drinking water and protecting public health. To learn more about the SDWA see <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa>.

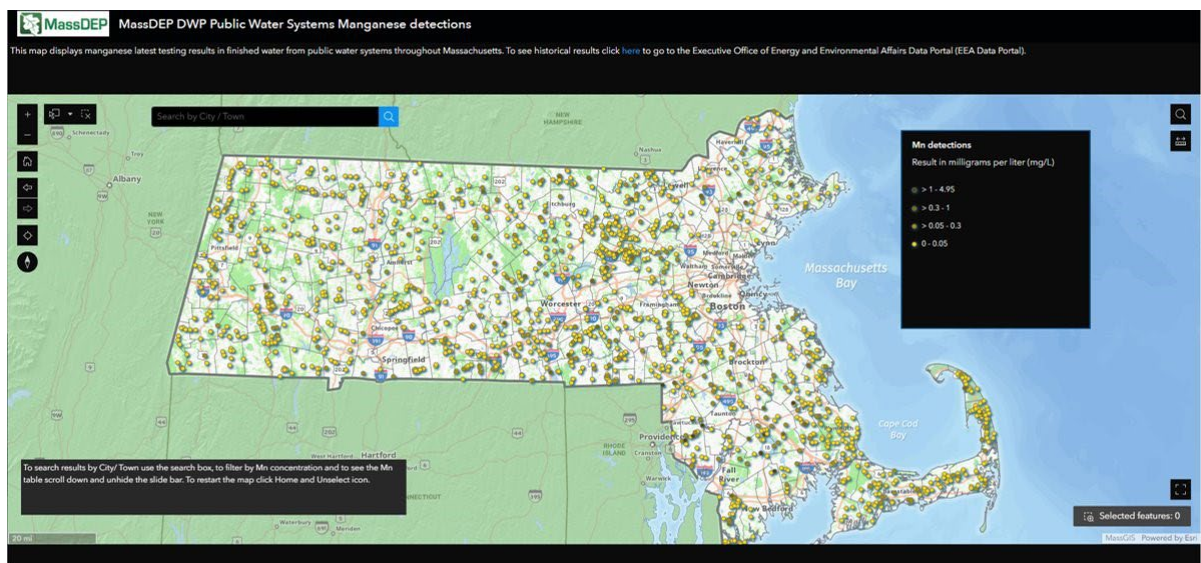
New Manganese Webpage and Map

MassDEP has published new manganese information on the web: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/manganese-in-drinking-water>

The webpage provides consumer information on manganese including:

- What is manganese and where does it come from?
- What health effects are associated with exposure to manganese?
- Drinking water standards and levels of concern
- Manganese in public drinking water sources in Massachusetts
- How to find out if there is manganese in your drinking water
- What options are available if the manganese level is elevated?

The interactive map shows the latest finished water manganese testing results from all active Public Water Supply sources including Community and Non-Community systems.

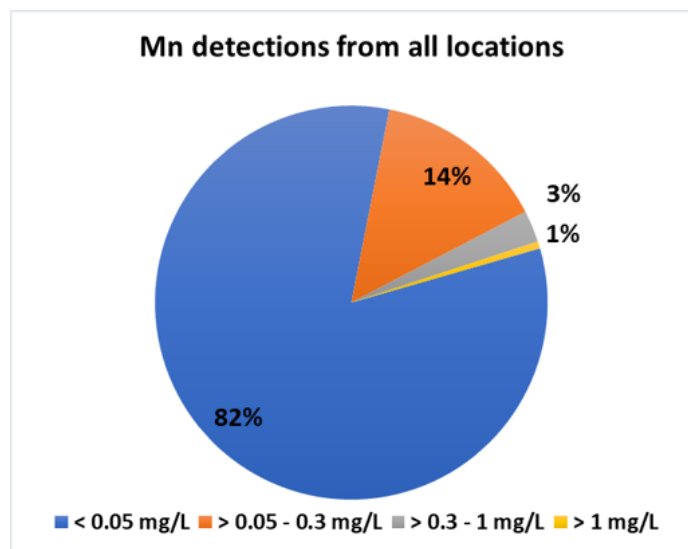


[Manganese in Drinking Water | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/manganese-in-drinking-water)

The testing results are mapped by the level of manganese:

- Less than the Secondary Contaminant Level (SMCL) of 0.05 mg/L
- Between the SMCL and the Health Advisory Level of 0.3 mg/L
- Between the Health Advisory Level and the acute Health Advisory Level of 1.0 mg/L
- Greater than the acute HA Level of 1.0 mg/L

82% of the locations tested had manganese results less than the SMCL of 0.05 mg/L. The testing results are from finished water, not raw water, so if there is treatment at a source to remove manganese, the results reflect this.



The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) & PWS

Do you need assistance with drinking water financial planning?

The Environmental Finance Center helps to build local capacity to pay for the growing cost of protecting critical environmental resources and fostering resilient communities. Their programs including assistance for funding and financing of climate adaptation and resilience, stormwater and nutrient management, water infrastructure, and sustainable operating practices.

The EFC has been in existence since 1992 and has offices throughout the country. The EFC was developed by and is partially funded by EPA, however, is not a part of EPA. The New England EFC network was established in 2001 and operates through the University of Southern Maine with a focus on climate resiliency and sustainability. They have worked closely with the Southwest Network over the years providing training to small PWS.

Why is it the EFC important to Massachusetts Public Water System?

PWS can benefit from the EFC to help them prepare their system's asset management plan, budget, and other financial plans.

How can the EFC help with the [EC-SDC Grant](#) application?

If your PWS is invited to complete the Scope of Work – Long Form Attachment A, (SOW-L Attachment A) form, and you need assistance in completing the application, the [Environmental Finance Center](#) (EFC) will provide no cost assistance.

MassDEP has met recently with EFC representatives to seek information on how they can assist small PWS in meeting eligibility requirements of the EC-SDC grant. The staff at EFC understands the challenges that small PWS face and are familiar with the grant and MassDEP SOW documents.

It's easy to request their assistance with the EC-SDC SOW-L, the SOW Budget and other financially related programs; visit the [EFC Network](#) and click on "Get Help" in the top right corner of the screen.

Please contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject EC-SDC Grant, if you have any questions on this information.

Getting Ready for the LCRR

Have You Started Your Service Line Inventory? Get Assistance to Meet the October 16, 2024, Deadline!

Request help from the MassDEP / UMass Amherst Free Small Systems SLI / LSLRP Technical Assistance Program to catchup with the LCRR requirements.

April is here! Did you already submit your draft SLI to MassDEP/DWP by the technical assistance early review date (April 1, 2024)? If you haven't, remember that the Free Technical Assistance Program is available to help all NTNCs and small COMs complete both the SLI and the Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (LSLRP).

Let's clear something up: All public water systems, **even those without lead service lines**, are required to submit a complete initial service line inventory (SLI) by **October 16, 2024**.

How does it work: The Free Technical Assistance Program will help you identify, compile, and review service line records, create a customer outreach plan, and complete the service line inventory before the **October 16, 2024** deadline.

We strongly recommend that all eligible public water systems apply for the free assistance by completing the application survey at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/massdep-service-line-inventory-and-lead-service-line-replacement-plan-technical-assistance-survey>, or emailing lsi@umass.edu with the subject, Requesting assistance for the SLI

SLI Do It Yourself Resources:

- Lead and Copper Rule Requirements Trainings: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions#massdep-past-trainings> or <https://youtu.be/L5FJ8PV9p1w?si=aEYMdIQon7RMBUrW>
- Through this link [Lead & Copper Forms and Templates | Mass.gov](#), you can access the following:
 - Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook (Version 1.0.3),
 - Instructions: Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook for Version 1.0.3. Once the SLI is complete it needs to be exported to a CSV file for submission to MassDEP.

- Template Letter for PWS to send to customers for the MA-LSLI App
- Instructions: Mass Lead Service Line Identification (MA-LSLI) Web App. A tool created by MassDEP for customer identification of service lines and SLI participation.
- More!



Get Ready for the LCRR - Monthly Open House Hours

Starting this month, MassDEP will be hosting open monthly calls for PWS with Service Line Inventory (SLI) related questions. **Please submit the questions ahead of time** to program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject: LCRR Open Office Hours.

These calls are not trainings, therefore, no TCHs will be awarded.

PWS will be receiving an invitation email with the registration details next week.

A Recent Interesting LCRR Q&A

How Do I Enter a Service Line into my SLI with Multiple Materials?

- If your PWS has identified a service line with **multiple portions of different materials** along the customer (private) side, or the PWS owned (public) side, then the service line material that makes up the largest amount, i.e. percentage or majority, of the service line should be entered into the corresponding inventory column, and the other material(s) should be entered into the comments field, **unless the smaller portion of the service line is lead, galvanized, or unknown.**
- If your PWS has identified a service line with any portion of **lead, galvanized, or an unknown material**, that material must be entered into the inventory, in the columns that track service line material. If the materials of a service line are **equal length, use the ranking below** to decide which material to enter into the main material column that tracks service line material: **The rank of risk of contributing higher lead levels is as follows, with 1 being the highest priority, and 5 being the lowest.**
 1. Lead
 2. Galvanized
 3. Unknown
 4. Iron/Steel and other Metal Materials
 5. Plastic

Service Line Inventory (SLI) Workbook Tips and Important Instructions!

All tips and instructions included below are also included in the [MassDEP Service Line Inventory Workbook Instructions](https://www.mass.gov/doc/instructions-service-line-inventory-excel-workbook-for-version-103/download) [<https://www.mass.gov/doc/instructions-service-line-inventory-excel-workbook-for-version-103/download>]. ALL PWS should review this document, to know the correct values to use in your SLI, how to validate your inventory, and how to submit your inventory correctly!

PWS not using the MassDEP SLI Workbook should still read the instructions as it contains information/specs about the required structure and format of the CSV file. CSV files that do not conform to the specs will not be accepted!

How to Submit your Service Line Inventory as a CSV File

Your SLI must be submitted in a **CSV (comma separated values) file format and structured as defined in the [Service Line Inventory Workbook Instructions](#)**. SLIs that are not submitted in a **CSV format will not be accepted**, and PWS will be asked to resubmit the SLI as a CSV File.

If using the MassDEP/DWP SLI Workbook, be sure to **validate** your data prior to exporting and correct all identified validation errors (see below for instructions, or the [workbook instructions](#)).

The instructions below only apply if you are using the MassDEP/DWP SLI Workbook. If you are using another method to capture your system's inventory, you are responsible for ensuring the values are valid. **Tip: Even if you use another method to inventory and produce the CSV file, we recommend you use the MassDEP/DWP SLI Workbook as a validation tool prior to submitting the inventory.**

To export the **MassDEP SLI Workbook** data as a CSV file:

1. Right-click in any cell of the INVENTORY worksheet to open the context menu.
2. Select DEP: Export Data for Submission

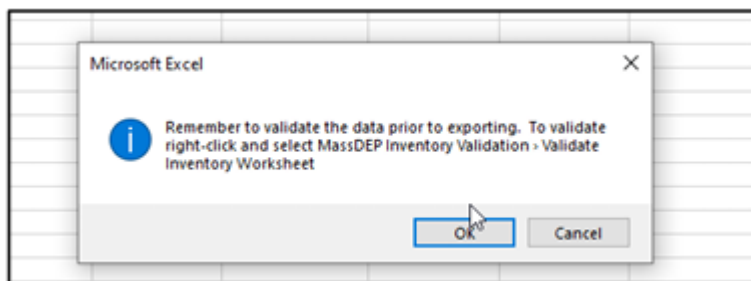


Figure 1 - Export Validation

3. A pop-up will appear reminding you that data should be validated prior to exporting (Figure 1). If you have not yet validated then click the Cancel button, otherwise click the button labeled OK. (see the instructions for validating the inventory [here](#))
4. You will be prompted to provide a name for the CSV export file and to select a folder where the file will be saved (Figure 2).
5. If the export is successful, then a message will appear confirming the location where the file was saved (Figure 3).

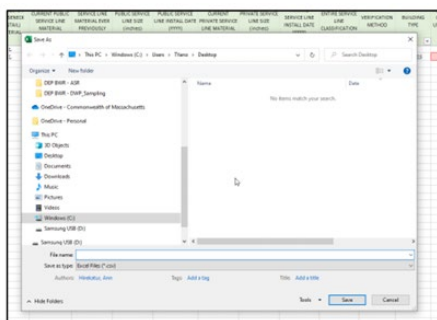


Figure 2 - Export Save to Folder

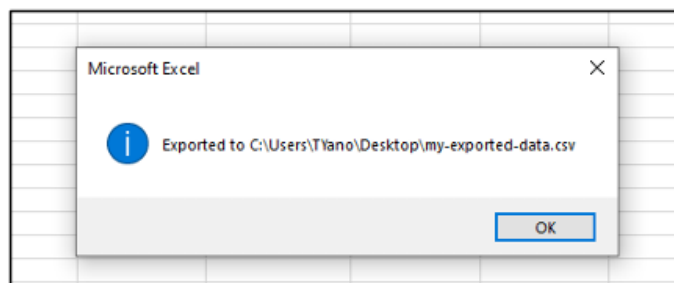


Figure 3 - Export Success

What Requirements Do You Need to Meet to Make your Own SLI Inventory Workbook?

If you plan to NOT use the MassDEP SLI Workbook, you will need to make sure your CSV data output file matches the requirements in the MassDEP/DWP SLI Workbook Instructions; this includes ensuring that your CSV File Headers match the headers listed in the **Structure of CSV (Comma Separated Value) File** section of the [Workbook Instructions](#) (page 17) and the CSV Valid Values used match those listed in the table of the **Populating Cell Values** section on pages 5-12 [<https://www.mass.gov/doc/instructions-service-line-inventory-excel-workbook-for-version-103/download>]. SLIs that do not follow the structure as outlined in the MassDEP/DWP SLI Workbook Instructions will not be accepted.

The [MassDEP SLI Workbook](#) is posted at the MassDEP LCRR Forms and Templates webpage [<https://www.mass.gov/doc/instructions-service-line-inventory-excel-workbook-for-version-103/download>]

Questions?

If you have any questions about how to produce an acceptable CSV file email us at program.director-dwp@mass.gov (subject: SLI Inventory).

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, 886 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 564 (64%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 676 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 453 (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

Awaiting the release of the final MCL regulations for PFAS by EPA

On March 28, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) completed its review of EPA's final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS. The completion of this review typically indicates that the final rule should be released publicly soon.

3M Company Settlement

Recently, a settlement was approved in one of the cases in the aqueous film-forming foams (aka AFFF) products liability litigation. This settlement resolves certain litigation against 3M Company for PFAS contamination in some public water systems across the country, including potentially some PWSs in Massachusetts, and establishes a fund for claims. Additional information is available at a website at the following link: <https://www.pfaswatersettlement.com/>. (This link is provided as a courtesy to our readers. MassDEP, however, has no affiliation with this website and makes no representations or warranties regarding the information contained therein, including whether you may qualify for settlement funds.) For further information, PWSs may wish to consult with their legal representatives.

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

PFAS Today, Tomorrow, and Forever: Effective Treatment of “Forever Chemicals”

Tuesday, April 9, 2024; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Treatment, treatment, treatment! In our PFAS Today, Tomorrow, and Forever webinar series, we’ve been exploring the upcoming PFAS regulations and sampling methods. Now it’s time to talk about treatment. Luckily, mature and robust treatment technologies are available to remove PFAS from water and wastewater. But which option is right for you? In this webinar, we will explore the various options for PFAS treatment in water and wastewater systems, the pros and cons of each, and a look into how to manage residuals. Join us for another session in our PFAS Today, Tomorrow, and Forever series followed by a half an hour for Q&A. Presenter: Will Shaffer, Project Engineer, EEC Environmental. [Register here](#)

Microplastics 2024: Practical State-of-the-Science in Drinking Water

Wednesday, April 10, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

This webinar will provide attendees with a practical briefing on the most up-to-date information on microplastics in drinking water, including occurrence/monitoring, treatment, and health effects. \$75 member, \$120 nonmember. [Register here](#)

Communication Strategies for Water Quality Management Planning: Framework to Action

Thursday, April 11, 2024; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC) for a 1-hour webinar on effective communication strategies for water quality management planning in New England. This webinar features insights from the Cape Cod Commission and the Town of Sandwich, MA. In this webinar, the Cape Cod Commission will present a communication framework designed for water quality management planning. Following an overview of the framework, a representative from the Town of Sandwich will share his firsthand experience implementing the framework developed by the Commission, highlighting local engagement, implementation, and project outcomes. The webinar will conclude with a moderated Q&A between the presenters and attendees. Attendees will gain valuable insights into established communication strategies that can be replicated and built upon to improve the success of water quality management projects. [Register here](#)

The History of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) – The First 15 Years

Tuesday, April 16, 2024; 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. ET; webinar

The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) will be hosting a free webinar that will be open to the public on focusing on approximately the first 15 years of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) - 1974 through the late ‘80s - and the successes and challenges of the Federal and states’ programs to meet the mandates of this legislation. With the 50th anniversary of

SDWA coming up in seven months on December 16, 2024, the water sector is thinking about past successes, current challenges, and strategically thinking about the future. This webinar will have a panel from former leaders at EPA and the states that will delve into the early history of SDWA implementation that could provide insights into solving our current challenges. [Register here](#)

Get Optimized: Tools for One Water Optimization

Wednesday, April 17, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

Optimizing utility performance for the protection of public health and the environment plays a key role in maintaining public trust. This webinar will guide you through a variety of One Water self-assessment and optimization tools and strategies, so you can create an action plan and improve utility operations and performance. For almost 30 years the Partnership programs have leveraged our partnership of six of the most prestigious water associations to help improve utility operations and strive for optimization. Utilizing the latest research and projects from the Water Research Foundation, and highlighting Partnership for Safe Water and Partnership for Clean Water utility success stories, we will provide tools and techniques to optimize operations and performance, with the potential to reduce utility energy consumption, time, and costs. FREE for members, \$25 nonmembers. [Register here](#)

Green Infrastructure Webinar Series: Green Infrastructure 101

Thursday, April 18, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

Green Infrastructure (GI) is critical to addressing urgent and interrelated water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure challenges. GI has not, however, been widely adapted in U.S. municipalities – particularly in small, rural, and tribal communities – due to political barriers, misconceptions, and lack of knowledge or resources to successfully implement GI. In this introductory webinar, we will kick off our 10-part series with an overview of basic GI concepts, terminology, and funding sources; as well as challenges and opportunities facing communities and practitioners in the field of GI. [Register here](#)

- **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/eislsdQnXqE>
- **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**

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

Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

2024-04-04

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



New MassDEP Drinking Water Program Cybersecurity Grant Program (Final grant application deadline June 1, 2024). **Have you applied?**

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water Program (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. More details <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-water-suppliers-cybersecurity-improvements-grant-program>.

MassDEP Drinking Water Program launched a cybersecurity resource hub (StoryMap): [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\) \(arcgis.com\)](#). 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.



Incident Reporting:

- CISA's 24/7 Operations Center at Report@cisa.gov or (888) 282-0870 .

- FBI via your local [FBI field office](#) or the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch at 855-292-3937 or cywatch@ic.fbi.gov.
- Contact the EPA Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division at watercyberta@epa.gov to voluntarily provide situational awareness.

Additionally, WaterISAC can be notified by emailing analyst@waterisac.org, calling 866-H2O-ISAC, or using the [online incident reporting form](#).



Regularly review CISA'S [Shields Up](#) page.



EPA FREE CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Register for a free assessment with simple steps by using the following link:

<https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program>.



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)? If you are interested, please let us know at your earliest convenience at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject: CISA Cybersecurity Assessments. PWS will be chosen based on criteria such as PWS type, size, and particularly the timing of their sanitary surveys.



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 the upcoming sanitary survey cycle.** 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:



WaterISAC has released Part 1 of the new 12 Cybersecurity Fundamentals for Water and Wastewater Utilities

- The previous 15 Cybersecurity Fundamentals for Water and Wastewater Utilities is being replaced by the 12 Cybersecurity Fundamentals. The first three Fundamentals, or part 1, have been released, providing the most up-to-date guidance for the sector. Fundamental 1 | Plan for Incidents, Emergencies, and Disasters Fundamental 2 | Minimize Control System Exposure Fundamental 3 | Create a Cyber Secure Culture and Protect from Insider Risks
- To ensure practicality, especially for smaller systems, WaterISAC plans to release them in small manageable chunks - three per quarter (in March, June, September, and December). Access Part-1 [WaterISAC_12 Cybersecurity Fundamentals 1-3.pdf](#)

Updated Joint Guide – Understanding and Responding to Distributed Denial-Of-Service Attacks

- Understanding and Responding to Distributed Denial-Of-Service Attacks, a joint guidebook published by CISA, FBI, and MS-ISAC, has been updated.
 - The three different categories of DDoS techniques—volume-based, protocol-based, and application-based—are now covered in detail in the updated guidance.
 - MassDEP encourages PWS to read and follow this advice. Access the full guide at [Understanding and Responding to Distributed Denial-Of-Service Attacks | CISA](#).
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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. See WaterISAC page [here](#).

Upcoming Trainings



MassDEP/DWP FREE INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR ON THE NEW CYBERSECURITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT FOR PWS AND A GRANT CASE STUDY

April 10, 2024; 10:00 a.m. ET; webinar

Join MassDEP Drinking Water Program for a free informational webinar on the new Cybersecurity Improvement Grant for Public Water Systems (PWS). This webinar will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the new cybersecurity improvement grant for PWS, including its requirements, prerequisites, and the application process. It will be an interactive session where attendees can ask questions and engage with the presenters. Additionally, a grant case study will be presented, and an example of PWS cybersecurity collaborative effort. [Register now](#)

Updated Joint Guide – Understanding and Responding to Distributed Denial-Of-Service Attacks

- Understanding and Responding to Distributed Denial-Of-Service Attacks, a joint guidebook published by CISA, FBI, and MS-ISAC, has been updated.
- The three different categories of DDoS techniques—volume-based, protocol-based, and application-based—are now covered in detail in the updated guidance.
- MassDEP encourages PWS to read and follow this advice. Access the full guide [here](#).

Water Sector Cyber Resilience Briefing

Wednesday, April 24, 2024; 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET

On April 24, WaterISAC will convene its monthly Water Sector Cyber Resilience Briefing. Presenters will cover the latest cyber threats facing the water and wastewater sector. [Event details](#)

CISA Workshop: ICS Cybersecurity Training 2024

Monday, May 13, - Thursday, May 16, 2024; 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET; Burlington, MA

CISA Region 1 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) is hosting a multiday in-person training workshop focusing on understanding, protecting, and securing Industrial Control Systems (ICS) from cyber-attacks. In order to understand how to best defend a system, trainees will learn about common vulnerabilities and the importance of understanding the environment they are tasked to protect. Learning the weaknesses of a system will enable trainees to implement the mitigation strategies and institute policies and programs that will provide the defense-in-depth needed to ensure a more secure ICS environment. [Register now](#)

Supply Chain Reminders

Suspension of Vessel Traffic at the Port of Baltimore: Current Status and Possible Impact on Supply Chain Disruptions In response to the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland earlier this week, the EPA established a website to track potential supply chain disruptions. Utilities can help mitigate the risk of supply chain shocks by understanding their supplier dependencies and planning for disruptions. [Full article](#)

Tools and 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
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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.

- **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.**
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