



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.



Fort Independence, Castle Island, Boston Harbor, Photo by: [Beyond My Ken](#)

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

2023-05-19

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2023 Public Water System Awards

We have just celebrated the 37th year of the Public Water Systems Award Program last Thursday May 11, 2023. It was held in the Great Hall at the Massachusetts State House in Boston. It was by far the largest group we have had in many years. It was great to be in-person to meet with all the water systems, commissioners, superintendents, operators - everyone involved with keeping the water flowing in our cities and towns.

It takes a committee to pull off an event like this and to them we offer a huge thank you to the sponsors:

Barnstable County Water Utilities Association, Mass Department of Environmental Protection; Mass Rural Water Association; Massachusetts Water Works Association; Middlesex/Worcester County Water Works Association; New England Water Works Association; RCAP Solutions; US Environmental Protection Agency; and Western Mass Waterworks Association.

The Awards Committee would especially like to thank Secretary Rebecca Tepper (Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) for joining us and giving an inspiring speech and reading Governor Maura Healey's Drinking Water Day Proclamation. Jane Downing Chief of Drinking Water EPA Region 1 mentioned the emerging rules for water suppliers and our own MassDEP's new Commissioner Bonnie Heiple spoke on the importance of safe drinking water. Commissioner Heiple also handed out the awards and congratulated each of the award recipients. There were several MA State Senators and Legislators there to hand out citations to their constituents. Mark Warren, President of MWWA did a great job as master of ceremonies this year and Kirsten King Executive Director of NEWWA made the closing remarks to end the 2023 Awards Program. Photos were taken by Julianne Ture at the grand staircase with Jane Downing, Bonnie Heiple, and Mark Warren with each of the award recipients. To view photos of the event, go to: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/76BKT4N2G7>.

There were 40 Compliance Awards given out to the top systems in the state. There were 21 Nominated Awards in the categories of Consistent Performer, Water Conservation, STARL (Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead), Regional Recognition, and Distinguished Operator. To view all Award Recipients, go to: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2023-public-water-system-awards>.

To read MassDEP's press release on the Awards Program go to: <https://www.mass.gov/news/massdep-recognizes-drinking-water-systems-and-operators-across-massachusetts-for-exemplary-service>.

Notice of State Revolving Fund Project Solicitation

MassDEP is pleased to announce that the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Project Solicitation period for new drinking water (DWSRF) and clean water (CWSRF) projects seeking SRF financing is now open. MassDEP's Division of Municipal Services will accept Project Evaluation Forms (PEFs) for construction projects and asset management planning for the calendar year 2024 financing cycle **until 12:00 PM August 11, 2023**. To apply submit a PEF online, by visiting MassDEP's web site at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms>.

Rolling SRF loan applications for calendar year 2023 - MassDEP is accepting applications on a rolling basis, while funding is available, for the following:

- Lead Service Lines (LSL) planning grants – Massachusetts is accepting grant applications for planning activities that assist public water suppliers (PWS) to complete LSL inventories and to develop LSL replacement programs. It is recommended that PWS apply as soon as possible as funding will be provided at a first come, first served basis. This grant program replaces the 100% Principal Forgiveness loan program, therefore eliminating the requirement to obtain local authorization to borrow. All federal fund grant recipients must comply with the Uniform Grant Guidance, including the procurement provisions, as outlined here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/additional-subsidy-as-a-grant-guidance/download>.
- LSL replacement projects - To expedite replacements of Lead Service Lines, MassDEP is accepting loan applications from Public Water Suppliers with MassDEP approved LSL replacement programs for public and private LSL. Projects must be implemented in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions and all SRF program requirements. Priority for financing will be given to systems with documented lead levels, particularly those exceeding the 90th percentile, and PWS serving disadvantaged communities or small systems. MassDEP will review applications monthly while funding is available.
- Planning Projects for both CWSRF and DWSRF - a PEF is not necessary to apply for planning SRF loans.
- PFAS Design costs will be financed during the 2023 financing cycle, while funding is available, and may be limited to 10% of the total estimated cost of the mitigation work. To apply, fill out the applicable loan application for the construction stage.

- Community Management Septic Loans – SRF loans are available to fund Septic Management Programs. Communities that implement a Septic Management Program that offers an interest rate reduction to homeowners based on Area Median income threshold may be eligible for 0% loans, subject to review and an affirmative vote by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees.

If you have any questions please contact Robin McNamara, Deputy Director for the Division of Municipal Services, by email at Robin.McNamara@mass.gov.

Massachusetts Water Fluoridation Awards

This year at the National Oral Health Conference, Massachusetts had one recipient, Weymouth, receive an award for water fluoridation.

Weymouth was recognized for 50 years of community fluoridation from 1972-2022.

Weymouth was one of the 106 systems awarded the 2022 Community Water Fluoridation 50-year award from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Dental Association (ADA). This award recognizes communities that continuously adjust and maintain the amount of fluoride in drinking water by maintaining a consistent level of fluoride for 50 consecutive years to prevent tooth decay in adults and children.

**Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
American Dental Association**

✓ CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

50 Year Award, 1972 – 2022

Weymouth

for contributions made on behalf of community water fluoridation



Congratulations, Weymouth!

Attention PWSs and Certified Labs: eDEP Outage- Intermittent Accessibility 6/6/23

On June 6th, between the hours of **8:00AM and 6:00PM**, EEA IT will be performing major updates to eDEP and expects the system to be down for most of the day. These updates should improve the performance of eDEP moving forward but may interfere with compliance reporting for those attempting to upload water quality results on the day these updates are taking place. EEA IT will be posting notices on the eDEP webpages soon, so please keep your eyes peeled and plan accordingly!

Revised/Updated Zone A Protection Zones to PWS Reservoirs and Associated Tributaries

All surface water Public Water Supplies (PWSs) require protection areas known as Zone A. The actual surface water supply has a Zone A buffer of 400 feet from the shoreline. Tributaries to the surface water supply require a 200-foot Zone A bordering the tributary on either side. Land use restrictions within a Zone A are defined in the drinking water regulations at [CMR 22.20B Surface Water Supply Protection](#). The restrictions that apply most commonly prohibit septic systems, subsurface discharge of treated wastewater, and stormwater infiltration structures (BMPs).

From time to time, PWSs, landowners, developers, and others request that Zone A tributaries be reviewed by MassDEP for accuracy. Existing tributaries were originally determined from hydrography data, aerial photos, topographic maps, and other data. Interpretation of this data can occasionally result in the upper reaches of tributaries being inaccurate. On aerial photos, man-made features such as culverts and storm drains can obscure hydrographic features, as can natural features such as wetlands and forests. The tributaries in question are most often near the headwaters of drainage basins, where tributary channels are smallest and do not always contain water. In response to requests made, MassDEP initially undertakes a desktop study in order to see if channels are visible on aerial maps. Topographic maps, Lidar, Pictometry, etc., are also used to help in the review stage. Where they are not visible or hard to determine, visits to the site in question to determine the location and extent of contributing tributaries are usually made. All channels leading to a surface PWS in which water can flow at some point in the year are considered tributary to that water supply. Even if the channel is dry throughout the year, as long as there is the potential for flow at some point, it is considered tributary.

During the field visits, locations of tributaries are determined by MassDEP using GPS-enabled smartphone apps to obtain accurate, precise latitude and longitude coordinates. This information is then given to MassDEP GIS staff to revise the Zone A tributaries in MassGIS.

All Zone A protection areas can be found on the MassGIS Massmapper platform. You can view Zone A tributaries by clicking on the Massmapper link at [MassMapper](#) and go to the Zone A layer found at **“Regulated Areas” > “Surface Water Protection Areas” > “Zone A”**. Several recent updates to Zone A tributaries have been made and are included in the mapping. A description of these surface water protection areas can be found at [MassGIS Data: Surface Water Supply Protection Areas \(ZONE A, B, C\) | Mass.gov](#). A list of all recent changes can be found in the “Maintenance” section at the end of the webpage.

If you have questions regarding Zone A mapping or question any of the current Zone A mapped areas, feel free to contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

EPA’s National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative (NECI) LCR Inspections Have Begun for 2023

Is your system ready to show compliance with the LCR?

In 2023 EPA is inspecting several community PWS serving more than 10,000 persons for LCR compliance. The EPA NECI inspections allows EPA to use a broad range of compliance assurance approaches, ranging from technical assistance to formal enforcement, to evaluate PWS for compliance with SDWA rules. For information on the EPA NECI see <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/national-enforcement-and-compliance-initiatives>

What happens during the 2023 NECI LCR Inspections in MA?

During the inspections EPA will assess the system's compliance with the SDWA LCR, and possibly other applicable regulations, including Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22:00. PWS and MassDEP/Drinking Water Program (DWP) will be provided a short notification in advance of the inspection. A PWS will be provided with the following list of information to be reviewed during the inspection:

1. Existing Materials Survey used to create the lead and copper monitoring sampling pools (e.g., work orders, home surveys, permits, interviews with senior personnel, and/or other documentation to identify the appropriate LCR sampling sites)
2. LCR Structure Tiering Worksheets
3. Approved lead and copper monitoring plan (3 years)
4. Lead and copper monitoring/analytical results, including chain of custody forms completed by customers, lab personnel, and/or PWS personnel) (3 years)
5. Tap sampling instructions provided to customers (3 years)
6. 90th percentile calculations (3 years)
7. Water quality parameter test results (if collected and analyzed)
8. Consumer notices of lead tap water monitoring results (3 years)
9. Consumer Confidence Reports (3 years)
10. Sampling Chain of Custody
11. Public Education notices and certifications (3 years)
12. Public notifications (if applicable) delivered and certification (3 years)
13. Written SOPs used by your system to administer the LCR program
14. Water Quality Parameter analysis/Excursion reports
15. Lead service line replacement activities/reports (last two reports).

NECI Inspection follow-up Steps

In accordance with the NECI, EPA issues a report to the PWS and MassDEP/DWP for each inspection. If deemed necessary EPA may also issue a federal notice of violation (NOV) to the PWS for identified violations. MassDEP, as the primacy agency, will have an opportunity to work with the PWS to resolve the violations. EPA encourages the PWS to contact the Director of the MassDEP Drinking Water Program, at their earliest convenience if a NOV is issued.

NECI 2022 Inspection results/violations:

As a result of last year's EPA's inspections (2022), the following LCR violations were identified during the inspections and resulted in enforcement:

- Failure to sample sites that meet the required tier classification of the Lead and Copper Rule. Therefore, the PWS may not have sampled the required number of sites.
- Failure to follow Chain of Custody requirements when sampling for lead and copper.
- Failure to maintain updated materials evaluation.
- Failure to maintain documentation that consumer tap notification was provided to consumers.
- Failure to properly provide and maintain documentation of Consumer Notice to all program participants.
- Failure to include on the CCR information on the number of sampling sites exceeding the action level.

Lesson Learned from the 2022 LCR inspections and what to expect if your community system serving more than 10,000 in population is identified for an EPA NECI survey in 2023.

1. Review the requested information when EPA contacts your system to initiate the inspection.
2. Review all files and Standard Operational Procedures in advance of the inspection.
3. Review your current and past sampling plans and verify that the listed materials are accurate. e.g., If you have plumbing or site information on-line, it should be dated, and the date should be the same as in your updated service line materials evaluation.
4. Remember, records retention for LCR is 12 years. Please remind your staff about this requirement and include it in any training for new staff.

5. Have all your files and records in order. Documentation is a key component of the LCR.
6. Pay special attention to the Chain of Custody (COC) and your sampling pool and have available any documentation of customer refusal to participate in sampling or to remove lead service lines.
7. Provide the most knowledgeable and senior staff to participate in the inspection.
8. Ensure any water quality testing equipment, such as pH meters, are properly calibrated, maintained, and include records of quality controls.
9. If unsure of answers during the inspection, PWS representatives should request time to confer with supervisors and others to provide the most accurate response.

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

CCR Deadline is July 1

This is a reminder for all community systems that the Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) are due July 1, 2023 which is **only about six weeks away**. This is a federally mandated deadline and cannot be extended. A violation exists if this deadline is missed as per federal regulations.

Please prepare and deliver your CCR to all customers prior to July 1. Note that July 1st is a Saturday and some USPS mail will not be delivered that day so make sure all your CCRs are scheduled to be delivered (not postmarked) to all consumers by June 30. DEP recommends allowing 15 days for mail delivery. Remember the July 1 deadline is also for submitting your CCR and Certification to MassDEP, Ma Dept of Public Health, and your local board of health. Please:

- Email your CCR and Certification form to MassDEP by July 1st by email to Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov. Use the format of [PWS ID - PWS Name - 2022 CCR] for the name of your PDF file and the subject line of your email;
- Email your CCR submittal to DPH at DPH.CCR@massmail.state.ma.us; AND
- Contact your local board of health to find out how they would prefer their submittals.

IMPORTANT: To avoid enforcement, please be sure to save proof of your CCR submittal to MassDEP. Large attachments have been sometimes known to cause problems in email servers. Save your sent email as proof. When MassDEP receives your CCR email submittal, you are sent a confirmation email. Save it. If you must use USPS mail, certify your submittal and save your green certification return card as proof.

Please go to the MassDEP website at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/consumer-confidence-reporting-forms-templates> for help on making your CCR and for locating the certification form. You may also contact Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov for additional help.

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 1). 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

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.

Currently, 513 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 310 (60%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 370 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 250 (68%) had one or more lead detections.

Six PWS are actively participating in a Pilot Program through the Expanded Assistance Program to offer to test schools and childcare facilities in their service area prior to the implementation of the LCRR requirements in October 2024. To date, 21 facilities identified by PWS for testing have been sampled with results. MassDEP plans to expand this Pilot Program to additional Community PWS in towns where few or no EECFs have participated in the assistance program to date, or where there has been a recent lead Action Level exceedance. If your PWS meets the criteria, MassDEP will reach out to you with an invitation to participate.

Do you know of any schools or childcare facilities that could benefit from this 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

For additional information on the program see <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/technical-assistance-for-lead-in-school-and-child-care-center-drinking-water> or contact program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject line Lead in Schools Program.

PFAS Update

Proposed Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)

Deadline of May 30th to submit comments to the USEPA on the proposed MCLs.

[Link to submit comments](#)

The USEPA [proposed National Primary Drinking Water Rule](#) establish MCLs for PFOS and PFOA, and regulate 4 other PFAS: GenX, PFBS, PFNA, and PFHxS as a mixture using a Hazard Index MCL. The regulations are expected to be finalized by the end of the year. The proposed MCLs are:

PFAS	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Maximum Contaminant Level
PFOA	0	4.0 ppt
PFOS	0	4.0 ppt
PFBS	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index
PFNA		
GenX (HFPO-DA)		
PFHxS		

How to find PFAS testing data

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”.

Construction of Water Treatment Facilities (Temporary and Permanent)

New Water Treatment Facilities (WTFs) for PFAS have been constructed or PFAS treatment was added to existing WTFs at 38 locations in Massachusetts. More are being planned, piloted or are under construction. The following types of treatment were installed or are being proposed:

Type of treatment installed or proposed	Company	Product Name
GAC	Cabot (Carbon Activation Corp)	Norit GAC 400
GAC	Calgon	Filtrisorb 400
GAC	Clack Corporation	CS-HAC GAC
GAC	Evoqua	UltraCarb 1240
Ion Exchange	Evoqua	DOWEX PSR-2 Plus
Ion Exchange	Purolite Corp	Purofine PFA694E
Ion Exchange	Calgon	CalRes 2301
GAC	ResinTech	AGC-40-CS
GAC	Calgon	Filtrisorb 600
clay adsorption	AdEdge Technologies	CETCO Fluoro-Sorb

Other treatment technologies may be considered for approval and may require new technology approval in accordance with 310 CMR 22.04(8). For more information about new technology approval, contact Frank Niles at Frank.Niles@mass.gov

Public water suppliers that are considering PFAS treatment should contact their regional drinking water program contact to discuss their plans:

Region	Name	Email Address
Western	Christine Simard	Christine.Simard@mass.gov
Central	Paula Caron	Paula.Caron@mass.gov
Northeast	Amy LaPusata	Amy.Lapusata@mass.gov
Southeast	William Schwartz	William.Schwartz@mass.gov
You may also contact the MassDEP/DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject: PFAS or 617-292-5770.		

EPA Training Webinar on the PFAS Analytic Tools

Thursday, June 1, 2023, 3-4 pm

EPA is offering a free webinar on their new [PFAS Analytics Tools](#). The tool compiles nationwide data about PFAS in drinking water and the manufacture, release, and occurrence in communities. The tool includes information from 11 different databases. The training webinar will provide an overview of the PFAS Analytic Tools and a tutorial on how to use them.

[Register and join the PFAS Analytic Tools training webinar!](#)

EPA Expands Public Comment Opportunities for Draft Determination to Protect Cape Cod's Sole Source of Drinking Water

On May 27, 2023, EPA released its draft determination that the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range proposed for Joint Base Cape Cod. See <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/capecod.html>

Please note: The Public to Call into Voicemail Box as Alternative to Written or Verbal Comments

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is increasing the ways members of the public and other interested parties may submit comments regarding the draft determination under the Safe Drinking Water Act that a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range proposed to be constructed by the Massachusetts Army National Guard may contaminate the Cape Cod Aquifer. There are no reasonably available alternative drinking water sources for Cape Cod residents should the aquifer become contaminated.

EPA is accepting public comment on this proposal for 60 days, through June 26, and is holding a formal Public Hearing on May 24, 2023. Because EPA anticipates high interest in the May 24 Public Hearing, EPA is expanding the options for people to submit comments for the formal public record of this action.

Public Engagement Process

During the remainder of the 60-day public comment period, the public and interested stakeholders may submit written comments for EPA's consideration.

- Written comments may be submitted to: R1SSAComments@epa.gov
- Verbal comments may be submitted on a voicemail box at (617) 918-1800
- In person comments can be submitted during the public hearing on May 24th.

The May 24, 2023 public hearing will be held at:

Center for Active Living
70 Quaker Meetinghouse Road
Sandwich, Mass.

The formal public hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be preceded by an informational public meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Individuals with accessibility or translation requests may contact Melanson.Kate@epa.gov for assistance.

The meeting and public hearing will be live streamed via Zoom at <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1605125622?pwd=TXkyY29CNG9vR2tvUEkraWNONm82dz09>. People may watch and listen to the public meeting and public hearing using this virtual option, however public comments will not be accepted over zoom. Those who wish to comment during the public hearing can attend in person, or use the noted email box or voicemail box to submit comments.

All comments timely received will be reviewed and considered by the Region, along with other available information. If, after evaluating this material, EPA's Regional Administrator continues to believe that the proposed project may create a significant public health hazard, he will then forward the information to the EPA Administrator with a recommended conclusion that the project may contaminate the aquifer through the recharge zone so as to create a significant hazard to public health. The EPA Administrator will then make a final determination. Should this determination become final, no commitment of federal financial assistance (through a grant, contract, loan guarantee, or otherwise) may be allowed.

More Information:

[EPA information on Cape Cod Sole Source Aquifer](#) and EPA documents about the draft determination:

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/capecod.html>

To join the May 24 public meeting or formal public hearing by Zoom:

[Join ZoomGov Meeting](#) : <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1605125622?pwd=TXkyY29CNG9vR2tvUEkraWNONm82dz09>

Meeting ID: 160 512 5622

Passcode: 29473766

One tap mobile

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+1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 160 512 5622

Find your local number: <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/u/aKen7eslR>

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

Lagoon Wastewater Treatment Systems: What They Are and What They Are Not

Wednesday, May 24, 2023; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join the EFCN in this 1-hour webinar where experts from the Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center will discuss lagoon wastewater treatment in a way you may have never heard of or seen. Topics that will be covered include:

- What lagoon treatment systems are (and are not)
- Where and why lagoon treatment is used
- How they work
- Treatment performance
- Do lagoons have a future?
- Good O&M practices
- And more!

[Register now](#).

Long-Term System Planning: Thinking Outside the Pipes

Wednesday, May 31, 2023; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

You work hard to provide safe, quality drinking water to your customers at fair rates. But how are your finances? In this training, we will discuss the importance of strategies for full-cost recovery in the context of long-term planning. You will learn about the importance of a realistic revenue requirement, different approaches to pay for capital

improvements, how to track and benchmark financial performance, rate design, and additional management and communication considerations for financial sustainability. This workshop will provide you with the tools to improve the fiscal health of your utility without compromising service or deferring maintenance. [Register now](#).

Steps for Helping Utilities Validate Their Lead Service Line Inventory

Thursday, June 1, 2023; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, water systems are required to prepare and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Panelists will cover the EPA's new guidance, what lead service line detection solutions are available to consumers, and which solution may best suit their needs. The EPA's new guidance will assist water systems in developing and maintaining service line inventories, support notifications to consumers served by lead pipes, and provide states with needed information for oversight and reporting to EPA. This guidance will also facilitate an investment of \$15 billion in funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that is dedicated to lead service line replacement. This webinar is for anyone who wants to better understand the water system requirements to prepare and maintain an inventory of service line materials. Participants will learn about solutions to help their utility validate their lead service line inventory and address increasingly important environmental concerns. You'll also hear how other utilities are addressing the challenges of the EPA Mandate to inventory lead service lines by October 2024. [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/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**

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!

2023-05-19



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@fbi.gov



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



Cybersecurity review is an important part of your sanitary surveys. Have you signed up with USEPA for a free cybersecurity assessment? See [EPA Free Cybersecurity Assessment and Technical Assistance](#)

Keep Us Informed

Have you accessed EPA free cybersecurity vulnerability assessments? If yes, please let us know at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject Cyber security.

NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:

EPA Cybersecurity Requirements for Public Water Systems

On March 3, 2023, the US EPA released an important memorandum on cybersecurity to State Drinking Water Administrators. See <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-improve-cybersecurity-resilience-public-water-systems>. The memorandum included the following directives to states:

Cybersecurity assessments of public water systems (PWS) should be part of sanitary surveys or other approved state programs and PWS must correct identified deficiencies. State could evaluate the cybersecurity of water systems using one of the three options: EPA provided free cybersecurity assessment, PWS self-assessment or a third-party assessment using approved EPA alternatives.

- In response to the US EPA March 3, 2023, memorandum, MassDEP strongly encourages water systems to take advantage of the free EPA evaluations before their sanitary survey inspections and to be prepared for MassDEP/DWP to evaluate the results of their cybersecurity assessments and their ERPs during sanitary surveys.
- **EPA Free Cybersecurity Evaluation Program:** EPA's Cybersecurity Evaluation Program will conduct a cybersecurity assessment for PWS. The assessment will follow the checklist in the guidance on Evaluating Cybersecurity in PWS Sanitary Surveys which will then generate a report that will highlight gaps in cybersecurity, including potential significant deficiencies.

How to Apply : Use the following link to apply today for free EPA cyber evaluations

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

For more details and step by step guidance, see the following MassDEP informational flyers:

- ✓ Comprehensive Cybersecurity Assessment Resources During Sanitary Surveys: A Detailed Guide <https://www.mass.gov/doc/comprehensive-cybersecurity-assessment-resources-during-sanitary-surveys-a-detailed-guide/download>
- ✓ EPA Free Cybersecurity Assessments for Sanitary Surveys <https://www.mass.gov/doc/epa-free-cybersecurity-assessments-for-sanitary-surveys/download>
- MassDEP considers cybersecurity to be a part of Emergency Response Planning (ERP) per 310 CMR 22.04(13). Since 2021, during sanitary surveys MassDEP Drinking Water Program (DWP) included cybersecurity questions to evaluate PWS cybersecurity practices. In addition, MassDEP/DWP has provided training and bi-weekly cybersecurity information to all PWS. If you have any questions on this information, please contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov , Subject: Cybersecurity.

4 Things You Can Do to Increase Online Security

- **Think Before You Click, Recognize and Report Phishing:** If a link looks a little off, think before you click. It could be an attempt to get sensitive information or install malware.
- **Update Your Software:** Don't delay - If you see a software update notification, act promptly. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.
- **Use Strong Passwords:** Make sure it's long – at least 15 characters, and avoid using common or easily guessable passwords, such as simple keyboard patterns, when creating your passwords. Don't share your password with anyone or use the same or similar password for multiple accounts.
- **Enable Multi-Factor Authentication:** You need more than a password to protect your online accounts, and enabling MFA makes you significantly less likely to get hacked.

Joint Cybersecurity Advisory – #StopRansomware: BianLian Ransomware Group

- CISA, the FBI, and the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) recently published a joint Cybersecurity Advisory (CSA) to provide network defenders with technical information, recommended actions, and mitigations to protect against BianLian Ransomware. [Full article](#)

Threat Awareness – Threat Actors Continue Experimenting with Alternative Techniques Since Microsoft Disabled Macros

- Weaponized Microsoft documents were a highly favored technique until Microsoft blocked macros in files received from the internet last year. With email arguably being the most widely used platform across every organization and threat actors' propensity to use phishing to gain initial access, it's important for defense teams to maintain awareness of the rapidly changing techniques used to proliferate malware since Microsoft's blocking of macros. [Full article](#)

EPA Updates Power Resilience Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities

- EPA has published an updated version of the Power Resilience Guide, which provides water and wastewater utilities with information and strategies to help strengthen relationships with their electric providers and increase their resilience to power outages. [Full article](#)
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Upcoming Trainings



Reminder: EPA Webinar: Addressing Public Water System Cybersecurity in Sanitary Surveys

Wednesday, May 24, 2023; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

EPA will be hosting a free cybersecurity webinar for public water system personnel. Participants will gain vital information about the recently released memorandum Addressing Public Water System Cybersecurity in Sanitary Surveys or an Alternate Process. [Register now](#)

SANS Webinar: Insider Threat, Phishing & Malware

Friday, June 9, 2023; 10:30 a.m. ET; webinar

During this webinar attendees will learn about defending against Insider threats. The webinar will discuss ways to defend against attackers on the inside, types of malware spreading through networks, how phishing emails provide threat actors with access, and intentional versus unintentional insiders. [Register now](#)

SANS Webinar: Enhancing OT Security: A Dual Perspective on Threat Detection with Emerson and Dragos

Thursday, June 15, 2023; 3:30 p.m. ET; webinar

During this webinar presenters from Emerson and Dragos will share insights around OT cybersecurity as partners - while also depicting the unique expertise, experience, and responsibilities that they bring to the table to defend customer installations and environments together. Although the core focus of the conversation will be on DeltaV systems, a high-level overview of OT cybersecurity and the Industrial Control Systems (ICS) landscape will be covered. [Register now](#)

MassDEP Cybersecurity Reminders:

- [EPA Free Cybersecurity Assessment and Technical Assistance](#)
 - [EPA Cyber Incident Reporting Factsheet](#)
 - [CISA free testing and assessment services to critical infrastructure](#)
 - [MassDEP Informational Flyer : Comprehensive Cybersecurity Assessment Resources During Sanitary Surveys: A Detailed Guide](#)
 - [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.](#)
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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:

- MassDEP poster on supply chain issues planning and response with steps to prepare PWS for supply chain disruptions. See/download the poster here <https://www.mass.gov/doc/steps-to-prepare-your-public-water-system-for-supply-chain-disruptions/download>
 - [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](#).
 - [EPA page on supply chain disruptions](#), includes information on issues impacting availability and price and also provides recommendations utilities can take to respond to shortages and position themselves for the future.
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- [Water and Wastewater Supply Chain Case Studies](#)
 - [Water Treatment Chemical Supply Chain Profiles](#)
 - [Understanding Water Treatment Chemical Supply Chains and the Risk of Disruptions](#)
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