



MassDEP / Drinking Water Program

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Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov or 617-292-5770

In The Main - The Drinking Water Updates can be found online at:

mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers or at the Statehouse Archives at:
<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119> which has a searchable database.



“Faces of Dudley” Mural, Nubian Square, Boston, directed by Mike Womble Photo by: Eric Cheung

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

2024-06-14

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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>



MassDEP Drinking Water Program Highlight of the week: Celebrating Decades of Dedication: A Tribute to Marie Tennant

In an era where clean water is paramount, there are unsung heroes in MA working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that every drop from our taps meets the highest standards. Today, we honor one such stalwart of the cause – Marie Tennant, whose unwavering commitment to safeguarding our drinking water has spanned decades.

As Marie steps into this new chapter of her journey (she is retiring), it's only fitting to reflect on the remarkable legacy she leaves behind. For years, she has been the cornerstone of our Drinking Water Program, diligently overseeing every aspect of her many assigned programs with precision and passion. Her dedication has not only elevated our organization but has also set a benchmark for excellence in the field.

At the heart of Marie's drinking water programs lie the Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) – a vital lifeline that keeps our communities informed and empowered about the quality of their drinking water. Through her tireless work, she has ensured that transparency remains at the forefront, fostering trust and confidence among consumers.

Marie's contributions extend far beyond CCRs. Her vision has propelled innovative initiatives like the Drinking Water Awards, recognizing the unsung heroes who go above and beyond to ensure public water systems meet and exceed expectations. Her passion for excellence has not only inspired our team but has also brought deserved recognition to those who strive for perfection in their service. If you have been fortunate to work one-on-one with Marie on CCR, Public Notices (PN), monitoring waivers or drinking water annual compliance awards you are aware of her depth of knowledge, attention to detail, interpersonal skills, and support for all public water suppliers.

Moreover, Marie has been the driving force behind numerous outreach campaigns, including developing the template for all PN and web documents, tirelessly keeping all stakeholders abreast of the latest updates and advancements in the field of drinking water management. Her ability to communicate complex issues with clarity and compassion has bridged gaps and fostered collaboration, making our collective mission all the more attainable. Marie also took the lead on developing our drinking water social media information, using Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and other media platforms.

As Marie embarks on her next adventure, let us take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for her invaluable contributions. Her legacy will continue to ripple through our organization, shaping the future of drinking water management for generations to come.

Marie, you have not only been a colleague but a mentor, a visionary, and a friend. Your passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on us all. As you step into this new chapter of your life, may you carry with you the pride of your achievements and the knowledge that your legacy will endure long after you've bid farewell to this chapter. Congratulations on a remarkable career, and here's to the

countless lives you've touched and the countless drops of clean water you've made possible. Cheers to you, our dear friend and esteemed colleague!

Have you Recently Subscribed to the In the Main Newsletter?

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program *In the Main Newsletter* is sent to public water system (PWS) staff and interested parties who subscribe to the *In the Main*. **If you have subscribed after October 2023, you may have been inadvertently removed from the *In the Main Newsletter* (ITM) subscription list and may no longer be receiving emails regarding the ITM Newsletter.**

If you have subscribed to the ITM after October 2023 (and/or have not received the June 13, 2024 edition) please **resubscribe** to the ITM by sending a **blank email** (no subject line, no email body, no signature) to join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us. If you know someone who may have subscribed to the ITM after October 2023, please share this information with them!

If you are receiving the ITM Newsletter, and had unsubscribed to these messages after October 2023, you may unsubscribe by sending a blank email (blank subject and blank body) to leave-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us.

Consumer Confidence Reports Are Due on July 1st!

All community drinking water systems in the U.S. must make a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and annually deliver it by July 1 to all customers and state agencies.

The deadline is two weeks away! Please avoid the rush to submit on the last days. The email servers can get overloaded with many emails that contain large attachments and may not deliver correctly by the deadline. MassDEP sends an email confirmation back to you when we receive your eCCR. If you do not get a confirmation email your CCR was most probably not delivered. Avoid possible complications or enforcement and email your CCR early.

Your CCR must be delivered to your customers, MassDEP, Mass DPH, and your local board of health by July 1 or risk compliance enforcement.

Please email a PDF of your CCR Certification Form, the CCR, and any needed documentation to Program.Director-dwp@mass.gov by July 1.

You can also go to: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/consumer-confidence-reporting-forms-templates> to obtain needed forms, guides, and templates. If you need additional help, contact the Drinking Water Program at Program.Director-dwp@mass.gov Subject CCR or 617-292-5770.

Emergency Preparedness for Hurricane Season

Did you know that June is the start of hurricane season in the United States? Hurricanes and strong storms can cause flooding, power outages, and damage to critical infrastructure. As the storm season begins, MassDEP/DWP reminds public water systems of the resources available to reference for storm preparedness and emergency response, as well as the procedures for contacting MassDEP during and after a severe storm event.

Resources

The following resources can be used to learn more about how water systems can properly prepare for and respond accordingly to hurricanes and related storm events.

- MassDEP Storm Preparedness & Emergency Response Resources – Water Supply: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/storm-preparedness-emergency-response-resources#water-supply>
- EPA Incident Action Checklist – Hurricane: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/incident-action-checklist-hurricanes_508c-final.pdf
- EPA Incident Action Checklist – Power Outages: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/documents/191126-incidentactionchecklist-po-form_508c.pdf
- EPA Incident Action Checklist – Flooding: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/incident-action-checklist-flooding_508c-final.pdf
- EPA Power Resilience for the Water and Wastewater Sector: <https://www.epa.gov/communitywaterresilience/power-resilience-water-and-wastewater-sector>
- MassDEP Public Drinking Water System Operations – Emergency Response & Public Notification: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-drinking-water-system-operations#emergency-response-&-public-notification>
- MassDEP Emergency Response for Public Water Systems: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/emergency-response-for-public-water-systems>
- MassDEP Preparing for Extreme Weather Events and Response Guidance: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/preparing-for-extreme-weather-events-and-response-guidance>
- MassDEP Guidelines for Public Water Systems – Appendix O – Handbook for Water Supply Emergencies: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-public-water-systems-appendix-o-handbook-for-water-supply-emergencies-o/download>

Communication with MassDEP

During or after a storm event, if you suspect contamination from oil and/or other hazardous materials, contact both your local fire department and the MassDEP Emergency Response hotline at 1-888-304-1133.

In the event of an emergency during or after a storm event, water systems should contact MassDEP per the procedures listed in Appendix O of the Guidelines for Public Water Systems (Attachment C and D).

- During working hours (Monday – Friday between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM), contact your DEP Regional Office.
- Outside of working hours, on weekends, and on holidays, contact the DEP 24-hour Emergency Response hotline at 1-888-304-1133, followed by your DEP Regional Office.

Following a storm event, water systems have 30 days to file an Emergency Response Report with their MassDEP regional office. Refer to the [Emergency Response Reporting Guidance](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-response-reporting-guidance) [<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-response-reporting-guidance>] page for more information about the report requirements, including the report template and an example report.

Reminders for PWS and Consumers During Emergencies Regarding Water Supply

PWS and Water Supply During Emergencies

Per the Emergency Response Plan requirements listed in 310 CMR 22.04(13), a PWS must include in their Emergency Response Plan (ERP) “detailed steps that the water supplier shall implement to ensure the continuity of service in the event of a potential or actual Emergency”. The ERP must include procedures for addressing a loss in water supply, including the identification of any alternate sources of water to be used during the emergency until the emergency is over. Examples of alternate sources include alternate groundwater wells or surface water reservoirs, water vending units, bottled water, or interconnections with neighboring towns. Details about where a PWS will procure its alternate water supply and procedures for bringing these sources online and available for continuity of service should be described in the PWS’s Emergency Response Plan and should be put in action immediately when an emergency occurs. PWS should ensure that the quality and quantity of water from alternate source(s) is adequate for the duration of the emergency.

PWS can refer to Appendix O of the Guidelines for Public Water Systems (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-public-water-systems-appendix-o-handbook-for-water-supply-emergencies-o/download>) for more information about developing an Emergency Response Plan.

PWS – Is Your ERP Up to Date?

PWS are responsible for keeping their ERP up to date. If your PWS has undergone significant changes, you are required to submit an ERP Compliance Checklist to demonstrate proof of ERP compliance. You can download the checklist and find other emergency response forms at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates#emergency-response-forms>. Complete and return the form to MassDEP/DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: ERP Compliance Checklist.

REMINDER: Round 2 of AWIA Compliance begins in 2025! Community PWS serving over 3,301 customers will be required to update and certify their Risk & Resilience Assessments and **Emergency Response Plans**. It’s never too early to begin updating these documents, including certifying that your ERP is up to date with MassDEP/DWP! You can refer to the *In the Main* newsletter from 3/7/2024 for more information about AWIA Compliance: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/in-the-main-drinking-water-program-updates-03-07-2024/download>.

You can find more information about Emergency Response for PWS at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/emergency-response-for-public-water-systems>.

Tips for Consumers During Emergencies

For individuals and homeowners, it is recommended by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/creating-storing-emergency-water-supply.html>) and the EPA (<https://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/preparing-and-responding-natural-disasters#drinkingwater>) to store at least three (3) days of water per person per household for drinking water and sanitation use in advance of an emergency. The CDC also has recommendations for individuals to store, boil, disinfect, or filter their water during emergencies: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/making-water-safe.html>.

New Technical Assistance Information on Webpage

MassDEP/DWP has added more information about technical assistance for public water systems (PWS) to the MassDEP webpage. In addition to MassDEP’s technical assistance programs, PWS can request technical assistance from programs such as EPA’s WaterTA, the Environmental Finance Center, RCAP, Massachusetts Rural Water Association, and more. You can check out the technical assistance information at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-water-system-capacity-development#technical-assistance>.

If you need help requesting technical assistance, reach out to the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: Technical Assistance, or 617-292-5770.

Massachusetts SRF Expands Loan Forgiveness Eligibility for LSL Projects

The Massachusetts State Revolving Fund (SRF) program provides loan forgiveness each year to Disadvantaged Communities, but until now not all communities that have Lead Service Lines (LSLs) in their systems were eligible. To better support all public water suppliers (PWS) within the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts SRF program has introduced the Environmentally Disadvantaged Community (EDC) designation as being eligible to receive loan forgiveness. An EDC is a PWS that has lead concentrations in the water supply and/or LSLs in the system. In addition to 0% interest rate financing, all LSL replacement projects now qualify for loan forgiveness. This new designation only applies to Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) LSL projects and is awarded on a project-by-project basis. An EDC Community is not eligible to receive loan forgiveness through the Disadvantaged Community affordability tiered designation. Loan forgiveness is a process where the SRF Program converts part of a loan into a grant- thus eliminating that portion of the loan.

As is explained in the [2024 DWSRF IUP](#), loan forgiveness for these projects is limited to funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – LSL grant. EDC eligibility will be available until the BIL grants have been expended and was retroactively applied to projects on the 2022 and 2023 DWSRF Intended Use Plans. Projects with the EDC designation are projects that would not normally be eligible to receive additional subsidy under the SRF affordability Disadvantaged Community designation.

For additional information on the EDC designation, the Massachusetts SRF LSL grants or loan programs, please visit the Trust's or MassDEP's websites at the following links:

- Massachusetts Clean Water Trust: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/the-massachusetts-clean-water-trust>
- MassDEP SRF: <https://www.mass.gov/state-revolving-fund-srf-loan-program>

Getting Ready for the LCRR



Monthly Open House Hours - JUNE

MassDEP will be hosting open monthly calls for PWS with Service Line Inventory (SLI) related questions. **These calls are not trainings, therefore, no TCHs will be awarded.**

Date: Monday, June 17, 2024

Time: 1 P.M. – 2P.M.

Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcOutrTguHN3ydNqkTF351p46wW13umAY>

How to Prepare? Please submit your questions ahead of time to program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject: LCRR Open Office Hours.

Have you Received a LCRR related mailing from MassDEP?

MassDEP recently sent out a mailing to all NTNC and COM PWS regarding important information related to the LCRR, and the required Service Line Inventories that PWS must submit by October 16, 2024. PWS are **strongly encouraged** to read the entirety of this mailing, and its attachments, as it contains important information regarding your SLI.

A copy of the mailing will be available on the Drinking Water Program webpage [here](https://www.mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers#emails-and-direct-mail-):
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers#emails-and-direct-mail->.

When are all SLI Required Documentation Due?

Service Line Inventory: October 16, 2024

Your SLI must be submitted as a CSV file using the [SLI workbook instructions](#)

LCRR Certification of Non-Lead Service Lines and Request for Approval ([LCRR-NONLSL Cert Form](#)):
October 16, 2024

A publicly accessible SLI or [No-Lead Statement](#): October 16, 2024

MassDEP recommends that PWS that have no Lead, GRR, or UNK service lines submit their SLI and NON-LSL Certification form **prior to October 16, 2024**, to receive approval for your SLI prior to October 16, 2024. However, PWS **MUST** make their SLI publicly accessible or post a No-Lead statement in a publicly accessible location **by October 16th**.

Service Line Inventory Certification Form: October 30, 2024

The SLI Certification Form is provided upon the submission of your SLI. This document is only available upon the submission of the SLI and is **not available online**.

New LCRR Compliant Consumer Notification Templates Released

MassDEP has released the following documents for PWS use after the LCRR deadline of October 16, 2024, and prior if PWS would like to get a head start on LSLRs:

- **LCRR Consumer Notification Template – Confirmed Lead Service Line**
- **LCRR Consumer Notification Template – Confirmed Galvanized Requiring Replacement Service Line (GRR)**
- **LCRR Consumer Notification Template – Unknown Service Line**
- **Procedures Following a Full LSL Replacement Notice Template**
- **Procedures Following a Partial LSL Replacement Notice Template**
- **Filter Cartridge Notice** – A notice with information on why a consumer may be receiving a filter because of a lead service line replacement, and instructions for installation.
- **PWS Offer to Sample Letter Template** – This document is a template which meets the LCRR requirements PWS must meet, by offering sampling within 3-6 months of a service line replacement.
- **Chain of Custody (COC) for Lead Sampling After Service Line Replacement**
- **Consumer Tap Sampling Collection Letter Template** – This template is meant to be included with a sampling kit and COC if a consumer has requested sampling to be provided after their service line is replaced.

MassDEP has also created notification templates if PWS would like to do further outreach for service line replacements, such as a Lead Service Line Replacement Program. These documents are divided into

notification templates for consumers with unknown service lines, or known LSLs and GRRs, and consent forms for service line investigations and replacements:

- Lead Service Line Replacement Program Notification Template: Consumers with an Unknown Service Line
- Lead Service Line Replacement Program Notification Template: Consumers with a GRR or LSL
- Lead Service Line Investigation Consent Form
- Lead Service Replacement Consent Form

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.

Need help creating or finishing your Service Line Inventory? 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) if needed.

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](#) , or emailing lsl@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=aEYMdlQon7RMBUrW>
- [Check out the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions webpage for various guidance's including the following topics:](#)
 - [Predictive Modeling and Statistical Analysis](#)
 - [Electrical Resistance Testing](#)
 - [The LCRR Requirements that having Unknown Service Lines in your SLI Trigger](#)
 - The Service Line Identification Guidance
 - A NTNC and Small COM Service Line Identification Guidance
 - And more!
- Through the [Lead & Copper Forms and Templates webpage](#) you can access the following:
 - [Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook for Systems with Split Ownership \(Version 1.0.3\)](#)

- This template is for a PWS, such as a fire district or municipality, that serves multiple buildings and owns the distribution system and part of the service lines serving individual buildings, i.e. split ownership of service lines. **This template is the same as the previous workbook titled “Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook”, newly title to differentiate it from the new Systems Without Split Ownership workbook. This Workbook has NOT changed.**
- [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.
- [Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook for Systems WITHOUT Split Ownership \(Version 1.0.3\)](#)
 - A macro-enabled Excel workbook for producing the CSV service line inventory. This template is for a PWS, such as an **NTNC** or COM system WITHOUT split ownership of service lines. For example, a condominium or school where the PWS owns/controls all water system components. **This new version of the template is optional.**
- [Instructions: Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook for Systems WITHOUT Split Ownership 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!



Shout Out to PWS that Have Submitted DRAFTD and/or COMPLETED Service Line Inventories (SLI)

Thank you to all the PWS below that have submitted a service line inventory (SLI) for MassDEP to review! As of June 11, 2024, MassDEP has received 89 SLIs! This number includes draft SLIs, and SLIs that are completed, and will be considered final as of the October 16, 2024 LCRR deadline.

MassDEP recommends that PWS who would like feedback to submit their SLI draft **as soon as possible** for MassDEP to review, to provide the most time for feedback to be acted upon! MassDEP CANNOT guarantee for PWS to receive feedback on their draft SLIs if they are submitted to MassDEP after August 2, 2024. MassDEP recommends all systems that would like feedback on their SLI to send them in prior to August 2, 2024.

Important Note: A Service Line Inventory submitted between now and the October 16th deadline that is clearly marked as DRAFT does NOT trigger the LCRR requirements. Either add “DRAFT” to the subject line of your email or in the body of your email message.

SANDERSON ACADEMY	AMESBURY DPW WATER DIV.
MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	ARLINGTON WATER DEPT. (MWRA)
LITECONTROL CORPORATION	BROOKLINE WATER AND SEWER DIVISION
OLD COLONY REG.VOC.TECH. HIGH SCH.	GLEN RIDGE RESIDENTS TRUST

HATFIELD WATER DEPT	EVERETT WATER DEPT. (MWRA)
SOUTH HADLEY FD #1 (MWRA)	FRAMINGHAM WATER DEPT. (MWRA)
BOLTON COUNTRY MANOR	LINCOLN WATER DEPT
HUBBARDSTON HOUSE APARTMENTS	LYNN WATER AND SEWER COMM
NATICK WATER DEPARTMENT	MERRIMAC WATER DEPARTMENT
STONEHAM WATER DEPT (MWRA SUPPLY)	MILTON WATER DEPT. (MWRA)
WEYMOUTH WATER DEPARTMENT	ROWLEY WATER DEPARTMENT
LINDA MANOR NURSING HOME	WEST NEWBURY WATER DEPARTMENT
RUSSELL WATER DEPT	TOWN OF AVON
WORTHINGTON FIRE DISTRICT	BUZZARDS BAY WATER DISTRICT
BERLIN MEMORIAL SCHOOL	V A BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM BROCKTON
HARVARD WATER DEPARTMENT	COHASSET WATER DEPT
TEWKSBURY HOSPITAL	FAIRHAVEN WATER DEPT
TYNGSBOROUGH WATER DISTRICT	FALMOUTH WATER DEPT
ABINGTON/ROCKLAND JOINT WTR. WORKS	HANOVER WATER DEPT
CCNS MARCONI AREA	MARION WATER DIVISION
MEADOWBROOK WATER TRUST	MASHPEE WATER DISTRICT
COLRAIN CENTRAL ELEM SCHOOL	MATTAPOISETT WATER DEPARTMENT
BEDFORD VA HOSPITAL (ROGERS MEM. HOSP.)	OAK BLUFFS WATER DISTRICT
EMERSON HOSPITAL	PEMBROKE WATER DIVISION DPW
WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT	TAUNTON WATER DIVISION
AMHERST DPW WATER DIVISION	CENTERVILLE OSTERVILLE MARSTONS MILLS WD
ASHFIELD WATER DISTRICT	VACATION VILLAGE IN THE BERKSHIRES
EGREMONT WATER DEPT	HAWLEMONT REGIONAL SCHOOL
TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPT	HAMPDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY
NORTHAMPTON WATER DIVISION	LFB USA 92 (RABBIT)
SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT	BROOKSIDE MOBILE HOME PARK
DRAGON HILL CONDOMINIUMS	PINETREE VILLAGE
SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION	WATERVIEW PARK LLC
WEST SPRINGFIELD DPW WATER DIVISION	90 MAIN STREET LLC
APPLEWOOD COMMUNITY CORPORATION	PINE RIDGE CONDOMINIUMS AT SAMPSONS POND
GARDNER WATER DEPARTMENT	SEA OAKS CONDOMINIUMS
HOPKINTON WATER DEPARTMENT	THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH
LEICESTER WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT	THE HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS
CHERRY VALLEY/ ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT	DENNETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HILLCREST WATER DISTRICT	RAYNHAM CENTER WATER DISTRICT
MEDFIELD WATER DEPT.	MARTHAS VINEYARD AIRPORT
NORFOLK WATER DIVISION	EAST NORTHFIELD WATER CO
PAXTON WATER DEPARTMENT	BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION (MWRA)
SOUTHBOROUGH DPW WATER DIVISION (MWRA)	MELROSE WATER DIVISION (MWRA)
	DUXBURY WATER DEPARTMENT

Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update



A Special Shout-Out to the Archdiocese of Boston!

The Archdiocese of Boston recently registered 53 of their private schools into the Expanded Assistance Program. This more than doubles the number of private schools participating in the lead testing program!

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, 998 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 634 (64%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 754 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 503 (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

Briefing on the new EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)

On May 28th, MassDEP held a briefing for Public Water Suppliers regarding the new EPA MCLs for PFAS.

The briefing covered:

- The new EPA PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for drinking water
- EPA's timeline for state's regulation implementation
- MassDEP's timeline for evaluating the science, holding public hearings and issuing state regulations.
- How EPA's MCLs differ from the Massachusetts PFAS6 MCL
- The impact of the EPA MCLs on Massachusetts' PWS and what PWS should be doing now to prepare for these regulations.

The video of the presentation, the power point slides, and Q&A are available here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/epa-maximum-contaminant-levels-mcls-for-pfas#briefing-for-public-water-suppliers->

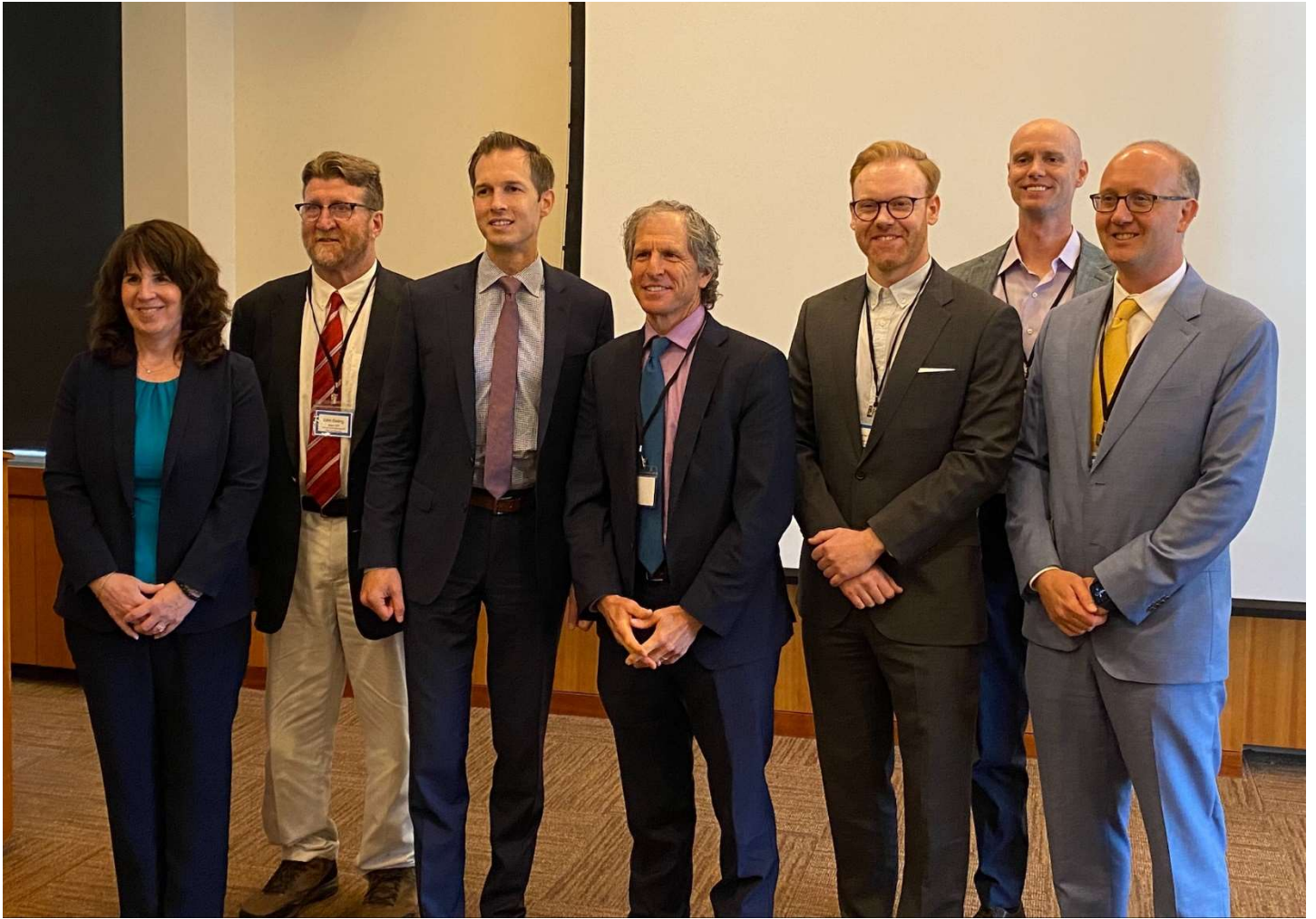
Numerous PWS are using DWSRF loans to address PFAS

The MassDEP Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program (DWSRF) provides loans for construction, planning, and design to assist PWS to address PFAS.

- The DWSRF [2024 Final Intended Use Plan](#) (IUP) includes 22 new construction projects by PWS to address PFAS and 5 multi-year carryover projects.
- \$10 million was set aside in the 2024 IUP to finance planning projects and PFAS design costs. MassDEP is accepting planning loan applications on a rolling basis while funding is available. <https://www.srfmadep.com/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms/cwdw/cwdw-app-Planning.pdf>
- MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust have issued 31 loans totaling over \$245 million at a 0% interest rate for construction projects to address PFAS contamination of drinking water; see the [Clean Water Trust webpage](#). MassDEP has also issued Project Approval Certificates (loan commitments) for another \$212 million, totaling \$457 million in loans to address PFAS.
- In addition to the 0% interest rate on loans, MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust provide a percent of principal forgiveness on the loans for disadvantaged communities.
- The DWSRF 2025 solicitation for construction projects is now open; the deadline for PWS to apply is July 26, 2024. <https://www.mass.gov/lists/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms#2025-project-evaluation-form-instructions-and-guidances->

Congressman Auchincloss' summit on PFAS

On May 30th, Congressman Jake Auchincloss held a PFAS summit at Boston College for the communities he represents. John Beling, MassDEP Deputy Commissioner for Policy & Planning, was one of the speakers and MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust set up tables in the networking/resource area.



Speakers, from left to right in front: Jennifer Pederson (MWWA), John Beling (MassDEP Deputy Commissioner for Policy & Planning), Congressman Jake Auchincloss, David Cash (EPA Regional Administrator), Chris Brown (RA Capital), and John Gardella (CMBG3 Law),



From left to right: Margaret Finn (MassDEP Drinking Water Program), Ping Yee and Maria Pinaud (MassDEP State Revolving Loan Fund Program), Nate Keenan, Josh Derouen, and Kailyn Fellmeth (Massachusetts Clean Water Trust)

Mass PFAS Treatment Systems

Since 2019, PWS have installed and activated 65 water treatment systems to remove PFAS (both temporary and permanent). See Tab 6 on the MassDEP PFAS storymap for locations and details <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas#pfas-detected-in-drinking-water-supplies-in-massachusetts->

Type of Treatment Used at Water Treatment Plants	Number
Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC)	37
Ion Exchange Resin (IX)	24
Both GAC and IX	3
New adsorptive clay-based media	1
Total	65

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/info-details/board-of-certification-of-operators-of-drinking-water-supply-facilities-approved-education-courses-to-sit-for-examination>

Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar

Innovative Technologies Water Workforce Webinar

Tuesday, June 18, 2024; 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar

As today's water sector utilities address an ever more complex series of challenges, expanded use of innovative technology, artificial intelligence, and various ways of creating intelligent water systems, hold great promise. At the same time, it is critical that utilities bring their employees into the discussions about the best use of these approaches and prepare them to effectively use these new tools. These discussions must be intentional and ongoing. This webinar will discuss how one leading utility (Buffalo Sewer Authority) is embracing these new approaches and ensuring their workforce is prepared to use them. In addition, you will hear more about an important project from the Water Research Foundation to help utilities take the necessary steps to develop a truly intelligent water system to meet the needs of their communities. [Register here](#)

Cybersecurity Basics for Water and Wastewater Systems

Thursday, June 20, 2024; 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. ET; webinar

1 TCH will be awarded to attendees who attend the entire session, answer 75% of the polls/tests and complete the evaluation. The platform tracks your participation so do not share your link with anyone else. [Register here](#)

Digital Twins for Emergency Management

Monday, June 24, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

In today's rapidly changing world, water utilities face unprecedented challenges when it comes to emergency management. From natural disasters to infrastructure failures, the need for effective and efficient response is paramount. This is where digital twins step in to support the way water utilities approach emergency preparedness and response. Join us for an insightful webinar that explores the power of digital twins in enhancing the emergency management capabilities of water utilities. \$75 member, \$120 nonmember. [Register here](#)

Massachusetts Drought Management Planning Guidance for Public Water Suppliers

Wednesday, June 26, 2024; 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. ET; webinar

Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) is partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Comprehensive Environmental Inc (CEI) to provide this virtual training session that will assist Public Water Suppliers (PWS) in understanding and implementing the newly released 2024 Massachusetts Drought Management Plan Guidance document. This document will help PWS develop their own system-specific drought plan. This is the second of a 2-part series that will go over the components of the guidance document in more depth to help the PWS understand the data needed to develop metrics for monitoring their system and measures that might be implemented to try to prolong water supply in the face of drought conditions. The Learning Objectives of this training include reviewing data and resource requirements for local drought management planning, learning to implement each step of local drought management planning, and discussing important tips and lessons learned from PWS case studies. This course is approved for 1.5 TCHs (Training Contact Hours) for Massachusetts Drinking Water Operators. [Register here](#)

Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Emerging Environmental Impacts of Tire Wear Particles and Their Chemical Cocktails

Wednesday, June 26, 2024; 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. ET; webinar

Each year, billions of automobile tires are produced, and hundreds of millions become waste, posing a significant environmental and human health risk. Tires are a highly engineered and complex source of pollutants, including heavy metals, plastics, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and other compounds that can be toxic alone or as chemical cocktails. As tires wear, they release pollutants through atmospheric, aquatic, and terrestrial pathways, and comprehensive clean-up solutions are needed to reduce the risk of these pollutants. This presentation will cover the scope and scale of tire pollution and discuss efforts across the US EPA and globally to address the issue of tire-related pollution. [Register here](#)

Lift Station Operation and Maintenance


Thursday, June 27, 2024; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join us for an overview of operation and maintenance required for wastewater lift stations. This class provides a comprehensive overview of the key aspects necessary for effective management of wastewater lift stations. Topics covered include design parameters, basic operation and maintenance tasks, common problems and solutions, and emergency procedures tailored for operators in small systems. [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/training-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: <https://www.rcapsolutions.org/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: 

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!

2024-06-14

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



Alert!

Phone scammers impersonating CISA Employees

Impersonation scams are on the rise and often use the names and titles of government employees. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is aware of recent impersonation scammers claiming to represent the agency. As a reminder, CISA staff will never contact you with a request to wire money, cash, cryptocurrency, or use gift cards and will never instruct you to keep the discussion secret.

- If you suspect you are a target of an impersonation scammer claiming to be a CISA employee:
- Do not pay the caller.
- Take note of the phone number calling you.
- Hang up immediately.
- Validate the contact by calling CISA at (844) SAY-CISA (844-729-2472) or report it to law enforcement.

See Alert at https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/alerts/2024/06/12/phone-scammers-impersonating-cisa-employees?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery



Register Today- MassDEP /DWP Free Webinar on Cybersecurity Basics for Water and Wastewater Systems (1 TCH for MA Drinking Water and Wastewater Operators)

When - Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT

- This webinar will discuss basic cybersecurity for water and wastewater utilities that enable them to better assess and understand existing cybersecurity issues/risks and identify resources.
- It will introduce participants to topics like passwords and multifactor authentication, patching and backups, awareness training, and assets identification remote access.

-
- This training will also cover existing regulations and requirements and more importantly free available resources for cybersecurity assessments.
 - Registration Link: <https://attendeegototraining.com/r/7605978776698631168>

Visit [MassDEP 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:

The Riskiest Connected Devices in 2024: Forescout Report

- Forescout Research has recently published "The Riskiest Connected Devices in 2024" report, which presents significant statistics from an analysis of 19 million devices. The report highlights the five most hazardous device types across four categories: IT, IoT, OT, and IoMT (Internet of Medical Things), totaling 20 device types.

Applicable takeaways from the 2024 report:

- IoT has become significantly riskier — increasing by 136%
- IT-centric devices are the riskiest category
- Network devices are now less secure than endpoints
- Within OT, industrial robots are an emerging risky-device area to watch

- IT devices represented 58% of all vulnerabilities, the most significant proportion, yet this marks a 78% reduction from the 2023 report, suggesting a substantial rise in other categories. The device types most susceptible to vulnerabilities include wireless access points (WAPs), routers, printers, VoIP systems, and IP cameras. Overall, vulnerabilities were found in 4% of OT devices. For the complete report, refer to [Forescout](#).

Threat Awareness – Threat Actors Target Recruiters Posing as Job Applicants

Cybersecurity researchers have recently identified a phishing campaign designed to distribute malware through malicious resumes in fake job applications. This attack specifically targets employment recruiters. Members are encouraged to offer job-specific security awareness training about this tactic to human resources and other staff involved in job recruitment. [Full article](#)

Cyber Resilience – AI Threats and the Need for a Prevention-first Strategy

- The presence of AI-related threats is leading the cybersecurity community at large to change strategies and focus more on prevention capabilities.
- According to Deep Instinct, 75% of security professionals had to change their cybersecurity strategy in the past year due to AI-powered threats.
- In particular, Deepfakes are on the rise with 61% of organizations experiencing a rise in deepfake incidents over the past year.
- According to the report, 41% of organizations still rely on Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solutions which cannot combat next-generation, AI-powered cyber threats. EDR should be a last resort. Prevention-first strategies are designed to block an attack from ever reaching the endpoint, significantly reducing the need to respond to threats. [Full article](#)

Upcoming Trainings

EPA Webinar: Continuity of Operations Plan Template for Drinking Water and Wastewater Laboratories

Thursday, June 20, 2024; 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This webinar was designed as an introduction to the Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA)'s Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Template and will cover the following: WLA's rationale for developing the COOP Template; a basic overview of the contents in the COOP Template; demonstration on how to use the template's fillable form; highlight the value of the COOP Template. [Register now](#)

CISA Webinar: Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) - IT/OT Convergence

Monday, June 24, 2024; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This session will feature insights from experts at CISA alongside industry leaders, offering invaluable perspectives and practical advice. This webinar is tailored to SMBs and is also open to federal, state, local, and private sector stakeholders interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the risks associated with critical infrastructure systems and their interdependencies. It will delve into practical strategies and insights designed to empower SMB. [Register now](#)

EPA Webinar: Infrastructure Funding for Water Reuse

Wednesday, June 26, 2024; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

The EPA's Water Reuse Program is hosting a webinar on infrastructure funding for water reuse. Join the webinar to learn about how programs across the federal government can be used to fund water reuse projects. Presenters will be sharing information from the from EPA, USDA, FEMA, and the Bureau of Reclamation. [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, 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 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.