



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.



Memorial for the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, Boston Common, Photo by: [Lynn.steven](#)

This In The Main newsletter has these topics of interest

2023-06-16

1. Cybersecurity and sanitary surveys
2. FREE Service Line Inventory and Replacement Planning Technical Assistance Available
3. Consumer Confidence Report Deadline July 1
4. Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Requirements for “Lead Status Unknown” Service Lines
5. Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update
6. PFAS Update
7. EPA Completes Scientific Testing of Pesticide Products for PFAS
8. Training Calendar
9. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!
10. Supply Chain Reminders



Important Reminder: Cybersecurity and Sanitary Surveys

Are you scheduled for a MassDEP Drinking Water Program Sanitary Survey this year?

If yes, you must provide MassDEP/DWP with a copy of your cybersecurity assessment for review during the sanitary survey.

You can use any of the options below for a cybersecurity assessment:

- EPA provided [free cybersecurity assessment](#),
- PWS self-assessment or
- A third-party assessment using approved EPA alternatives. **A free assessment from [CISA](#) is included in this option.**

If you have not yet completed a cybersecurity assessment for your system, please be aware of the following FREE EPA RESOURCE:

EPA Free Cybersecurity Evaluation Program: [EPA's free evaluation](#)

EPA's Cybersecurity Evaluation Program will conduct a virtual 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 to apply today <https://www.epa.gov/waterriskassessment/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program>. **This FREE EPA resources is provided on a first come first serve basis so please register as soon as possible.**

Other Free Resources:

CISA Cyber Assessment [CISA](#)

How to Apply: Email at vulnerability@cisa.dhs.gov with the subject line "Requesting Cyber Hygiene Services" to get started. For more details visit <https://www.cisa.gov/topics/cyber-threats-and-advisories/cyber-hygiene-services>.

Other Methods to Complete your Cybersecurity Assessment:

Please be reminded: Systems may arrange for another 3-party assessment or perform a self-assessment using the [EPA's checklist/ WCAT tool](#) or any of the following approved EPA alternatives: [NIST CSF](#), [ISA 62443](#), [ISO 27001](#), [AWWA](#), and [CISA RRA/CISA Assessment](#).

If you have any questions on this information, please contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov , Subject: Cybersecurity.

FREE Service Line Inventory and Replacement Planning Technical Assistance Available.

The new MassDEP free Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan Technical Assistance Program for Small Public Water Systems provides technical assistance to small COM and NTNC PWS serving less than 10,000 individuals for Service Line Inventory (SLI) and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (LSLRP) development ahead of the USEPA LCRR requirements. The MassDEP Drinking Water Program sent a letter on June 12, 2023 to all eligible PWS informing them of the program and how to receive the technical assistance.

To support MassDEP's public health protection planning goal of removing all lead service lines within five years, MassDEP is working with its partner the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and selected qualified environmental consulting firms to provide the free technical assistance. This Assistance Program is funded from the Lead Service Line Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant small systems set-aside funds. Congress made this funding available specifically for small PWS assistance.

INTERESTED IN THIS FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

Eligible small COM and NTNC PWS must notify MassDEP of their interest in this technical assistance and provide an update on how they are preparing for the LCRR requirements by **submitting the survey form located at** <https://mass.gov/forms/massdep-service-line-inventory-and-lead-service-line-replacement-plan-technical-assistance-survey>.

WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED?

1. Service Line Inventory Assistance

Small PWS will be provided with assistance in completing a SLI that will meet both federal and state LCRR requirements.

Assistance will consist of help with:

- compiling and validating service line records,
- developing a public outreach strategy encouraging customers to report their service line materials and providing general information about lead health effects and lead service lines,
- combining and digitizing inventory records for appropriate submittal to MassDEP, and
- making the inventory publicly available online.

2. **Lead Service Line Replacement Plan Assistance**

Small PWS will be provided with assistance in establishing a proactive and comprehensive LSLRP. The replacement plan will include but not be limited to:

- a plan to identify the composition of service lines of unknown material,
- a procedure for conducting lead service line replacement,
- a customer outreach strategy,
- risk management policies,
- a prioritization strategy for service line replacement, and
- a funding strategy to accommodate customers unable to replace their portion of the line.

For more information on preparing for the LCRR, see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions>.

If you have further questions about the Assistance Program, please contact MassDEP's Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov (Subject: Lead Service Line Assistance Program) or 617-292-5770.



Consumer Confidence Report Deadline July 1

Submit now!

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

That is mere two weeks away! Only 33% have already submitted so far so please avoid the rush to submit on the last days.

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.

If you need help, contact the Program Director at the above address and they can get you in contact with staff to help you. You can also go to: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/consumer-confidence-reporting-forms-templates> to obtain the forms, guide book, and template.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Requirements for “Lead Status Unknown” Service Lines

All Community and Non transient Non-Community Public Water System (PWS) service line inventories are due **October 16th, 2024**! Since service line inventories are coming up soon, let's look at the requirements that your system may trigger if you list any "**lead status unknown**" service lines in your inventory. All requirements listed are found in EPA's regulation 40 CFR 141, at [eCFR :: 40 CFR Part 141 Subpart I -- Control of Lead and Copper](#). Please note: MassDEP will provide templates for all LCRR information and notices.

Initial and Annual Consumer Notices

Within 30 days after submitting the service line inventories to MassDEP in 2024, all systems are required to inform all persons with a lead status unknown service line that their service line may potentially contain lead. This notification must be **repeated every year** until there is no longer a single lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service line in the PWS distribution system (section 141.85 (e)).

This notice must include:

- a statement that the service line material is unknown but may be lead,
- an explanation of the health effects of lead (this must meet the requirements of section 141.85 (a) (1) (ii)),
- steps a person at the service connection can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, and
- information about opportunities to verify the material of their service line.

Systems must **demonstrate (certify) that they have delivered** the initial and annual consumer notifications and lead service line informational materials to consumers that have a lead status unknown service line to MassDEP and must provide a **copy** of the notification and informational materials (141.90(e)(13) and 141.90 (f)(4)) by July 1st for the previous calendar year.

LCRR Initial and annual Consumer Notice and certification templates will be available soon.

Updated Inventory Submission

Annually, within 30 days of the end of each tap sampling monitoring period, PWS with lead status unknown service lines in their inventories must provide MassDEP with updated versions of the inventory in accordance with its tap sampling monitoring period schedule.

The system must demonstrate that there are no lead, galvanized requiring replacement, **or lead status unknown service lines** in their inventory to no longer be required to submit inventory updates to MassDEP (141.90 (e)(3)).

Lead Service Line Replacement Plan

PWS with lead status unknown service lines in their inventories must submit a lead service line replacement plan (LSLRP) by October 16th, 2024. When submitting your replacement plan, the PWS must also include a **strategy** to determine the composition of any lead status unknown service lines included in your inventory (141.84 (b)(1)).

To see what should be included in the LSLRP see [Lead Service Line Replacement Plan \(LSLRP\) Summary \(smartsheet.com\)](#).

Reporting requirements for tap water monitoring for lead

PWS with lead service lines, galvanized service lines requiring replacement, **or lead status unknown service lines** in the lead service line inventory must re-evaluate and report on the tap sampling locations used in their sampling pool prior to the next round of tap sampling conducted by the system, or annually, whichever is more frequent (141.90(a)(iii)).

If a system exceeds the lead action level and/or the lead trigger level

After the PWS service line inventory is submitted in 2024, all systems will need to begin LCRR monitoring by January 2025.

If the system exceeds the 90th percentile for lead or the lead trigger level and is serving a population of over 10,000 people, the PWSs must conduct a full lead service line replacement program or a goal-based full lead service line replacement program, at a rate approved by the State (MassDEP).

If your system **exceeds the action level** and it serves a population greater than 10,000 and you are required to conduct a full lead service line replacement at an average annual rate of at least 3%, calculated on a two-year rolling basis, the PWS is required to **provide information/notice to any customer who has a lead status unknown service line** (141.84 (g)(4)).

To calculate the number of service line replacements, the replacement rate must be applied to the sum of known lead and galvanized requiring replacement service lines when the system first exceeds the trigger or action level **plus the number of lead status unknown service lines in the beginning of each year of a system's annual goal or mandatory lead service line replacement program.**

- The information for the customer must be **provided by mail or another method that has been approved by MassDEP.**
- The information must be sent to customers **within 30 days** of the end of the sampling period when the action level exceedance occurred. This notification must be **repeated annually** until sampling results are at or below the lead action level.

The number of service lines requiring replacement must be updated annually to subtract the number of lead status unknown service lines that were discovered to be non-lead and to add the number of non-lead service lines that were discovered to be a lead or galvanized requiring replacement service line.

Verification of a lead status unknown service line as non-lead in the inventory does not count as a service line replacement.

If your system **exceeds the trigger level** and it serves a population greater than 10,000 and you are required to conduct a goal-based full lead service line replacement at a rate approved by the state, the PWS is required to **provide information/notice to any customer who has a lead status unknown service line** (141.84 (f)(4)).

- The information for the customer must be **provided by mail or another method that has been approved by MassDEP.**
- The information must be sent to customers **within 30 days** of the end of the sampling period when the trigger level exceedance occurred. This notification must be **repeated annually** until sampling results are at or below the lead trigger level.

Notification due to a disturbance to a known or potential service line containing lead

PWS that cause disturbance to a lead, galvanized requiring replacement, **or lead status unknown service line** that results in the water to an individual service line being shut off or bypassed, such as operating a valve on a service line or meter setter, and without conducting a partial or full lead service line replacement, must provide the persons served by the water system at the service connection with information about the potential for elevated lead levels in drinking water as a result of the disturbance as well as instructions for a flushing procedure to remove particulate lead. The water system must comply with these requirements before the affected service line is returned to service.

If the disturbance of a lead, galvanized requiring replacement, **or lead status unknown service line** results from the replacement of an inline water meter, a water meter setter, or gooseneck, pigtail, or connector, the water system must provide the person served by the water system at the service connection with:

1. Information about the potential for elevated lead levels in drinking water as a result of the disturbance,
2. Public education materials that meet the content requirements for lead Public Education (141.85(a)).
3. A pitcher filter or point-of-use device certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, instructions to use the filter, and six months of filter replacement cartridges.

The water system must comply with these requirements before the affected service line is returned to service.

***Please note: LCRR information is subject to change depending on the USEPA Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) and the promulgation of MassDEP LCRR regulation.**

If you have any questions regarding the requirements of the LCRR regulations, contact the DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject LCRR

Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

Explore the NEW MassDEP Lead in Schools and Early Education and Care Facilities Drinking Water Web Map!

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program has several programs that test or support testing for lead in schools and Early Education and Care Facilities (EECFs) drinking water. The newly released Lead in Schools and EECFs Drinking Water Web Map provides a platform to inform the public about these different programs and display the testing results. The map is based on available results that have been collected via MassDEP's electronic data reporting system eDEP, and are available on the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Data Portal (EEA Data Portal). The data is being continuously updated.

View the web map at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7f58049174f84073bae7d7bcaa159ca7/>.

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program has directly tested or supported lead testing at tens of thousands of taps/faucets in schools and EECFs throughout the state through the following programs:

- Lead and Copper Rule
- Lead and Copper Control Act
- Lead in School Drinking Water Assistance Program
- Lead in School and EECF Drinking Water Expanded Assistance Program
- PWS Lead and Copper Rule Revision Pilot Program

For additional information or questions about this web map tool, contact the MassDEP Drinking Water program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770.

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 nearly \$1.6 million 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, 526 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 321 (61%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 394 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have

tested and received results, 267 (68%) 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

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.

Pilot Program for Testing Schools and Childcares for Lead Ahead of the LCRR

Our LCRR Pilot Program is designed to help PWS offer testing to schools and EECFs in their service area prior to the LCRR October 2024 requirements using the existing MassDEP Expanded Assistance Program for Lead in School and EECF Drinking Water. Sampling conducted through the Expanded Assistance Program is comprehensive and exceeds the LCRR requirements for sampling at schools and EECFs. Six PWS are actively participating in this Pilot Program, and to date 25 facilities identified by PWS for testing have been sampled with results.

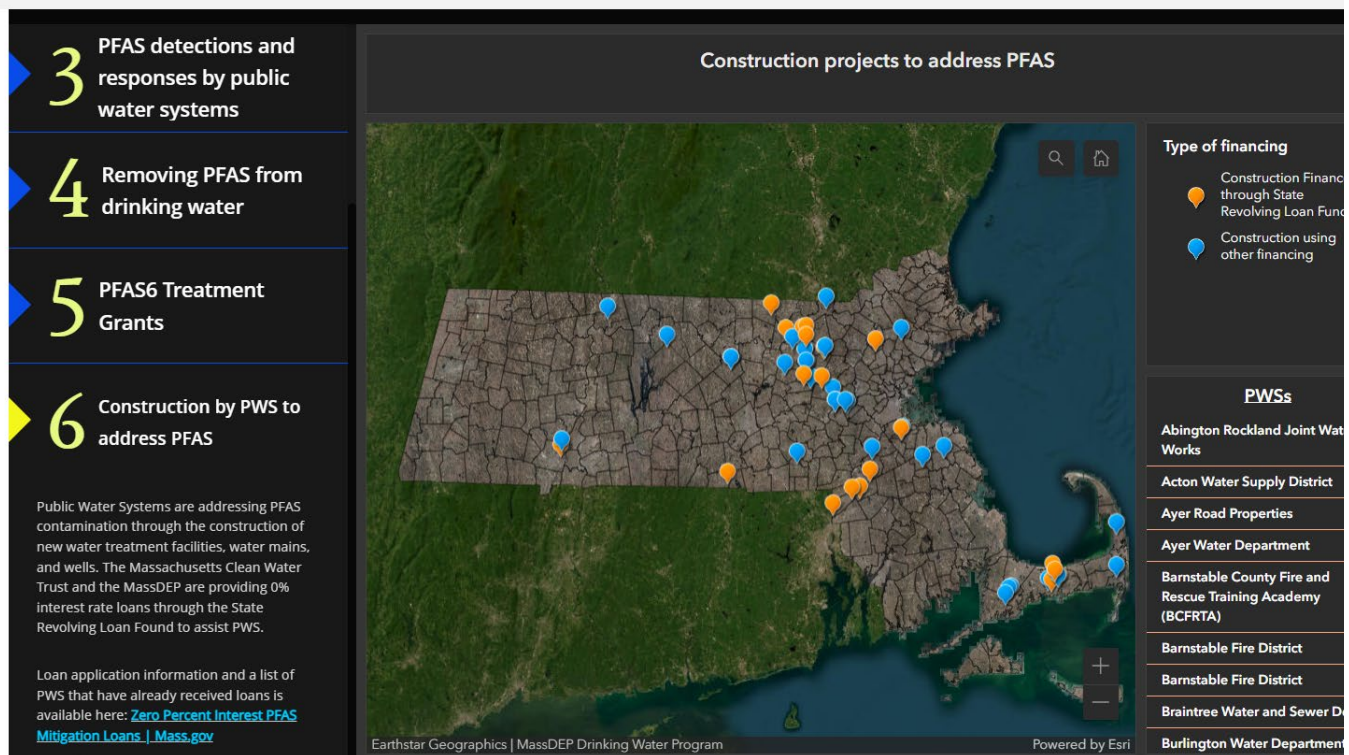
MassDEP plans to expand this Pilot Program to additional Community PWS in towns where few or no EECFs have participated in the assistance program to date, or where there has been a recent lead Action Level exceedance. On 6/8/23 we invited 19 PWS to join this program. As of 6/16/23, three additional PWSs indicated their interest.

What action to take:

- If your PWS meets the criteria, MassDEP will reach out to you with an invitation to participate. If you receive an invitation and are interested in participating, reply to the email indicating your interest.
- If you do not receive an invitation but are interested in participating in this Pilot Program, please contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject line LCRR Pilot Program.

PFAS Update

- A total of 38 new water treatment facilities or additions to existing WTFs have been constructed and activated by Public Water Suppliers to remove PFAS from their drinking water (temporary and permanent systems). See Tab 6 on the [PFAS storymap](#) for details.



- Public Water Supplier 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”.



The MassDEP Bureau of Waste Site Clean-up has issued 123 Release Tracking Numbers (RTNs) related to site investigations of PFAS contamination. 49 of these RTNs are for Public Water Supply source contamination. Documents associated with RTNs are made available to the public on the EEA data portal <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal/#!/search/wastesite>

EPA Completes Scientific Testing of Pesticide Products for PFAS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking another step in addressing concerns that per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been found in pesticide products by releasing a summary of the laboratory analysis of 10 pesticide products reported to contain PFAS residues. EPA did not find any PFAS in the tested pesticide products, differing from the results of a published study in the Journal of Hazardous Materials. EPA is also releasing its newly developed and validated analytical methodology used in the testing process alongside the summary of its findings. EPA is confident in the results of this newly released method, which is specifically targeted to detect the presence of PFAS in pesticide products formulated with surfactants.

Since learning about potential PFAS contamination in a small number of mosquitocide products in September 2020, EPA has taken a number of steps to address this issue. This includes [releasing data in March 2021](#) that preliminarily determined that PFAS in those specific products was most likely formed from a chemical reaction during the container fluorination process which then leached into the pesticide product, [releasing another study in September 2022](#) testing the leaching potential of PFAS over a specific time into test solutions packaged in different brands of HDPE fluorinated containers, and [notifying manufacturers \(including importers\), processors, distributors, users, and those that dispose of fluorinated HDPE containers and similar plastics](#) that the presence of PFAS formed as a

byproduct in these containers may be a violation of the Toxic Substances Control Act. Following that notification, the Department of Justice, on behalf of EPA, filed a complaint against Inhance, the company that manufactured the plastic mosquitocide containers in which PFAS was found, for its failure to comply with TSCA's notice, review, and determination requirements prior to manufacture.

As a continuation of these ongoing efforts, EPA has completed its verification analysis of a study published in September 2022 in the Journal of Hazardous Materials entitled "[Targeted analysis and Total Oxidizable Precursor assay of several insecticides for PFAS](#)." This study reported the presence of PFOS in six of 10 pesticide products tested.

EPA evaluated the 10 pesticide products included in this study using two different test methods to detect PFAS. The first method was developed by the Agency to specifically measure PFAS in pesticide samples containing surfactants and non-volatile oils, and the second method was used in the study published in the Journal of Hazardous Materials.

EPA obtained samples of the specific pesticide products from the study author and purchased additional products with the same EPA registration numbers on the open market to conduct analyses. EPA tested all samples using both methods and did not detect the presence of PFOS, nor any of 28 additional PFAS it screened for, above the lowest level that our lab instruments can detect (0.2 parts per billion) in any of the pesticide products using either method of detection. The equipment and methodology used by EPA would have shown PFAS detections if present in those pesticide products given that our level of detection (LOD) is 2,500 times more sensitive than the LOD reported by the equipment used by the study author. EPA requested additional information, including raw data from the study author, but did not receive any beyond the published results. EPA's study [report](#) contains additional scientific details regarding how the two methods differ and the significance of using the Agency's new method when testing these specific formulations.

One of the most important differences between the two methods is that EPA's [method](#) ensures accurate measuring of PFAS by eliminating interference from the oils and surfactants present in these formulations which can result in false positive detections.

EPA's [PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#) renewed the Agency's commitment to using sound science and investing in research to proactively stop PFAS chemicals from entering the environment. This latest action is an important step in EPA's ongoing efforts to better understand and manage, when necessary, pesticide formulations that contain PFAS to ensure enduring and protective solutions. As part of our continuing efforts, EPA will continue to invest in scientific research to fill gaps in understanding of PFAS, to identify which PFAS may pose human health and ecological risks at which exposure levels and develop methods to better test and measure them.

[Read the report containing the summary of EPA's study and learn more about the Agency's work on PFAS in pesticide containers.](#)

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

Water Leadership Webinar Series: Change Leadership

Tuesday, June 20, 2023; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

How do we adapt to and manage changing circumstances at work? This crash course will introduce key aspects of adaptive leadership, including learning to think about leadership, leadership vs authority, group dynamics, managing conflict, and listening to colleagues so you can improve how your team operates, regardless of your official position. [Register now.](#)

Water Leadership Webinar Series: Culturally Responsive Leadership

Tuesday, June 20, 2023; 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Hear from two experienced leaders on the critical roles of community engagement, proactive crisis management, and understanding water inequities. Looking at the root causes of water inequities, including systemic racism and geographical and economic factors, you will learn best practices for your water system to ensure local voices are represented in your decision-making and strategies for establishing collaborative relationships in your community. [Register now.](#)

Nature Based Solutions in the Great Lakes: Partnering for Habitat Restoration and Resiliency

Wednesday, June 21, 2023; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) and its design team members will discuss 4 design projects underway in 4 states (NY,MI,WI) on 3 Great Lakes. These projects are part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), a non-regulatory program to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the largest system of fresh surface water in the world, and to provide additional resources to make progress toward the most critical long-term goals for this important ecosystem. [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!

2023-06-16

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



Be Vigilant!



Report all incidents and anomalous activity to [CISA](#) and/or the FBI via your local [FBI field office](#) or the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch at 855-292-3937 or CyWatch@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, CISA or other partners' offers for free cybersecurity vulnerability assessments? If yes, please let us know at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject Cyber security.



Important Reminder: EPA Cybersecurity Requirements for Public Water Systems

On March 3, 2023, US EPA released an important [memorandum](#) on cybersecurity to State Drinking Water Administrators. 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 cybersecurity deficiencies.

In response to the US EPA March 3, 2023, memorandum, MassDEP/DWP supported the flexibility provided by USEPA and determined that PWS could evaluate the cybersecurity of their water system using any of the following three options:

- EPA provided [free cybersecurity assessment](#),
- PWS self-assessment or
- A third-party assessment using approved EPA alternatives. **A free assessment from [CISA](#) is included in this option.**

Remember: MassDEP considers cybersecurity as part of Emergency Response Plan and taken a proactive approach in the past years to addressing this important issue by reminding PWS to perform assessment, correct all identified deficiencies, include cybersecurity in the Massachusetts sanitary survey questions, providing cybersecurity training and sharing cybersecurity information with all PWS on a biweekly basis See <https://www.mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers#newsletters->.

If you have not yet completed a cybersecurity assessment for your system, please be aware of the following FREE EPA RESOURCE:

This EPA resources is completed virtually and provided on a first come first serve basis so **please register as soon as possible.**

EPA Free Cybersecurity Evaluation Program: [EPA's free evaluation](#)

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

Other Free Resources:

CISA Cyber Assessment [CISA](#)

How to Apply: Email at vulnerability@cisa.dhs.gov with the subject line "Requesting Cyber Hygiene Services" to get started. For more details visit <https://www.cisa.gov/topics/cyber-threats-and-advisories/cyber-hygiene-services>.

Other Methods to Complete your Cybersecurity Assessment:

Please be reminded: Systems may arrange for another 3-party assessment or perform a self-assessment using the [EPA's checklist/ WCAT tool](#) or any of the following approved EPA alternatives: [NIST CSF](#), [ISA 62443](#), [ISO 27001](#), [AWWA](#), and [CISA RRA/CISA Assessment](#).

If you have any questions on this information, please contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov , Subject: Cybersecurity.

NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:



Stay Alert: China State-Sponsored Cyber Attacker Can Evade Detection on Water and Wastewater Systems' IT/OT Networks

Summary

EPA issued this alert to make water and wastewater system owners and operators aware of a new Cybersecurity Advisory (CSA) from the United States and international cybersecurity organizations. The CSA highlights recently discovered malicious activity aimed at critical infrastructure organizations in the United States. The activity is associated with a People's Republic of China (PRC) state-sponsored cyber actor known as [Volt Typhoon](#).

- Volt Typhoon has been active since mid-2021 and has compromised critical infrastructure organizations in the United States and its territories. Organizations affected by this campaign include the communications, manufacturing, transportation, government, and information technology sectors. Water and wastewater systems are also at high risk from this threat. Observed behavior suggests that the threat actor intends to perform espionage and maintain access without being detected for as long as possible.
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- One of the actor's primary tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) is living off the land, which uses built-in network administration tools to perform their objectives. This TTP allows the actor to evade detection by blending in with normal Windows system and network activities, avoid endpoint detection and response products that would alert on the introduction of third-party applications to the host, and limit the amount of activity that is captured in default logging configurations. Detecting and mitigating this attack can be challenging.
- The [Joint Cybersecurity Advisory \(CSA\)](#) from the United States National Security Agency (NSA), the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC), the Communications Security Establishment's Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCCS), the New Zealand National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC-NZ), and the United Kingdom National Cyber Security Centre (NSCS-UK) provides guidance on detecting and preventing this attack.

Mitigation

Water and wastewater system owners and operators should direct their network administrators to review the [CSA](#) and carry out the recommended mitigation procedures. The alert provides examples of the actor's commands and detection signatures, which will aid network defenders in hunting for this activity.

In addition, water and wastewater owners and operators should adopt the cyber hygiene practices in CISA's [Cross-Sector Cybersecurity Performance Goals](#), which can reduce the risk of cyber incidents.

- Harden network servers and check event logs for executable files such as ntdsutil.exe and similar process creations
- Audit any use of system administrator privileges to confirm the legitimacy of executed commands
- Limit connections to public internet to required periods of use
- Investigate unusual IP addresses and ports in command lines, registry entries, and firewall logs to identify other hosts that are potentially involved in actor actions
- Review perimeter firewall configurations for unauthorized changes and/or entries that may permit external connections to internal hosts
- Look for abnormal account activity, such as logons outside of normal working hours and impossible time-and-distance logons
- Forward log files to a hardened centralized logging server, preferably on a segmented network

Joint Cybersecurity Advisory – Understanding Ransomware Threat Actors: LockBit

- CISA, the FBI, MS-ISAC, and international partners released Understanding Ransomware Threat Actors: LockBit, a joint Cybersecurity Advisory (CSA) to help organizations understand and defend against threat actors using LockBit, the most globally used and prolific Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) in 2022 and 2023.
- The guide is a comprehensive resource detailing the observed common vulnerabilities and exposures (CVEs) exploited, as well as the tools, and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) used by LockBit affiliates.
- PWS are encouraged to review the CSA and apply the included mitigations to reduce the likelihood and impact of future ransomware incidents. See [StopRansomware.gov](#) for additional guidance on ransomware protection, detection, and response. [Full article](#).

Upcoming Trainings

CISA Webinar: Active Shooter Preparedness

Tuesday, July 11, 2023; 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

CISA Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming) is hosting a 2-hour webinar to enhance awareness of, and response to, an active shooter incident. During the webinar, participants will discuss the elements of active shooter incident response planning with guidance from expert instructors and learn to recognize common behaviors, conditions, workplace violence indicators, and situations associated with active shooter events. Attendees will also learn about best practices, communications protocols, and resources that will assist stakeholders to develop or enhance their emergency planning, preparedness, and response to active shooter incidents. [Register now](#)

MassDEP Cybersecurity Reminders:

- MassDEP Informational Flyer 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>
 - MassDEP posters with cybersecurity tips to help keep your systems secure <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-drinking-water-system-operations#cybersecurity->
 - Public Water Systems may include cybersecurity planning in DWSRF Asset Management Grant applications <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/asset-management-planning-grant-program>
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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.
 - [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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