



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

## In the Main Newsletter – 06/16/2026

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In The Main - The Drinking Water Updates can be found online at the [MassDEP Communication to Public Water Suppliers Website](#) or at the [Statehouse Archives](#) which has a searchable database.



*Memorial to Enslaved Persons, Boston, photo by Eric Cheung*

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## 1. ATTENTION: Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) are due in 15 days!

All **community** public water systems must prepare and deliver a CCR by July 1, 2026. Your CCR must be delivered to your customers, MassDEP, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and your local board of health by July 1 or you risk compliance enforcement.

The deadline is two weeks away! **To date, only 19% of applicable PWS have submitted their CCRs to MassDEP.** If you have not done so, please submit your CCR at your earliest convenience. Don't wait until the last minute!

Please see the [MassDEP Consumer Confidence Reports webpage](#) for guidance on making, distributing, and submitting your 2025 CCR. To access forms and templates visit the [MassDEP CCR Reporting Forms and Templates webpage](#).

To submit your CCR to MassDEP, please email a singular PDF file of your CCR Certification Form, the CCR, and any needed documentation with the naming convention **PWSID#-PWSNAME-CCRYEAR-CCR** to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), by July 1.

MassDEP prepares annual CCRs for NTNC and TNC systems and, when available, will post the 2025 CCRs on the [Public Water Supplier Document Search Tool](#).

If you need help or have questions, contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov) subject CCR, or 617-292-5770.

## 2. Reminder: RRA/ERP Certification Statements due June 30!

There are several deadlines related to AWIA Round 2 Compliance at the end of this month:

- Community PWS serving a population between 3,301 and 50,000 are required to certify to EPA updates to their Risk and Resiliency Assessments (RRAs) by **June 30, 2026**.

- Community PWS serving a population between 50,000 and 99,999 are required to certify to EPA updates to their Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) by **June 30, 2026**.

Community Water System size (by population served as of March 31, 2024)	Certify Risk & Resilience Assessment (RRA) by:	Certify Emergency Response Plan (ERP) within 6 months of RRA, but no later than:
≥ 100,000	March 31, 2025	September 30, 2025
50,000 – 99,999	December 31, 2025	<b>June 30, 2026</b>
3,300 – 49,999	<b>June 30, 2026</b>	December 31, 2026

The American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was first passed in 2018 and requires community water systems to certify that they have prepared and updated their Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs). Community water systems are required to recertify to EPA that their RRAs and ERPs are up to date every five years. With changes from the past five years including supply chain issues, cybersecurity concerns, and increased funding opportunities, PWS may have a lot to update in their RRAs and ERPs.

A comprehensive list of requirements, resources, FAQs, fact sheets, training recordings, and guidance for preparing and certifying updates to your RRAs and ERPs with the EPA can be found at the [AWIA Section 2013/SDWA Section 1433: Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans Webpage](#).

### How do I certify my RRA and ERP to EPA?

PWS can certify updates to their RRA and ERP by filling out the RRA/ERP Certification Statement and uploading the signed document using one of three methods:

1. Electronic submission
2. Email
3. Regular mail

EPA strongly recommends submitting RRA/ERP Certification Statements via electronic submission. Guidance for submitting your RRA/ERP and downloading the Certification Statement documents can be found at [the EPA: How to Certify Your Risk and Resilience Assessment or Emergency Response Plan Webpage](#). **Do not submit your updated RRA and ERP to EPA or to MassDEP as those documents may contain sensitive information about your system.**

### How do I submit ERP Compliance Checklists to MassDEP/DWP?

DWP requires PWS to submit an ERP Compliance Checklist whenever there are substantive changes to a PWS's ERP. PWS should submit an updated ERP Compliance Checklist once they have made updates to their ERP. PWS can submit their updated checklists to the Program Director at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject: ERP Compliance Checklist for AWIA Round 2. **Reminder:**

**PWS should NOT submit their full ERP documents to DWP as those documents contain sensitive information about their system.**

## EPA Office Hours for AWIA Round 2 Compliance

EPA will host Office Hours in June 2026 to assist community water systems (CWSs) with specific questions on completing or certifying RRAs and ERPs under Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) section 1433 (also known as AWIA section 2013). These one-on-one discussions with EPA will remain private.

While aimed at CWSs who have a June 30, 2026 deadline, all CWSs are welcome to register if slots are available. Small-sized CWSs serving 3,301 – 49,999 people have an RRA certification deadline of June 30, 2026 and medium-sized CWSs serving 50,000-99,999 people have an ERP certification deadline of June 30, 2026.

For more information, visit EPA's [SDWA 1433 webpage](#) or contact [dwresilience@epa.gov](mailto:dwresilience@epa.gov)

## Where can I find more information about this topic?

Use the following resources to learn more about RRAs, ERPs, AWIA, and more.

- [MassDEP Guidelines for Public Water Systems, Chapter 12 – Emergency Response Planning Requirements](#)
- [MassDEP Guidelines for Public Water Systems, Appendix O – Handbook for Water Supply Emergencies](#)
- Previous [MassDEP In the Main newsletters](#)
- [EPA Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience Webpage](#)
- [EPA Water Resilience - AWIA Section 2013 Webpage](#)
- [EPA How to Certify Your RRA or ERP Webpage](#)

## 3. Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund 2027 Solicitation

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, MassDEP [announced the opening of the solicitation period](#) for new drinking water projects seeking funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program (DWSRF) for the calendar year 2027. Project Evaluation Forms (PEFs) for construction projects will be accepted until July 24, 2026. There are no significant changes to the DWSRF PEF for 2027. Refer to the [DWSRF Policy on Eligible Costs](#) and the [DWSRF Construction Stage Project Ranking System](#) for additional information.

There is a priority for financing drinking water construction projects that address PFAS. NOTE: Under DEP's Tiered Classification System for project scoring, to be considered a Tier V project (the highest scoring tier) the concentrations for the sum of the PFAS6 of the finished water tap of combined sources must be greater than or equal to 10 ppt.

PEFs should be filled out and submitted through MassDEP's eSRF portal. A link to the eSRF portal, as well as portal login and PEF instructions can be found online at [State Revolving Fund Applications & Forms](#). If you encounter technical difficulties, please email the SRF Data Support Team at [srfmadep@mass.gov](mailto:srfmadep@mass.gov) for assistance.

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

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

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

## 5. Receive up to \$50k in assistance implementing your Lead Service Line Replacement Plan

The MassDEP Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (LSLRP) Implementation Assistance Program helps small PWS meet Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) regulatory requirements early. Through this program, MassDEP DWP has contracted with a qualified consulting firm to provide small systems with up to **\$50,000** in assistance with:

1. Lead Service Line and/or Galvanized Requiring Replacement service line replacements
2. Unknown service line verification through potholing excavations, statistical analysis, or other approved methods
3. Non-lead service line validation through potholing excavations and visual inspection
4. Community outreach and engagement

### Eligibility

This program is available to small PWS located in disadvantaged communities that have at least one LSL, GRR or service line of unknown material, and have submitted a LSLRP to MassDEP.

- For the purposes of this program, a small PWS is defined as a PWS that provides water to 3,300 people or fewer.
- Disadvantaged communities are defined as communities that meet the Clean Water Trusts definition of disadvantaged (any Tier) using the [Disadvantaged Community Designation Affordability Calculation](#).
- For LSLRPs, PWS may use MassDEP's [LCRI LSLRP Form](#) to meet this requirement.

Assistance will be provided to eligible systems on a first-come-first-serve basis, as funding allows.

### Apply Today!

Eligible PWS interested in receiving assistance through this LSLRP Implementation Assistance Program should complete the [LSLRP Implementation Assistance Program Application Form](#).

For questions contact the MassDEP DWP at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), subject LSLRP Implementation Assistance Program.

## 6. Supply Chain Reminders

Several PWS have reported recent supply chain issues with fluoride. If your PWS experiences any supply chain issues, including the receipt of a Force Majeure letter from a chemical supplier, the MassDEP/DWP encourages you to report all supply chain issues to your MassDEP regional office Drinking Water Program contact and take the following steps:

- Review your PWS Emergency Response Plans (ERP) required by 310 CMR 22.04(13) and take planned actions identified for such an emergency. This should include any applicable work and conservation practices to extend the currently available supply.
- Implement the steps identified by DWP using the [Steps to Prepare Your PWS For Supply Chain Disruptions Flyer](#) and keep MassDEP/DWP informed of all Supply Chain issues.
- Check/Use [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.
- Join [MassWARN](#).

## 7. Upcoming Information Sessions for Operators

### Free Information Session for Career Opportunities as a Drinking Water Operator

Join this FREE virtual session to learn about the responsibilities involved in working as a VSS, D1, & T1 operator!

This 1-hour virtual introductory course is designed for individuals interested in pursuing a career as a drinking water operator and covers the following topics: water quality sampling, wells and their source protection, water pipes, storage tanks, hydrants, valves, meters, water treatment, Massachusetts drinking water regulations, and more. This class will also discuss the steps needed to prepare for and pass the VSS, D1, and T1 exams and highlight current job opportunities. Water supply professionals will be available to answer questions and provide follow-up support.

**Date:** June 23, 2026

**Time:** 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Class Fee:** FREE

**Register here:** [Information Session - Career Opportunities as a Drinking Water Operator](#)

### Operator Certification Q&A: Office Hours Session

Join UMass Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) for office hours designed to address any questions or concerns participants may have regarding operator certification. Topics may include the Board of Certification, licensing requirements, operator certification pathways, license types, exam registration,

license applications, experience calculations, training and certification, testing tips, renewal cycles, online resources, and frequently asked questions.

**Date:** July 9, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:00 AM

**Class Fee:** FREE

**Register here:** [Operator Certification Q&A: Office Hours Session](#)

## 8. Heat Education and Alert Tools (HEAT)

With summer upon us, it is important for personnel to prepare for extreme heat events. Extreme heat can be dangerous and even life-threatening if proper precautions are not taken. Most heat-related illnesses occur because the victim has been over-exposed to heat or has over-exercised for their age and physical condition. Although anyone can suffer from a heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Those at greater risk include older adults, young children, and those with chronic medical conditions.

The Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health offers tools and resources to help people prepare for hot weather. These materials focus on health dangers linked to extreme heat, people most at risk, and steps communities can take to stay safe before and during a heat wave. Help prepare your personnel and communities who are sensitive to heat-related illness by sharing these tips and resources.

- [Extreme Heat](#): A central hub for resources, tools, and guidance to stay safe during periods of extreme heat.
- [Unhealthy Heat Forecast](#): Track upcoming heat conditions in your community with a 7-day forecast and color-coded risk levels.
- [Community Heat Resources](#): Find heat safety tips, shareable outreach materials, and key state resources to help residents and communities prepare for extreme heat and stay safe.
- [Unhealthy Heat Action Toolkit](#): A downloadable toolkit with ready-to-use social media posts, messages, and other resources to help organizations share heat safety information and promote action during periods of unhealthy heat.
- [Celebrate Safely - Heat and Health Tips for Watch Parties and Summer Events](#): A collection of safety tips, guidance, and shareable materials to help people prepare for and stay safe during summer events and hot weather.
- [Heat resources and guidance](#): Clear, targeted fact sheets for specific settings and populations vulnerable to extreme heat.

### Resources for Public Water Suppliers

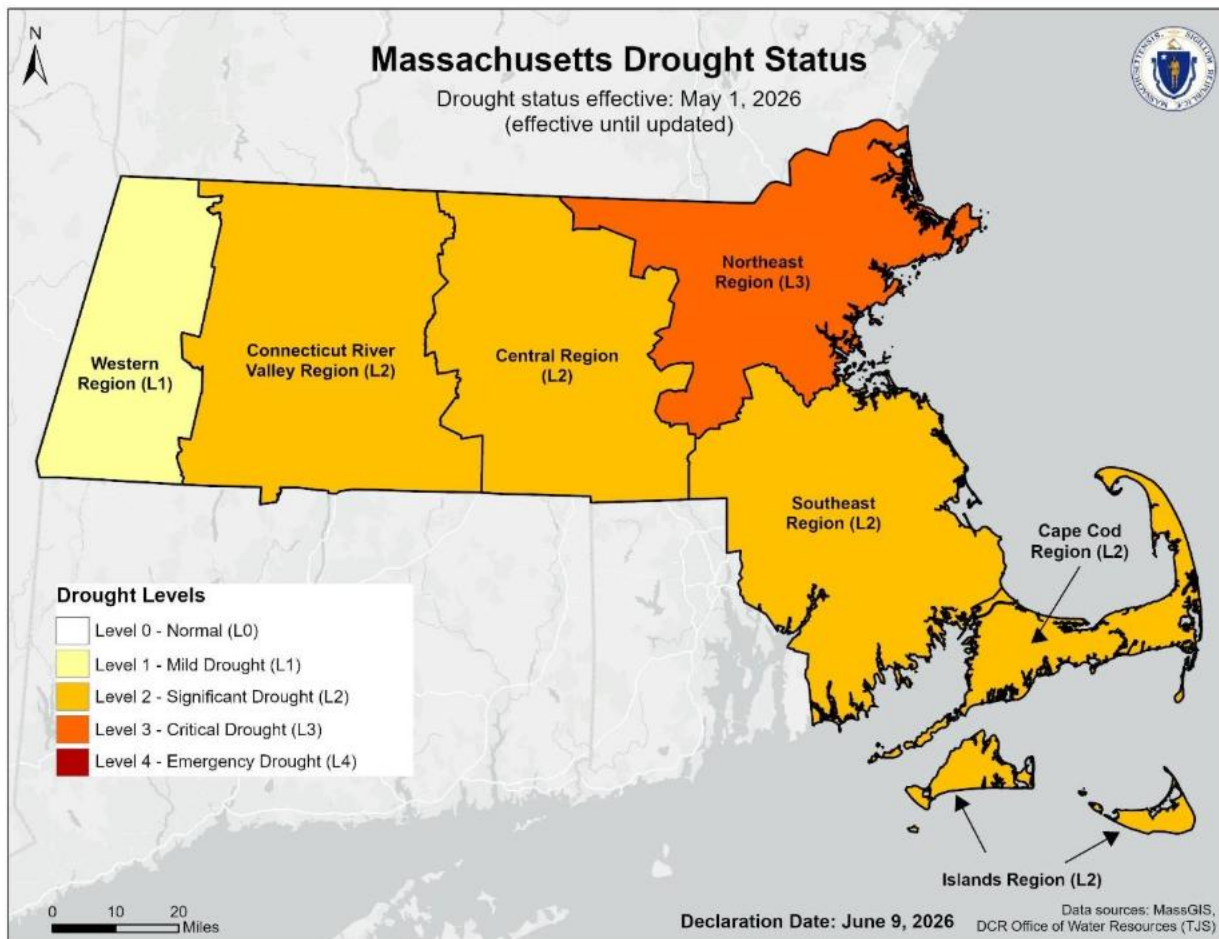
Extreme heat has the potential to cause power outages when electrical equipment overheats due to increased electricity demand. If power outages occur, PWS should refer to their Emergency Response Plans to respond to the power outage accordingly, including any required reporting to MassDEP/DWP. PWS can use the following resources to prepare for extreme heat and power outages.

- [USEPA Incident Action Checklist – Power Outages](#)
- [USEPA Incident Action Checklist – Extreme Heat](#)
- [MassDEP Emergency Response for Public Water Systems](#)

- [MassDEP Public Drinking Water System Operations – Emergency Response & Public Notification](#)

## 9. Drought Conditions Worsen in the Southeast, Cape Cod and Islands Regions

On June 9, 2026, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) declared a Level 2 – Critical Drought for the Southeast, Cape Cod, and Islands Regions. The designation follows years of below-average rainfall and declining streamflow across the state, signaling worsening drought conditions and increasing stress on local water supplies. All other regions remain at the drought levels announced on May 22, 2026. The most recent drought declaration can be read on the [Massachusetts Drought Status webpage](#).



Drought declarations require detailed monitoring of drought conditions; continued coordination among state and federal agencies to advance the implementation of water use restrictions; and engagement with municipalities, including local Boards of Health, to provide technical outreach and assistance to water suppliers and affected municipalities.

Below is a list of resources for communities to use related to drought outreach and education, water conservation, and drought status monitoring.

- The [Massachusetts Drought Dashboard](#) provides regularly updated maps monitoring drought conditions across the state.

- The [Drought Alert Flyer](#) provides information about current drought conditions and how communities across the state can help promote water conservation, fire prevention, and drought preparedness.
- The [Drought Management in Massachusetts webpage](#) includes several recommendations for residents, businesses, and communities during each level of drought (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4) related to water conservation and fire prevention.
- The [Water Resources Toolkit](#) offers many examples of outreach materials for communities to use related to droughts.
- Utilities are encouraged to develop a [Drought Management Plan](#) to identify preparedness, monitoring, response, and outreach procedures related to droughts.
- Information for private well owners can be found at the webpage [Information for Private Well Owners During a Drought](#)
- [Previous issues of In the Main](#) include additional resources related to drought preparedness and response resources.

## 10. LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates

Reminder: Deadline to submit your Service Line Material Consumer Notice (CN) Certification Form is in 2 weeks (July 1, 2026)!

This is a reminder to all PWS that had lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) and/or lead status unknown service lines in your SLI in 2025. You must certify that your 2025 Consumer Notices (CNs) were distributed by completing and submitting the [SLI CN Certification Form](#). **All PWS that were required to send out SLI CNs must submit their certification by July 1st, 2026.** Make sure to redownload the form if you haven't already, as this form was updated in 2025!

If your PWS has already submitted your SLI CN Certification Form, MassDEP DWP thanks you for your submission!

Highlighting PWS's LCRR and LCRI Work! This Week's Highlight: Chester Water Department's Statistical Analysis Work to Become a Non-Lead System

Chester Water Department is a small PWS which serves less than 1,000 people, and has under 300 service lines, of which over half were classified as lead status unknown in their initial SLI submission in 2024. Chester prioritized reducing their unknown service lines through statistical analysis, which can allow a system with no lead service lines and no expectation of lead to investigate a small portion of their unknown service lines at random and reclassify all unknown service lines to non-lead based on their results.

To complete the analysis, Chester reached out to all consumers with an unknown service line on the private side, asking them to complete a customer survey to verify their service line material, or sign up for a basement inspection. Through this effort they were able to verify the material of 141 unknown service lines. Chester then completed additional vacuum excavations to create a statistical analysis on the public side.

Through this work, Chester reclassified all service lines to non-lead, without needing to excavate all public service lines, and will be able to submit a Baseline Service Line Inventory without lead, GRR, or unknown service lines in 2027.

### **Takeaways for Other Water Systems:**

If your system has a large number of unknown service lines, with no lead service lines in your SLI and no history of lead, a statistical analysis may be a cost effective verification method to consider. Remember that systems must submit a statistical analysis/predictive modeling proposal to MassDEP and receive approval to use the verification method prior to beginning investigation work. [Find out more about MassDEP Statistical Analysis and Predictive Modeling Requirements here.](#)

Has your system conducted outreach asking consumers with unknown service lines to schedule a basement inspection or submit a consumer self-inspection of the service line? Through Chester's effort, most private unknown service lines were identified by basement inspection, due to high participation rates. MassDEP offers a free customer self-inspection application PWS can sign up for to receive customer self-inspections: [MA Lead Service Line Identification \(MA-LSLI\) Web App](#). See [Instructions for Using the App here](#).

### **MassDEP is looking to highlight your PWS's work to prepare for the LCRI!**

MassDEP is looking for details about:

- your work identifying unknowns and replacing lead/GRR service lines,
- methods of outreach to your consumers that have been helpful to get the lead out/identify unknowns,
- methods to complete and refine your SLI (verification methods, record review methods, etc.), and
- success stories of using the MA-LSLI App!

Share them with MassDEP by emailing them to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), subject: LCRR/LCRI Highlighted Work.

## **11. Water Smart**

### **Water-Smart Program Update**

The Water-Smart program continues offering free analysis of lead drinking water samples and technical assistance to eligible public and private schools and early education and childcare facilities (EECFs). Currently, 1,334 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 1,162 (87%) of participating facilities are within economically disadvantaged communities. To date, 1,208 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 803 (66%) had one or more lead detections.

Do you know of any schools or childcare facilities that could benefit from the Water-Smart Program? Please identify and encourage schools and childcares within your service area to participate in the program. Eligible facilities may apply for assistance at: [Water-Smart Program Website](#).

### **Get Ahead with Lead Testing: Join the Water-Smart Pilot Program for Public Water Systems**

MassDEP continues inviting all Community PWS to the *Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS* – a forward-thinking initiative designed to help water systems stay ahead of upcoming federal regulations.

Participating in the Pilot Program allows PWS to get ahead on their November 1, 2027 [LCRI Testing Offering Requirements](#) by leveraging the pre-existing Water-Smart Program. The Pilot Program:

- Offers valuable free lead testing to schools and childcare centers now,
- Fulfills future federal requirements early,
- Build community trust, and
- Access expert technical support at no cost.

**Don't wait for 2027—Be Proactive, get ahead today. For more information or to join the pilot program visit [Water-Smart \(Lead in School Drinking Water\) Pilot Program for Public Water Suppliers | Mass.gov](#), or email [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov) with the subject line: “Pilot Program for PWS.”**

## 12. PFAS Update

### What Do EPA's Proposed Changes to the MCLs Mean for PWS?

#### EPA's Proposal

On May 18th, the EPA published two proposed revisions to the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Rule. The revisions were published in the Federal Register, and written comments can be submitted until July 20, 2026. EPA expects to finalize the revisions by the end of the year.

The two proposed revisions are:

- Keeping the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt each for PFOS and PFOA. Rescinding the MCLs for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and the hazard index of these three plus PFBS.
- Allowing water systems to seek an exemption to the MCL compliance deadline of April 2029 for PFOA and PFOS for two additional years (to 2031). The exemption isn't permanent but allows systems additional time.

#### Massachusetts PWS

Rescinding the MCLs for PFHxS, PNFA, HFPO-DA and the Hazard Index mixture will not change the number of Massachusetts' PWS that will need to address PFAS because any PWS that exceeded one of the rescinded MCLs also exceeded the MCLs of 4 ppt for PFOS and/or PFOA. To see recent testing results: PWS PFAS testing results are available to the public on the [EEA data portal](#). Search under the contaminant group “PFAS”.

MassDEP began working with PWS that detected PFAS in their water since the state PFAS6 standard was established in 2020. PWS have made great progress in getting PFAS out of their drinking water. 97 water treatment facilities (WTFs) or additions to existing WTFs have been constructed and activated since 2020 (temporary and permanent systems). 12 small PWS were connected to a municipal water system and declassified as PWS. See the [storymap on the MassDEP PFAS webpage](#) for details.

But there is still much more that needs to be done. Approximately 162 PWS had a recent testing result exceeding the federal standards of 4 ppt for PFOS and/or PFOA. Note: this does not mean there will be a violation of the EPA MCLs, as a violation is based on a calculation of the running annual average.

95 of these 162 PWS are already working with MassDEP to address PFAS in their water. These 95 have: treatment currently under construction, have received a grant or loan, are working to interconnect with another PWS, have applied for permit, or are piloting treatment.

## 13. Drinking Water Trivia!

Tickle your brain and test your knowledge on drinking water related information. In each issue, we will ask 1-3 questions and provide the answers somewhere else in the newsletter to encourage your sleuthing skills.

**How much sea water can the human body safely consume?**

- A. 1 sip
- B. 1 cup
- C. 1 gallon
- D. None

Check out the other articles while looking for the answer. If you would like to send in a Trivia question or two, please email the question and answer to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject DWP Trivia.

## 14. Training Calendar

When you need training, please look at the [MassDEP Training Calendar for Public Water System Operators](#).

**Board of Certification Training Page and List of Approved Courses**

You may also want to go to the [Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities Operators Training Webpage](#) and view the approved education courses to sit for examination.

**Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar**

### **EPA Training: Cybersecurity Refresher**

Wednesday, June 17, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

EPA's Office of Water Emergency Response and Cybersecurity (OWERC) offers this refresher training to water and wastewater utilities to reinforce their foundational understanding of cybersecurity and how it applies to the water sector. [Register for the webinar: Cybersecurity Refresher](#)

### **EFCN: The Clean Water Act Puzzle**

Tuesday, June 23, 2026; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

In 1972, The Clean Water Act (CWA) was the first of the major environmental statute passed by Congress for enactment by the then fledgling Environmental Protection Agency. The wide-ranging statute covers a multitude of activities that were designed to work in unison to restore, maintain, and protect the nation's surface waters. Because of the expansiveness of the CWA, practitioners may only deal with a discreet portion (e.g., NPDES permitting) without understanding how that discreet portion fits into the objectives

of the overall Act – like pieces of a puzzle fitting together to create a big picture. [Register for the webinar: EFCN: The Clean Water Act Puzzle](#)

### **PFAS Treatment for Rural Water Treatment Systems: Practical Technologies, Operation, and Decision-Making**

Tuesday, June 23, 2026; 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This presentation provides a practical and operator-focused overview of PFAS management for rural water treatment systems, emphasizing real-world operational decision-making, regulatory awareness, sampling practices, and treatment selection. Common PFAS sources affecting rural systems, including firefighting foam applications, landfills, wastewater treatment plant effluent, biosolids land application, septic systems, stormwater runoff, and contaminated groundwater, are discussed along with key aspects of the U.S. EPA’s 2024 National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS, including monitoring requirements, reporting obligations, and MCLs. [Register for the webinar: PFAS Treatment for Rural Water Treatment Systems: Practical Technologies, Operation, and Decision-Making](#)

### **EPA Training: Cybersecurity Procurement Checklist Tool Training**

Thursday, June 25, 2026; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

EPA’s Office of Water Emergency Response and Cybersecurity (OWERC) will demonstrate how to use EPA’s Cybersecurity Procurement Evaluation Checklist for Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems to assess and compare cybersecurity-related vendors. [Register for the webinar: Cybersecurity Procurement Checklist Tool Training](#)

### **EPA 2026 National Cyber Drill: A Day without SCADA**

Wednesday, July 8, 2026; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join EPA for the 2026 National Cybersecurity Drill, “A Day without SCADA.” This year’s exercise will challenge drinking water and wastewater utilities to operate and maintain critical functions in an environment where telecommunications and internet access are unavailable or unreliable. The exercise is built around a simulated scenario in which cyber and/or physical incidents degrade or disable commercial telecommunications infrastructure, internet service providers, and associated systems. This exercise is designed to strengthen sector-wide resilience by testing operations under progressively degraded conditions. [Register for the webinar: National Cyber Drill: A Day without SCADA](#)

## **Trainings by Organization**

- **MassDEP**

### **Previous Cybersecurity Trainings now on YouTube:**

- [Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water Utilities](#)
- [Ransomware Experiences, Defense, and Response](#)

- [Environmental Finance Center Network Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [EPA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [Mass Rural Water Association Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [MWWA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [NEWWA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [Water ISAC Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [RCAP Solutions Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [AWWA Trainings, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- [New England Section of AWWA, Webinars and In-Person Trainings](#)
- **SkillWorks**
  - SkillWorks offers Board-approved home-study correspondence courses to satisfy license renewal continuing education requirements. All correspondence courses use paper-based study materials and exams. Course work is submitted by mail. Mailed returns are processed and graded within 24 hours at no extra charge. Courses with optional online exams are processed and graded automatically to provide exam results and a printable Certificate of Completion instantly. View the list of approved courses and purchase a course online at [Massachusetts SkillWorks Trainings](#) website.

## Training Refresher

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at [The MassDEP Drinking Water Training YouTube Playlist](#).

# 15. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

For information and alerts see [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\)](#).



## Biweekly Spotlight

### **Stay Vigilant** for Potential Targeted Cyber Activity Against U.S. Critical Infrastructure by Iranian-Affiliated Cyber Actors.

- Critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater systems (WWS) continues to be a potential target for malicious actors. During periods of geopolitical tension, the risk of cyber activity against infrastructure sectors often increases.
- In the case of Iran, we have already seen their state-funded group, known as CyberAv3ngers, attacking WWS by compromising default credentials in Unitronics devices.
- While threats connected to Iran remain a big concern, they are not the only risk. Cybercriminal groups and other nation-state actors around the world could take advantage of periods of global instability.
- Also, with the rise of automated software tools (Such as A.I.) your system can be found with very little effort. It is critical to act now and implement the best practices listed below.

## **Actions Requested!!**

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

- Strengthening cybersecurity practices can significantly reduce risk. Key steps include:
  - Identify and disconnect OT and ICS assets from the public internet. Adopt a deny-by-default allowlist policy to prevent unauthorized access if an asset's remote access cannot be removed.
  - Ensure devices and accounts are protected with strong, unique passwords (if not using multifactor authentication [MFA]) and immediately replace weak or default passwords.
  - Implement phishing-resistant MFA for accessing OT networks from any other network.
  - Apply the manufacturer's latest software patches for internet-facing systems to ensure protection against known vulnerabilities.
  - Prioritize monitoring user access logs for remote access to the OT network and for implementation of any firmware or configuration changes.
- Perform a free cybersecurity assessment for your system: MassDEP strongly encourages you to take advantage of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) free cybersecurity assessment program. This great initiative provides a thorough assessment of your system's cybersecurity posture, all virtually for your convenience. It's better that the EPA highlights potential attack vectors before a bad actor takes advantage of them. Apply here today: [EPA's Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program | US EPA](#)
- MassDEP DWP Self-Paced Course on Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water and Wastewater Systems in Massachusetts (1 TCH). Enroll Here for Free: [Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water and Wastewater Systems in Massachusetts](#)

**Grants and Fundings:** The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, in partnership with the MassDEP DWP, is offering grant funds of up to \$50,000 to small and disadvantaged community PWS. Details: [Public Water Suppliers Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program | Mass.gov](#).

## **16. *How To Subscribe to the In The Main Newsletter***

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

MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS. Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. To subscribe to the *In The Main Newsletter*, subscribe by completing the quick [ITM Newsletter Sign-Up Form](#). This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, visit to the [Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment Advisory Committee \("Section 70" Committee\) Homepage](#).

## **17. *Drinking Water Trivia! Answer***

Answer: D

Sea water contains more salt than what is processed by the human body. While a single sip may not be harmful, it isn't truly 'safe' as a single sip will spike the salt concentration in the bloodstream and needs to be diluted. The human body will draw water out of its cells to do this, which in turn furthers dehydration. Additionally, you can feel nauseous, discomfort or an upset stomach.