



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

## In the Main Newsletter – 06/30/2026

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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.



*USS Constitution from Andrew P. Puopolo. Junior Athletic Field, photo by Eric Cheung*

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Are you looking for past issues or topics in our *In the Main* newsletter?

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## 1. Attention: Upcoming Deadlines

PWS should be aware of the following deadlines. Refer to the relevant articles in this issue of *In the Main* for additional information.

- Due today, June 30, 2026: RRA and ERP Certification Statements
- Due tomorrow, July 1, 2026: Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR)
- Due tomorrow, July 1, 2026: Service Line Inventory Consumer Notice Certification Form

## 2. Deadline Today! RRA and ERP Certification for AWIA Round 2 Compliance

Community PWS have the following deadlines **today (June 30, 2026)** related to the American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Round 2 Compliance Deadlines.

- 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**. These Community PWS are also required to submit an updated ERP Compliance Checklist to MassDEP/DWP.

### 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.**

## 3. ATTENTION: Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) Are Due Tomorrow!

All **community** public water systems must prepare and deliver a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) by July 1. 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<sup>st</sup> or you risk compliance enforcement.

The deadline is **TOMORROW!** 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 end of day tomorrow, 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.

## 4. SUDC Grant Program renamed to SmaRT

### Name Change for Popular Grant Program

The Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities Grant (SUDC) has a new name! EPA recently informed MassDEP that the SUDC grant program will now be called the Small, Rural, and Tribal (SmaRT) Drinking Water Assistance Grant Program. The requirements for the grant have not changed: Public Water Systems must be Small, Underserved and Disadvantaged to be considered eligible under this grant program. EPA has updated their webpage accordingly: [Small, Rural, and Tribal Drinking Water Assistance Grant Program | US EPA](#). MassDEP will follow suit and will be updating our webpage and outreach materials over the next few weeks.

## 5. 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](#).

## 6. LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates

**DUE TOMORROW: Service Line Inventory (SLI) Consumer Notice (CN) Certification Form is due [tomorrow, 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.**

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

### Historical Report of Service Lines Installed in 160 Communities up to 1905

#### Does your PWS Know your Lead Installation History?

MassDEP/DWP was made aware of information in the [37<sup>th</sup> annual report of the State Board of Health \(BOH\) of Massachusetts](#), released in 1905, which could be a resource for systems to use to determine their lead installation history. The Massachusetts State BOH Annual Report documented to work that the State BOH conducted each year, including water supply information, food and drug inspections, reports of diseases and infective disease outbreaks, and other information regarding public health.

In the 1905 annual report, on page 195 (page 207 in the PDF document), this report covers an investigation/inventory of materials used for service pipes (service lines) in Massachusetts by 160 communities. This investigation was ordered at the time due to rising cases of lead poisoning from the

consumption of water drawn through lead service pipes, with multiple lead poisoning cases occurring in Norwood in 1904 being mentioned directly in the report.

Does your PWS have a history of lead or lead-lined service lines being installed? Does your PWS have a lack of early service lines installation records, and therefore cannot confirm your lead history? Reviewing the 1905 Massachusetts State BOH Report may be a first step in determining if your PWS has a history of installing lead, and where older lead service lines could be. [Visit the BOH 1905 annual report here](#). If your PWS's community is mentioned in this report, your community may have similar records around this time documenting a change in service line material standards.

## 7. 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, 1,342 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 1,174 (87%) of participating facilities are within economically disadvantaged communities. To date, 1,222 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 816 (67%) 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."**

## 8. PFAS Update

### Massachusetts has its 100<sup>th</sup> PFAS Treatment System Online!

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, MassDEP issued its 100<sup>th</sup> activation approval to a Public Water Supplier for a treatment system to remove PFAS. The permit was issued to the Tri-Town Water Board for the new Tri-Town Regional Water Treatment Plant at Great Pond in Braintree. It is a surface water treatment plant serving the communities of Braintree, Randolph, and Holbrook. It was constructed with \$95 million in financing through the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. Treatment processes include polymer and PACL addition for coagulation of raw water, dissolved air floatation for removal of larger, coagulated solids, granular activated carbon filtration for removal of PFAS and smaller, finer solids, and chlorine addition for disinfection, and pH adjustment for corrosion control. The regional facility, with a design capacity of 12.5 million-gallons-per-day, meets all drinking water standards, and improves the aesthetic quality of drinking water for the three towns.

See the [storymap on our PFAS webpage](#) for details of all the construction projects and consolidation projects being done by PWS to address PFAS.

## 9. 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.

### Droughts are considered to have ended after a single downpour?

- A. True
- B. False

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.

## 10. Training Calendar

When you need training, please look at the [MassDEP Training Calendar for Public Water System Operators](#) or refer to the resources on the webpage [Drinking Water Training](#).

### 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

### **Ask Me Anything! State Revolving Fund (SRF) Technical Assistance & Open Office Hours: Shrinking Capitalization Grants and the Future of SRFs**

Wednesday, July 8, 2026; 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Ask Me Anything SRF Office Hours will expand your knowledge and enhance your ability to navigate the SRFs. These sessions are tailored for state agencies, utility operators, and stakeholders who support water infrastructure projects. Each session will feature a specific theme, providing clarity, strategies, and practical insights for preparing and managing an SRF funded project. Participants can attend all sessions or select those that best meet their needs. [Register for the webinar: Ask Me Anything! State Revolving Fund \(SRF\) Technical Assistance & Open Office Hours: Shrinking Capitalization Grants and the Future of SRFs](#)

### **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](#)

## 11. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

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



### **Biweekly Spotlight**

#### **Why Asset Lists and Network Maps are Critical.**

When it comes to cyberattacks, cybersecurity experts always say it's not a matter of if, but when. We all do our best to delay this and make it harder for criminals to succeed by shoring up our defenses, focusing on our resilience, and keeping our ERP/IRP ready to go (and up to date!). In the end, though, ultimately, we may contend with the aftermath sooner than we would like.

- **Network maps and asset lists** are two key components of a properly prepared, up-to-date PWS. These documents enable faster forensics, recovery, and further network hardening. It's important to make them 'living documents' that are updated whenever something changes on your SCADA network and on any network it interacts with.

- Network maps are a graphical way to visualize a network. From a high level, you can quickly see how devices are connected and how data can travel.
- Asset lists (also known as Asset Inventories) are listings of devices on your network. This can be a simple list of device names, along with technical details such as network address, device type, software version, model, and so forth.
- Attackers often damage or modify devices, knowing where the 'choke points' are, without physically walking around your facility, is critical for a proper, efficient response. Also, knowing which version of software was running on devices that may have been wiped or 'bricked' will be quite critical during recovery.
- In the field, we have been told many times that asset lists and network maps exist; however, only the SCADA integrator has them. We highly recommend that PWS keep copies of these for themselves. In the event an integrator has a large number of PWS clients who get hit with the same attack, and all require access to these documents, it can slow things down a great deal. Additionally, integrators are also prime targets for cyber attackers.
- Not sure where to start? Contact your SCADA integrator for assistance with your network map and asset inventory.
- Trying to recover from a cybersecurity event without a network map and asset list can be like trying to find your way out of a dark maze without a flashlight. It can be done, but it's not going to be pleasant, as it will require a great deal of additional effort!
- Stay vigilant, get a cybersecurity assessment done if you haven't yet, and keep those asset lists and inventories updated, and ensure that secure, accessible backup copies are maintained separately from the operational network, so they remain available during a cyber incident.

## Resources

- Free EPA **Cybersecurity assessment/evaluation** program: [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. The goal of this grant is to support PWSs in improving their cybersecurity defense, mitigating the risks of cyber-attacks, and enhancing overall resiliency and compliance. Details: [Public Water Suppliers Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program | Mass.gov](#).

## 12. 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](#).

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

Answer: False

Droughts are measured by the amount of moisture in the soil. Rainfall will provide some drought relief, but that water is more likely to run off into drainage channels rather than soak into the ground. Sustained rainfall would be needed to recharge groundwater levels to end a drought.