



MassDEP / Drinking Water Program

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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.



French King Bridge, Gill, MA Photo by: Eric Cheung

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

2023-07-14

1. EPA Updates Funding Tool for Source Water Protection
2. Getting Ready for the LCRR
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Are you looking for past issues or topics in our *In the Main* newsletter?

Use the search function in the Statehouse Archives at: <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>

EPA Updates Funding Tool for Source Water Protection

EPA released an updated version of the [Funding Integration Tool for Source Water \(FITS\)](#), a web-based, interactive tool released in 2021. FITS is a one-stop-shop tool that explains how users can integrate various federal funding sources to support activities that protect sources of drinking water. The updates include addition of three existing federal funding programs that can be leveraged to implement source water protection and improvement activities: EPA's [Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants program](#), U.S. Forest Service's [Forest Legacy Program](#), and Natural Resources Conservation Service's and U.S. Forest Service's [Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership program](#).

The tool now provides relevant information on **fourteen** federal funding sources and outlines how these federal funding sources may be leveraged by states, tribes, and territories to implement different steps of source water protection planning (e.g., delineation of a source water protection area) and implementation (e.g., protective or

restorative management activities on the ground). The tool continues to provide tips for long-term cross-program planning and examples from states on how these funding sources have been used in the past. More information is posted on EPA's [Source Water Protection webpage](#), including a 5-minute video tutorial and more information on the updated tool.

Getting Ready for the LCRR

Assistance for Small Community Water Systems and Non-Transient Non-Community Systems - Service Line Planning Program

Please remember that small systems can apply now to the small systems grant for the development of their service line inventories!

This program is available for PWS serving a population of less than 10,000. Small 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 [MassDEP Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan Technical Assistance Survey](#). PWS will be contacted, and technical assistance will be provided virtually or in person, depending on need and resources.

For more information about this grant, please contact program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

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, 550 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 338 (61%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 422 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 288 (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-Q2XifkK4l58x4GDtYrltvpKIKUAhSxpw9pSZtA/exec

Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Childcare Facilities Webinar! MassDEP, with its partners the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and the MA Clean Water Trust will host a webinar on July 26, 2023 to inform schools, childcare providers, and any other interested parties on the issue of lead in drinking water, the Expanded Assistance Program, and the School Water Improvement Grants (SWIG) Program. Please share the registration information below with any interested schools or childcare providers in your service area.

Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Childcare Facilities Webinar

Wednesday, July 26, 2023 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5505460761066154496>

For additional information on the program and all lead testing in schools and EECFs see the Story Map at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7f58049174f84073bae7d7bcaa159ca7/> or contact program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject line Lead in Schools Program.

PFAS Update

EPA Announces New Framework to Prevent Unsafe New PFAS from Entering the Market

On 6/29/2023 EPA announced a framework that outlines an approach for reviewing new PFAS and new uses of PFAS. The framework is meant to ensure that before PFAS are allowed to enter the marketplace, EPA undertakes an extensive evaluation to ensure they pose no harm to human health and the environment.

Read more about the framework here:

<https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca/framework-addressing-new-pfas-and>

Massachusetts PWS and PFAS

Currently there are 1,575 active PWS in the State of which 1,417 were required to test for PFAS (have their own water source).

1,171 PWS (80%) took advantage of the free sampling program which ended June 30, 2022. 95% of the population are drinking water from Community PWS that currently meets the PFAS6 drinking water standard.

170 PWS detected one or more finished water sources above the PFAS6 MCL of 20 ppt. See Tab 3 of the [PFAS storymap](#) for details.

A total of 38 new water treatment facilities or additions to existing WTFs have been constructed and activated by our PWS to remove PFAS (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>

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

FREE AWWA India Webinar: Improving Energy Efficiency in Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants

Wednesday, July 19, 2023; 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. ET; webinar

Speakers will focus on the needs and means of improving efficiency in water infrastructure through better management practices, the use of automation, rationalization of energy usage, and energy conservation. The presentation will be delivered to you by industry experts with national and international experience on these topics. [Register now.](#)

Managing Your Water System into the Future

Thursday, July 20, 2023; 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This free workshop provides an overview of skills and information to help manage your water and/or wastewater system successfully now and into the future, including financial planning and benchmarking and workforce planning. EFCN's free virtual trainings are designed for managers, owners and operators of water systems serving less than 10,000 people, or wastewater systems with an average daily flow of less than 1 million gallons. People invited to attend include anyone who makes decisions for your water and wastewater utilities, including mayors, finance officers, utility managers, DPW directors, municipal leaders, tribal council members, clerks, consultants, and technical assistance providers. [Register now.](#)

CWSRF Funding Process Virtual Workshop Series: Applying for SRF Funding

Thursday, July 20, 2023; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join experts from the Environmental Finance Center Network for a no-cost webinar series on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). This monthly series is intended to help you better understand the CWSRF funding process. Sessions will be held on the third Thursday of every month. This webinar gives an overview of how to apply for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) funding. We will discuss what goes into an application and ways you can make your application more competitive. We intend for participants to walk away from this webinar with a clear understanding of the general application process and concrete steps they can take to put together a competitive application. [Register now.](#)

Operator Certification: Preliminary Treatment

Wednesday, July 26, 2023; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join the EFC Network for this webinar series designed to help small wastewater system operators pass their certification exams. The series starts with a 1-hour overview of study tips and test preparation techniques. Each subsequent 1-hour webinar will focus on a single topic typically found in Level 1 and Level 2 exams including, but not limited to: Collection Systems, Treatment Overviews, Disinfection and Solids Handling Basics, NPDES Regulations, Wastewater Math, Safety, Sampling and Reporting and other general wastewater topics. Each session will include sample questions and a short Q and A period. This session focuses on preliminary treatment processes which are designed to protect wastewater treatment operations by removing materials that may otherwise clog or damage pumps and other plant equipment. Preliminary treatment occurs at the beginning of the treatment train and facilitates effective downstream processes. We will discuss typical preliminary treatment components and processes, including flow measurement, screening, coarse solids removal, grit removal, odor control, pre-aeration and emergency storage. [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!



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.

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: Cybersecurity Assessment and Emergency Response Planning

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program (DWP) considers cybersecurity to be a **vital and routine** part of Emergency Response Plan (ERP) requirements pursuant to 310 CMR 22.04(13) and **expects all PWS to perform a cybersecurity assessment as part of their emergency planning responsibilities**. See MassDEP/DWP April 28, 2022, notice to PWS on ERP compliance at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/notice-to-pws-emergency-response-plan-erp-checklist-required-to-document-erp-compliance/download>.

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

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

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

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:

Joint Cybersecurity Advisory on Enhanced Monitoring to Detect APT Activity Targeting Outlook Online

- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released a joint Cybersecurity Advisory (CSA), [Enhanced Monitoring to Detect APT Activity Targeting Outlook Online](#), to provide guidance to agencies and critical infrastructure organizations on enhancing monitoring in Microsoft Exchange Online environments.

- In June 2023, a federal civilian agency observed unexpected events in its Microsoft 365 audit logs. After reporting the incident to Microsoft, the activity was deemed malicious.
- Microsoft is tracking this activity as Storm-0558 with a nexus to China that focuses on espionage, data theft, and credential access. The goal of this CSA is to enhance organizational cybersecurity posture and position organizations to detect similar malicious activity via implementing the listed logging recommendations.
- Read more [here](#).

Ransomware Awareness – The Criminal Ransomware Economy Operates a Professional Business Model

- Help Net Security has written an article discussing the consequences of the service-oriented ransomware industry's growth.
- Due to the intense profitability of the industry, criminals have reproduced a legal economy with major ransomware groups using third parties and subcontractors while offering a menu of services to criminal consumers.
- [Full article](#)

Upcoming Trainings

Sophos Webinar: The State of Ransomware in 2023

Thursday, July 20, 2023; 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

In this webinar, experts will provide insights into the reality of ransomware from 3,000 IT professionals working on the frontline. Participants will learn what's changed over the last year, and where the new challenges lie. Topics covered include common root causes of attacks; how often cybercriminals succeed in encrypting data – and how often organizations pay to get it back; ransom payments and ransomware recovery costs: who pays and how much; and how experiences differ based on organization revenue. [Register now](#)

FEMA Webinar: Enhancing Hazard Risk Assessments - Discover the Hazus Inventory National Database and National Structures Inventory 2022

Thursday, July 27, 2023; 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Join FEMA's Hazus Quarterly Webinar, featuring a guest speaker, Nick Lutz, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Nick is an Economist with the Hydrologic Engineering Center in USACE and is the lead of the National Structure Inventory. The webinar will explore the new Hazus Inventory National Database and the National Structures Inventory (NSI) 2022 open dataset. These powerful resources aim to make hazard risk assessments and mitigation planning more efficient and effective. [Register now](#)

FEMA Webinar: Extreme Heat Preparedness

Wednesday, August 16, 2023; 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET; webinar

In support of FEMA's first ever “#SummerReady” campaign, the agency will host two webinars this summer to help stakeholders promote preparedness and resilience against extreme heat events. The webinars will highlight the collective efforts across several federal agencies to address this issue and identify specific types of hazard mitigation projects that can effectively combat extreme heat. [Register now](#)

MassDEP Cybersecurity Reminders:

- 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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