



MassDEP / Drinking Water Program

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

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

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



Forest Park, Springfield, MA Photo by: Eric Cheung

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

2023-07-28

1. 2023 TNC and NTNC Water Quality Reports Available for Download July 31, 2023
2. EPA CREAT Training Opportunity
3. MassDEP Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan Small Systems Assistance Program
4. From Our Intern: Oceanic Pollution
5. Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update
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8. Supply Chain Reminders



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>

2023 TNC and NTNC Water Quality Reports Available for Download July 31, 2023

Every July MassDEP makes available water quality reports, commonly called Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR), for all NTNC and TNC systems. Only community systems make their own CCRs. Consumers who drink your water have a right to know what is in their water and to be able to make choices according to their health concerns.

The 2023 TNC and NTNC reports will be available for download beginning Monday, July 31st, 2023. The reports can be found on the PWS documents search page at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-water-supplier-document-search>. Using the pull-down arrows, look for either your PWS name or ID number and click on it. Then click “Retrieve Documents” button. Scroll down a little and you will see info about your system and several documents ready for you to download. Select “Water Quality Report” and a PDF of your report will pop up. Print it. Sign it. And then post in conspicuous places around your establishment for your customers to read. Water vending machines might find it helpful to print many copies and make them available for your customers to take with them.

You do not need to send a copy back to MassDEP. During site visits staff or maybe your board of health will be looking for these posted documents. It is a state requirement to post these for your customers to review. If you should find any inconsistencies in your report promptly contact the program.director-dwp@mass.gov, subject: Non-Community Water Quality Report.

EPA CREAT Training Opportunity

EPA is offering technical assistance opportunities to a small number of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utility owners and operators in assessing climate change threats. The exercise is designed to help utility owners and operators use the [Climate Resilience Evaluation Tool \(CREAT\)](#) to assess their risk from climate change. Developed under the EPA's [Climate Ready Water Utilities \(CRWU\)](#) initiative, CREAT can help you collect data to assess risks and develop adaptation plans from impacts due to extreme weather events like extreme heat, storm surge, flooding, and hurricane strikes. Interested utilities are asked to work remotely with EPA staff for up to 35 to 40 hours over a 4 to 6-month period. At the end of this exercise, you will know how to use CREAT to assess threat scenarios, develop a consequences matrix for critical assets, and produce a report with adaptation options. To see how the tool has assisted water sector utilities across the nation, visit the CRWU [Case Studies Map](#).

If you are interested in learning more about this exercise or participating in the program, contact Aliza Furneaux (Furneaux.aliza@epa.gov) and CC Sharon Lee (sharon.k.lee@mass.gov) as soon as possible. The application deadline is August 15, 2023.

From Our Intern: Ocean Pollution

by Brianna Bowlby, DWP Intern

Plastic oceanic pollution poses a severe threat to marine life, as well as cause the spread of toxins that can affect human health. Most oceanic pollution cannot be seen, instead it is in the form of micro degraded plastic particles that are found upon the surface of the ocean. According to research, these micro pollutants cover an area of 16 million square kilometers. It is estimated that 14 million tons of plastic per year make their way into marine environments. Some of these plastics become wedged within the digestive tracks of marine organisms while others tangle around animals, both of which can cause severe injuries and death. These pollutants also threaten food safety and human health by negatively impacting endocrine systems and are known to be carcinogenic.

Most of these plastic pollutants are the result of packaging and fast food dining supplies. Approximately 1,024,470 plastic bottles are collected by the Ocean Conservancy each year. According to the United Nations Environment Program, plastic pollution causes 75 billion dollars worth of environmental harm annually. This environmental harm affects both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. It is estimated that 13 billion dollars of environmental damage is directly tied to marine ecosystems.

Some action has begun taking place to try and halt the rapidly growing issue of environmental degradation from plastic. In 2015, a federal law went into place that banned plastic microbeads in products, and in California many cities banned polystyrene foam from being used in food containers. However, the fight for more action is not over.

A majority of plastic pollution is still due to lack of proper recycling and trash programs. Many countries around the world lack the infrastructure needed to prevent this pollution from reaching the oceans.

<https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/marine-plastic-pollution> <https://www.asyousow.org/our-work/circular-economy/plastic-pollution>

MassDEP Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan Small Systems Assistance Program

Who is eligible for assistance from the SLI and LSLRP Assistance Program?

Small Community (COM) or Non-Transient, Non-Community (NTNC) Public Water System (PWS) that serve less than 10,000 individuals, and would like assistance developing your Service Line Inventory (SLI) and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (LSLRP).

Is there any cost associated with the Assistance Program?

No, the SLI and LSLRP Assistance Program is FREE for participants.

How do PWS apply to participate in the Assistance Program?

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 survey form located at <https://mass.gov/forms/massdep-service-line-inventory-and-lead-service-line-replacement-plan-technical-assistance-survey>.

What assistance does the SLI and LSLRP Assistance Program provide?

The Assistance Program provides Small PWS with assistance for (1) Service Line Inventory and (2) Lead Service Line Replacement Plans for the upcoming LCRR.

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.

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.

Where should PWS go for more information?

For more information about lead in drinking water and MassDEP's efforts to address these contaminants, see: <https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water>.

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.

Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

\$58 Million Dollars in Funding Announced to Reduce Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities

MassDEP joined EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper, US Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congresswoman Katherine Clark, USEPA Regional Administrator David Cash and EPA Assistant Administrator Radhika Fox at an event at the Kennedy Center in Charlestown this week to announce \$58 million in federal grant funding to protect children from lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities across the country. This funding is through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) and can be used for testing and remediation.

Massachusetts will receive approximately \$1.8M of this funding to continue our efforts to test for and remove sources of lead in drinking water in schools and childcares.

For more information see the press release at <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-58-million-reduce-lead-schools-and-childcare>

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

Move the Dial on Your Utility's DEI Program, Part I

Wednesday, August 9, 2023; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

In this 2-part series, attendees will hear from utility leaders on learn how to adapt and implement strategies to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion at your utility, regardless of size. In this part of the series, speakers will share the importance of having an education and communication strategy before beginning outreach to the community

for workforce development or launching a DEI initiative. They will identify key areas, objectives, and goals to include in overall communication strategies to advance DEI in the utility. FREE for Member/\$25 Nonmember. [Register now](#).

PFAS Destruction: Updates on Two Technologies

Thursday, August 10, 2023; 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Please join us to learn more about two commercially available PFAS destruction technologies: Michael Crisenbery, Clean Harbors will present PFAS Incineration: Performance Test Results. Michael will discuss the full-scale testing of PFAS destruction at its hazardous waste incinerator in Utah in 2021 and the measured results. The testing included sampling and analysis for 49 target PFAS analytes in incinerator process waste feed streams, treatment chemical feed streams, solid and liquid process residue streams, and incinerator stack gases. Michael will also discuss Clean Harbor's subsequent work with EPA, DoD and other regulatory agencies David Trueba and Trevor Whitson, Revive will present about Revive's PFAS Annihilator™, a technology deployed at commercial scale in Michigan. It uses supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) and is destroying PFAS in landfill leachate by treating the hyper-concentrate resulting from foam fractionation treatment of the raw leachate. Preparation is also underway for treatment of AFFF concentrate and AFFF-contaminated rinse waters from state AFFF take back programs and other AFFF cleanout projects. David and Trevor will also share lessons learned in working with commercial and regulatory partners and in optimizing operation for different PFAS-contaminated aqueous matrices. FREE. [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!

2023-07-28

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.

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 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](#).

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:

Report – CISA Releases Analysis of FY22 Risk and Vulnerability Assessments

- CISA has released an analysis and infographic detailing the findings from the 121 Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (RVAs) conducted across multiple critical infrastructure sectors in fiscal year 2022 (FY22). [Full article](#)

Threat Awareness – Nitrogen Malware Propagates via Search Engine Ads to Conduct Ransomware Attacks

A recently discovered initial access malware family dubbed Nitrogen exploits Google and Bing search advertisements to promote fake software webpages that can infect victims with Cobalt Strike and ransomware payloads, according to security researchers at Sophos. [Full article](#)

Upcoming Trainings

EPA Webinar: Water Technical Assistance Informational Briefing

Monday, July 31, 2023; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

EPA's Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) efforts provide free hands-on support for communities to assess their water needs, identify potential solutions, and apply for federal funding to address their water challenges. Join EPA for an informational webinar about WaterTA and available resources to help ensure every community has essential water and wastewater services. Participants will receive additional information on how to access the webinar prior to the event. [Register now](#)



Cybersecurity Assessment Training for Circuit Riders and Technical Assistance Providers

August 16, 2023, 2:00 - 4:30pm ET

EPA will conduct two separate virtual training sessions for circuit riders and technical assistance providers. Attendees of this training will gain a better understanding of how to use EPA's Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool (WCAT) to conduct cybersecurity assessments at water and wastewater utilities. Both training sessions will contain the same information. [Register Here](#)

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



EPA -Supply Chain Resilience Assessments

- EPA has developed an assessment process in which it will work individually with water and wastewater systems to identify their supply chain vulnerabilities and provide recommendations for increasing resilience.
- The assessments will focus on the following areas: 1) chemical delivery, storage, inventory, and usage; 2) contracting and financing; 3) mutual aid agreements; and 4) operational flexibility.
- Contact EPA for more information on these assessments or to indicate interest in participating. (Matt Umberg, umberg.matt@epa.gov)

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](#)
-