



MassDEP / Drinking Water Program

100 Cambridge Street – 9<sup>th</sup> Floor; Boston, MA 02114

[Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto: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](https://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.



Provincetown, Photo by: Anonymous

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

2025-08-08

1. Deadlines, New Templates, Forms, Guidance, & More
2. New Engineering Assistance Program for Small and Disadvantaged Public Water Suppliers
3. Updated Fact Sheet: Drinking Water at Local Fairs
4. LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates
5. New Updates on the EPA and AWWA LCRI Litigation
6. FREE Self-Paced Basic Drinking Water Treatment Class at Bristol Community College – Fall 2025
7. Funding Resources for Public Water Systems
8. TNC's Seasonal Updates
9. Water Smart
10. Drinking Water Trivia!
11. Training Calendar
12. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!
13. 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>



## Deadlines, New Templates, Forms, Guidance, & More

### NEW! Homeowner and Tenant Sampling for Lead in Drinking Water Flowchart Resource

MassDEP/DWP has released a new resource for PWS and consumers called the [Homeowner and Tenant Sampling for Lead in Drinking Water Flowchart](#). This is a flowchart series, where the purpose is to assist consumers in

determining who to contact to test their drinking water for lead and how to act after receiving lead sample results, including multiple MassDEP and EPA resources for good drinking water tips. This flowchart series covers consumers that are served by a PWS, or a private well. It also has charts that vary if the consumer is a homeowner or a tenant (renter). If you receive questions from consumers about lead in drinking water, and how to determine the best way to act to reduce lead exposure, you can direct consumers to these flowcharts as a resource.

## NEW! LCRR Tier 1 24 Hour PN Resources

MassDEP/DWP has released new resources for PWS and consumers regarding the LCRR mandated Tier 1 24 Hour Public Notice. These new resources include an instructional video and Q&As for PWS and for consumers. Please see the article “LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates” for additional information about these new resources.

---

## New Engineering Assistance Program for Small and Disadvantaged Public Water Suppliers

---

### Developing Engineering and Design Plans to Help Small and Disadvantaged PWS Obtain Financial Assistance

The New Engineering and Design (E&D) Plans Grant Program will assist small and disadvantaged Public Water Systems (PWS) develop engineering and design plans to address emerging contaminants.

MassDEP solicited proposals through a Request for Quotes (RFQ) from qualified environmental engineering consulting firms and the following two firms were contracted:

- Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated; and
- Fuss & O'Neill

Both of these firms have significant experience with (1) the technical/engineering evaluation of drinking water systems; (2) the design of emerging contaminant mitigation systems; (3) US EPA and MassDEP regulatory requirements; and (4) US EPA's Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements.

The design plans these firms assist in developing will enable small PWS to apply for financial assistance, if an eligible entity, from the State Revolving Fund to implement a project; qualify for an Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grant offered through the MassDEP DWP; and/or proceed with other financial support opportunities. Future funding opportunities, EC-SDC and SRF funding, are all subject to eligibility requirements and availability of funding. For example, for-profit NTNCs are not eligible for SRF or EC-SDC funding.

This grant provides up to \$1 million in total funds and provides up to \$75,000 in engineering and design costs per project. Eligible systems for this grant must be:

- Community PWS (publicly- or privately-owned), Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC), or a non-profit Transient Non-Community (TNC) water system (*please note non-profit systems will receive higher funding priority than eligible for-profit systems*).
- Small (serving less than 10,000 population)
- Located in a disadvantaged community (as defined by the [Clean Water Trust's Disadvantaged Community Program](#))

### What services will be provided?

The engineering and consulting firms will assist PWS with:

- 
- Reviewing PWS records to confirm emerging contaminant issues
  - Identifying options available to the PWS to address the contamination and recommending the most viable option
  - Developing an engineering and design plan to address emerging contaminants (This grant does not include piloting costs)
  - Identifying necessary permits (This grant does not include permit fees)
  - Monthly reporting and invoicing.

### Getting Started

Is your PWS interested in applying for this grant program? Fill out the **E&D Plans Grant Application** listed [here](#).

For more information on this program please visit the E&D Plans Grant Program webpage at [www.mass.gov/info-details/engineering-and-design-planning-for-emerging-contaminants-in-small-and-disadvantaged-communities](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/engineering-and-design-planning-for-emerging-contaminants-in-small-and-disadvantaged-communities), or reach out to the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject: Engineering and Design Assistance Grant, and CC Adam Horwitz ([Adam.J.Horwitz@mass.gov](mailto:Adam.J.Horwitz@mass.gov)).

---

## Updated Fact Sheet: Drinking Water at Local Fairs

The Drinking Water Program's *Drinking Water at Local Fairs* fact sheet has been updated and is posted on MassDEP's website at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-information-for-boards-of-health>. For more information contact [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

---

## LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates

### NEW! Homeowner and Tenant Sampling for Lead in Drinking Water Flowchart Resource

MassDEP/DWP has released a new resource for PWS and consumers called the [Homeowner and Tenant Sampling for Lead in Drinking Water Flowchart](#). This is a flowchart series, where the purpose is to assist consumers in determining who to contact to test their drinking water for lead and how to act after receiving lead sample results, including multiple MassDEP and EPA resources for good drinking water tips. This flowchart series covers consumers that are served by a PWS, or a private well. It also has charts that vary if the consumer is a homeowner or a tenant (renter).

If you receive questions from consumers about lead in drinking water, and how to determine the best way to act to reduce lead exposure, you can direct consumers to these flowcharts as a resource.

### New LCRR Tier 1 24 Hour PN Resources

MassDEP/DWP has released new resources for PWS and consumers regarding the LCRR mandated Tier 1 24 Hour Public Notice. See below for all new resources:

1. **LCRR 24 Hour Tier 1 Public Notice Video Instructions:** [https://youtu.be/h\\_jog5oRxNw?si=MsrTP3z4z6KAInEM](https://youtu.be/h_jog5oRxNw?si=MsrTP3z4z6KAInEM)

This video explains all Tier 1 24 Hour PN requirements and walks PWS through the process to distribute your Tier 1 PN within the allotted 24-hour period.

2. [MassDEP DWP Tier 1 Public Notice \(PN\) for Lead Action Level Exceedance \(ALE\) Public Water System \(PWS\) Questions and Answers](#)

This is a FAQ for PWS, based on the questions received most often from PWS regarding the Tier 1 PN. This FAQ is available on the [MassDEP Lead and Copper Rule Revisions webpage](#).

---

3. [MassDEP DWP Tier 1 Public Notice \(PN\) for Lead Action Level Exceedance \(ALE\) Consumers Questions and Answers.](#)

This is a FAQ that is consumer focused. PWS can either share this FAQ or use it to help formulate answers to consumers about the Tier 1 PN. This FAQ is available on the [Consumer's Frequently Asked Questions about the LCRR Service Line Inventory webpage](#), hosting multiple questions to help consumers understand the LCRR and it's requirements.

4. **Coming soon! New NTNC and Small Community (1 or Few Buildings) Tier 1 PN Templates**

MassDEP DWP will be releasing new Lead Tier 1 PN Templates which can be used by NTNC and Small COM Systems, such as those serving condominiums or apartment buildings. The current general Tier 1 PN template language is geared towards the average town/municipality PWS consumer, which can cause a smaller PWS to spend time correcting language to be specific to their system cutting into an already limited amount of time to distribute these notices. Keep an eye out for these new templates, when they are released, it will be announced here!

**Remember to send out your 2025 Service Line Inventory (SLI) Consumer Notices (CNs) this year!**

This is a reminder for PWS, if your PWS has lead, GRR, and/or unknown service lines in your SLI, you must send out SLI CNs **annually**. This is a new recurring requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). 2025 SLI CNs must be distributed by December 31, 2025! Templates are available on the [Lead and Copper Forms and Templates webpage](#), which were updated June 2025.

If your system has identified any unknowns, or replaced any lead/GRR service lines, your PWS is encouraged to submit an updated SLI a few days before distributing your consumer notices, so when your system certified their distribution next year, MassDEP has an accurate, updated SLI to compare your certification form to. This limits the back and forth required to review your certification form and expedites your form approval.

**MassDEP/DWP Contacts**

For all questions on LCR, LCRR and LCRI, please contact the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

---

## New Updates on the EPA and AWWA LCRI Litigation

In December 2024, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) filed a Petition for Review of the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) in the U.S. Court of Appeals, due to concerns with the feasibility of implementing the LCRI. These concerns included the approach to replacement of lead service lines on private property, the affordability challenges for consumers, and deadline of replacement. [More information on AWWA's stance is available here.](#)

Since this petition, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has filed multiple extensions to review the LCRI and prepare for this litigation due to the change in presidential administration. **This week (August 2025), the US EPA has released a statement on their decision to go forward with defending the LCRI during this litigation.** More information will be forthcoming in the next year (2025-2026) as the litigation continues.

**Public Water Systems should note that the litigation of the LCRI does not impact the compliance date of the LCRI at this time.** MassDEP DWP continues to prepare systems to be compliant with the full LCRI rule by the compliance date of November 1, 2027, unless further information is released from EPA which departs from what is included in the final LCRI released in October 2024.

**See the full statement from EPA below:**



*“Under EPA’s Powering the Great American Comeback initiative, the agency is committed to ensuring that all Americans can rely on clean and safe water—including by reducing exposure to lead in drinking water. During the first Trump Administration, EPA laid the groundwork for strengthening standards addressing lead in water by issuing the 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. There are key components of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions being implemented today. The 2024 Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) builds on this strong foundation.*

*In February, the courts granted a request by the Department of Justice (DOJ), on behalf of EPA, to place the current litigation of the LCRI on hold in order to provide new EPA leadership an opportunity to review the underlying rule. DOJ is now moving forward with the process of defending the rule. At the same time, EPA will develop new tools and information to support practical implementation flexibilities and regulatory clarity. The agency will announce next steps in the coming months.*

*Additionally, EPA’s free Water Technical Assistance program is available to help drinking water systems identify, plan for, and replace lead pipes in the communities they serve. EPA’s funding and financing programs can help reduce the cost of lead pipe replacement projects and thereby reduce costs to customers.”*

---

## FREE Self-Paced Basic Drinking Water Treatment Class at Bristol Community College – Fall 2025

MassDEP Drinking Water Program – in partnership with UMass Amherst, Bristol Community College, and Massachusetts Rural Water Association – is offering a FREE self-paced Basic Treatment pre-requisite training class worth 4 college credits. This class is approved by the Board of Certification for Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities (the Board) to prepare students to take the T2 Drinking Water Treatment exam. The class will run during the Fall 2025 semester at Bristol Community College (9/8/25 – 12/16/25) for approximately 25 students.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Topics include (but are not limited to) the principles of hydrology associated with groundwater and surface water supply management, the hydrologic cycle, precipitation type and measurement, aquifer types and groundwater flow measurements, surface water flow measurements, and surface water and well sampling. Students will also study source water supplies and protection, regulations, physical and chemical treatment processes, and operator safety.

**TEACHING PROCEDURE:** This is a **self-paced, online** class. The class will be taught on an eLearning platform, and all instructional content will be available on this platform. Additionally, textbooks will be provided for all students. Each week, there will be approximately 3 hours of lecture content, 3 hours of laboratory exercises, and additional hours for reading the textbook and reviewing other required instructional material. The entire class will take approximately 90 hours throughout the Fall semester. Students will earn 4 college credits upon successful completion of the class and will be eligible to sit for the T2 Drinking Water Treatment exam.

If you are interested in taking this class, please send a letter of interest and/or a resume to Robert Rak at Bristol Community College, at [Robert.Rak@bristolcc.edu](mailto:Robert.Rak@bristolcc.edu), Subject: Interested in Bristol Community College Basic Drinking Water Treatment Class. Minimum qualifications include, but are not limited to, an interest in a drinking water career, a high school diploma or GED (or close to completing), and 17 years or older. **Interest emails from potential students will be reviewed and accepted in the order which they are received until all class spots are filled. There are approximately 25 available spots in the class.** Registration and sign-up instructions will be sent after evaluating all inquires. Please contact Robert Rak or the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject: Bristol Community College Basic Drinking Water Treatment Class, with any questions.

---

## Funding Resources for Public Water Systems

A variety of new potential funding resources have been added to MassDEP's [Capacity Development Webpage](#). See the following list of new opportunities below:

### **Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN) Funding Tables by State**

EFCN is a university- and non-profit-based organization that develops innovative solutions to difficult financial issues of environmental protection and environmental infrastructure. The EFCN strives for sustainable change built around maintaining and providing funding for clean, safe water. With cutting-edge resources, hands-on training, and free professional services, involved communities can protect their critical environmental resources. Some of their most meaningful initiatives include building technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity for small water systems, expanding the water workforce, Municipal Online Stormwater Training, and serving tribal communities.

[Funding Tables - Environmental Finance Center Network](#)

### **EPA Water Finance Clearinghouse**

Developed by [EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Resiliency Center](#), the Water Finance Clearinghouse is an easily-to-use web-based portal designed to help communities locate information and resources to assist in making informed decisions regarding drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure necessities. There are two searchable databases: one with available funding sources for water infrastructure and the second containing resources including reports, weblinks, webinars etc. on financing mechanisms and approaches to help communities access capital to meet their water infrastructure needs.

[Water Finance Clearinghouse Funds](#)

### **New England Environmental Finance Center (NEEFC) Resource Library**

NEEFC's mission is to provide innovative financing solutions to help pay for environmental projects of any kind. For nearly 25 years, NEEFC has worked to build local capacity to fund the increasing costs of critical environmental resource protection and in turn strengthen community resilience. Programming addresses the region's most pressing water sector needs, including climate adaptation and resilience, stormwater and nutrient management, water infrastructure, and sustainable operating practices. NEEFC also provides a variety of different services including outreach and engagement, education and training, technical assistance, and young professional development.

[Tools & Resources – New England Environmental Finance Center](#)

### **Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Grant Funding Sources**

SNEP provides training and assistance to municipalities, organizations, and tribes to advance stormwater and watershed management, ecological restoration, and climate resilience. SNEP maintains collaboration with 16 different networks, including environmental organizations, academic institutions, regional planners, and consultants. With services including free training and technical assistance as well as network liaison assistance, watershed and community assistance projects, and several self-help tools and resources, SNEP is an integral component of the financial and environmental viability of Southeast New England's water protection efforts.

[Grant Funding Inventory](#)

For more information on PWS Funding Resources, please visit MassDEP's Public Water System Capacity Development Page at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-water-system-capacity-development#pws-funding-resources>

---

## **TNC's Seasonal Updates**

### **It is That Time Again: Seasonal Shutdown for TNCs**

As autumn approaches, many Transient Non-Community (TNC) Public Water Systems—like seasonal campgrounds, recreation facilities, and roadside stands—prepare for winter shutdown. Performing a structured and thorough shutdown can prevent costly damage, protect water quality, and make for a smooth startup next spring.

## Why a Proper Shutdown Matters

The freeze-thaw cycle can wreak havoc on unprotected water infrastructure. Without proper draining and sealing, tanks can crack, pipes can burst, and contaminants can enter the system. Taking time to follow shutdown best practices helps:

- Preserve system integrity
- Protect water quality
- Streamline spring start-up
- Ensure compliance with monitoring schedules

## MassDEP's Shutdown Guidance

MassDEP has developed a detailed, two-page guide with practical steps and best practices for shutting down your water system. Download the full Seasonal Shutdown Guidance document here: [Seasonal Shutdown Guidance \(PDF\)](#)

This resource walks you through:

- Pre-shutdown inspection and leak detection
- System depressurization and treatment system shutdown
- Safe draining of plumbing, tanks, and appliances
- Valve maintenance and contamination prevention
- Antifreeze use for traps and toilets (and what not to use!)

## Top Tips for a Smooth Shutdown

1. Inspect everything – Source to tap, check for leaks or winter vulnerabilities.
2. Power down – Shut off all pumps and treatment systems according to manufacturer instructions.
3. Drain carefully – Empty tanks, pipes, and appliances that could freeze.
4. Seal the system – Close valves and cap open lines to keep animals and contaminants out.
5. Plan for next season – Dispose of expired treatment chemicals and note any system needs for spring.

A proactive shutdown now saves time, money, and stress later.

Questions? Contact your regional MassDEP Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) or visit: [Manage Your TNC Drinking Water System](#) for more information about managing your TNC!



## Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

### Water-Smart Program Update

Water-Smart (formally known as the Expanded Assistance Program) provides free analysis of lead drinking water samples and technical assistance to eligible public and private schools and early education and childcare facilities (EECFs) by assisting with sampling, results interpretation, and guidance on remediation actions. The program is funded by a grant from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

Currently, 1150 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 1006 (87%) of participating facilities are within economically disadvantaged communities. To date, 1057 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 695 (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: <https://tinyurl.com/Water-SmartProgram>.

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

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is proud to invite all Community Public Water Systems (PWS) to the *Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS* – a forward-thinking initiative designed to help water systems stay ahead of upcoming federal regulations.

Starting **November 1, 2027**, all PWS will be **required to offer** lead testing to schools and childcare facilities that were built or have not had plumbing replacements since 2014 under the federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Rather than wait, the *Pilot Program* gives PWS a head start—leveraging the well-established **Water-Smart Program**, which has already tested over 1,000 schools and childcare facilities across the Commonwealth.

Through the pilot program, MassDEP and UMass Amherst cover the cost of lead testing and provide all necessary outreach materials, sampling plans, and follow-up support. PWS simply help identify eligible facilities, assist with local outreach and help collect samples. The process is simple, cost-free, and designed to set you up for success when the rule goes into effect.

Participating in the Pilot Program allows PWS to:

- Offer a valuable service to schools and childcare centers now,
- Fulfill 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. To join the pilot program** or receive more information, email [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov) with the subject line: **"Pilot Program for PWS."**

---

## 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.

### What is the most common disinfectant used in drinking water?

- A. Chlorine
- B. Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)
- C. Ultraviolet Radiation
- D. Carbon filter

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 [pdirector-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:pdirector-dwp@mass.gov), Subject DWP Trivia.



---

# 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/info-details/board-of-certification-of-operators-of-drinking-water-supply-facilities-approved-education-courses-to-sit-for-examination>

## Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar

### **Succession Planning for Small Water and Wastewater Systems**

Tuesday, August 12, 2025; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Every utility needs a plan for leadership transitions—especially small systems where knowledge and decision-making often rest with just a few people. This webinar will help small communities take a proactive approach to succession planning, ensuring your utility remains resilient and effective when key staff retire or leave. Rather than waiting until a leadership gap becomes a crisis, this session will show how to develop a simple, practical process for identifying future leaders and preparing them to step into critical roles. [Register here](#)

### **Unique Challenges of Tackling PFAS in Surface Water**

Wednesday, August 13, 2025; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

With stringent federal PFAS MCLs, surface water utilities need a better understanding of PFAS treatment and management. This webinar will review critical aspects of PFAS pilot testing in surface water, full-scale treatment experiences, and the latest on residual management practices and will educate water utilities on comprehensive aspects of PFAS treatment and management based on real-life experience from pilot planning and execution to full-scale treatment and residual management. The lessons learned from recent PFAS treatment pilot testing on filtered water (GAC, ion exchange, membranes, etc.) will provide practical information that can be applied to other pilot tests. One utility will share operational experiences in treating raw water for PFAS using powdered activated carbon (PAC). Another utility will share its experience in managing finished water PFAS levels by source change as well as replacing their existing filter media. Lastly, an overview of residuals management practices and related regulatory and legislative actions that have led to limitations on land application and associated cost increases will be reviewed. \$75-member, \$120-nonmember [Register here](#)

### **Planned Relocation & The Flood Adaptation Toolbox**

Thursday, August 14, 2025; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This interactive, discussion-based session will focus on proactive, community-driven relocation as a critical, nature-based tool to eliminate flood risk. Moving away from the coast is a tool currently utilized primarily in response to extreme storm events. This type of reactive approach to coastal relocation planning and action misses important risk reduction opportunities and reinforces structural inequalities, further harming already-disadvantaged communities. Proactive, regionally coordinated planning which includes community-led relocation can increase opportunities for both risk reduction and coastal habitat restoration. It can create opportunities for communities to collaboratively vision the future of their coasts and maintain social resilience networks, creating better outcomes for people and nature. Planning for relocation requires communities to carefully balance social, environmental, and economic factors to implement equitable, effective solutions which also consider what happens with the land once relocation has taken place. Participants in this session will be invited to ask questions and participate in conversation about the role of coastal relocation in coastal planning across (and beyond) the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) region. [Register here](#)

### **EPA Water Workforce Webinar**

Thursday, August 14, 2025; 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. ET; webinar

This free webinar will showcase a program led by the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at Wichita State University, in collaboration with multiple EFCs. This initiative aims to create a national network of career guidance counselors who will connect students with career exploration opportunities in the water industry. These counselors will utilize a toolkit of resources developed by Wichita State, along with other educational materials, to engage elementary, middle, and high school students. The goal is to help them grasp fundamental water treatment concepts and discover rewarding careers in the water treatment sector. This webinar will highlight the following resources and tools: The Educator's Resource Hub, The Counselor's Guide to Great Water Careers, and other valuable resources that help utility professionals connect with local students. [Register here](#)

### **Ask Me Anything! State Revolving Fund (SRF) Technical Assistance & Open Office Hours: What are Creative Uses of SRF Funds?**

Monday, August 18, 2025; 2:00 – 4:00 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. Submit your questions in advance or bring them to the session for real-time support from our experts. [Register here](#)

### **Understanding Basic Wastewater NPDES Permit Parameters**

Tuesday, August 19, 2025; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This webinar will provide a practical overview of key wastewater permit parameters required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how parameters—such as flow, pH, dissolved oxygen, BOD, TSS, ammonia nitrogen, and more—affect system performance, environmental health, and regulatory compliance. This session will emphasize the significance of proper system maintenance and monitoring to ensure community well-being and safe water resources for future generations. [Register here](#)

### **Water 2050: Securing Our Future in a Circular Water Economy**

Wednesday, August 20, 2025; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

AWWA's Water 2050 Initiative has highlighted the importance of becoming more circular as we strive to envision the future of water and chart a course for future success and sustainability. Several of the recommendations from recent Water 2050 Think Tanks focused on the issue of circularity. In general, the concept of a Circular Economy is becoming more commonplace in our society. As such, the circular water economy (CWE) is becoming increasingly important to environmental sustainability and is the key to a resilient, robust, and secure water future. Regulations, water scarcity, and sustainability are driving this shift towards a CWE. This session will begin by providing a baseline understanding of the general concepts of a circular economy, a CWE, and their importance to a secure water future. It will discuss the different drivers of circularity and CWE, i.e., water scarcity, regulation, costs, sustainability, etc. Then, it will discuss the impacts of focusing on CWE and its importance to other aspects contributing to our water community such as technology, innovation, types of treatment, and water sources, among others. This exposure will allow the webinar audience to begin thinking about approaching projects with a circular mindset versus a linear one. A discussion will be provided on how the water community can measure water circularity and work towards achieving it. Finally, the realizable benefits of CWE will be presented and emphasized. \$75-member, \$120-nonmember [Register here](#)

### **EPA Tools & Resources Webinar: Microplastics**

Wednesday, August 20, 2025; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar

The ubiquity of microplastics in the environment is an emerging concern. These small plastics (<5 mm) along with associated contaminants may be consumed by organisms including humans and have been found in every environment on Earth. There are numerous data gaps about the potential effects of microplastics on human health and ecological systems. This presentation provides an overview of microplastics, the challenges of microplastic science, and the research conducted at EPA helping to fill the data gaps including understanding fate and transport, identifying toxicity, and advancing sampling and analytical methods. The webinar will also cover the Interstate

Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) microplastics resources, including the [Microplastics Outreach Toolkit](#). [Register here](#)

### **RCAP Solutions: Enhancing Board Members' Financial Understanding & Decision-Making**

Monday, August 25, 2025; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

This training program, hosted by RCAP Solutions, is designed to empower board members with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively oversee the financial operations of their systems. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of their roles and responsibilities, with a focus on financial management. Through detailed explanations of common financial reports and guided practice in critical thinking, board members will learn to make informed and responsible decisions. Participants will engage in a blended learning approach that includes a mix of in-person or virtual presentations, facilitated discussions, hands-on activities, and real-world data interpretation exercises. This interactive format ensures that board members not only understand the theory behind their responsibilities but also apply this knowledge in practical scenarios. [Register here](#)

- **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/training-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](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:  
<https://www.rcapsolutions.org/events/>

- **AWWA**

For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:  
<https://www.awwa.org/event-calendar/>


- **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 <https://www.skillworks.com/state/massachusetts/>.

## 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](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m)

or click here:  **YouTube**

---

To subscribe to the *In The Main* Newsletter, send a blank email to [join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us).

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, send a blank email to [join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us). 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!

2025-08-08

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

For additional information and alerts see [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\)](#). The purpose of this hub is to provide resources for public water systems (PWS) to improve cybersecurity defenses, mitigate cyber-attack risks, and enhance overall resiliency and compliance.



## Cybersecurity Biweekly Spotlight

### EPA Announces Availability of \$9 Million to Protect Drinking Water from Natural Hazards and Cybersecurity Threats (PWS serving 10,000 people or more)

- August 5, 2025, the EPA announced over \$9 million in grant funding for midsize and large water systems to help protect drinking water from cybersecurity threats and improve resiliency for extreme weather events. The agency is also publishing a report highlighting 10 recommendations to strengthen resiliency to cyberattacks in the water sector.
- Eligible applicants include public water systems serving 10,000 people or more, and the window for application is 60 days via [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

#### What You Should Do Now:

1. Confirm Eligibility: Ensure your PWS serves at least 10,000 people.
2. Act Fast: Submit your application promptly at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).
3. Use the Guidance: Incorporate the [EPA's cybersecurity recommendations](#) into your project planning and preparedness.

For more information on this funding opportunity visit <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/midsize-and-large-drinking-water-system-infrastructure-resilience-and-sustainability>

## Upcoming Training: Learn About the EPA's Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Grant Program

EPA will host a webinar about the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program on August 19, 2025 from 2:00-3:00PM EST. [Click here to register for the webinar.](#)



### Mass Exploitation of SonicWall Firewalls, Suspected Zero-Day (Source- WaterISAC)

**ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED** for utilities using Gen 7 SonicWall firewalls with SSL VPN enabled!!

- SonicWall published a blog post confirming an active campaign targeting an unknown vulnerability in SonicWall Gen 7 firewalls.
  - The blog post came after warnings from Arctic Wolf, Google, and Huntress, who have all indicated that there has been an increase in cyber incidents involving the Gen 7 SonicWall firewalls that use the secure sockets layer (SSL) protocol.
  - Researchers have noted that even if multifactor authentication is enabled, attackers have been able to compromise accounts on these devices, and in some cases the SonicWall devices have been fully patched, giving credence to the likelihood that a zero-day vulnerability in these devices is being exploited.
  - **PWS using SonicWall Gen 7 firewalls in their environments must review the recommended [mitigation steps outlined by SonicWall](#)** and disable SSL VPN services where practical.
  - SonicWall **strongly advises** all partners and customers using Gen 7 SonicWall firewalls to take the following actions:
    1. Disable SSLVPN Services Where Practical
    2. Limit SSLVPN connectivity to trusted source Ips
    3. Enable Security Services  
Activate services such as **Botnet Protection** and **Geo-IP Filtering**  
These helps detect and block known threat actors targeting SSLVPN endpoints
    4. Enforce Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)  
Enable MFA for all remote access to reduce the risk of credential abuse
    5. Remove Unused Accounts  
Delete any inactive or unused local user accounts on the firewall  
Pay special attention to those with SSLVPN access
    6. Practice Good Password Hygiene: Encourage regular password updates across all user accounts.
- Original Source:** <https://www.sonicwall.com/support/notices/gen-7-sonicwall-firewalls-sslvpn-recent-threat-activity/250804095336430>



### Important Upcoming EPA Trainings- Register Today

#### Cybersecurity 103

August 13, 2025

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division (WICRD) will provide this technical assistance course to expand understandings of cybersecurity basic key terms, foundational principles, and a snapshot of its history in the Water Sector. Recent cyber incidents will be discussed, as well as cyber-related resources for the Water Sector. The technical assistance course is a continuance of the Cybersecurity Refresher and Cybersecurity 102 courses. [Register Here](#)

#### Cybersecurity Refresher

August 21, 2025

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division (WICRD) will provide a cybersecurity technical assistance course on to water and wastewater utilities to reinforce foundational understandings of cybersecurity and how it applies to the Water Sector.

[Register Here](#)



## EPA WCAT Training

August 28, 2025

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division will be hosting a free training on our Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool (WCAT).

[Register Here](#)

## Grants and Funding

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in partnership with MassDEP/DWP, is offering grants funds of **up to \$50,000**, to PWSs that have a cybersecurity risk assessment and use operational technology equipment with an identified cybersecurity risk. Details here: [Public Water Suppliers Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program | Mass.gov](#).

## Reminders

### Self-Paced Course on Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water and Wastewater Systems in Massachusetts (Massachusetts Board of Certification Approved for 1 TCH)

- Participants will learn about water sector threats, basic cybersecurity measures, incident response, system resilience, and valuable resources, with the goal of fostering a culture of cybersecurity within their organizations.
- **Enroll Here for Free:** <https://classes.wateroperator.org/courses/cybersecurity>

### 2025 Sanitary Surveys and Cybersecurity

**Is your PWS scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2025?** If your PWS is scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2025 MassDEP/DWP will inspect your cybersecurity assessment findings and plans during the upcoming sanitary survey cycle. Any findings will be incorporated in a separate action plan and your PWS will receive technical assistance to assist you to address the findings. Please remember all cybersecurity information is considered as sensitive information and must be kept confidential. If you have any questions on this information, you may also contact the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

### Have you completed a cybersecurity assessment for your PWS? If not, sign up free today!

Register for a free cyber assessment with simple steps by using the following link:

<https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program>.

**All PWS are required to have a cybersecurity plan/program and complete a cybersecurity assessment as part of their Emergency Response Planning (ERP) responsibilities.**

**Please Note:** MassDEP includes cybersecurity checks in capacity evaluations for PWS for DWSRF grant and loans and during or after sanitary surveys or as needed. In addition, the DWSRF program encourages cybersecurity assessments through its Asset Management Planning Grant activities, as well as offers financing for cybersecurity related equipment and software. See details here <https://www.mass.gov/state-revolving-fund-srf-financial-assistance-program>

---

## 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.**

### Tools and Resources:

- [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.

Answer: A