Andrew Kendall Wetland Overlook, Boston Nature Center, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Mattapan, MA Photo by: Eric Cheung

This *In The Main* newsletter has these topics of interest   2024-09-05

1. 2024 TNC and NTNC Water Quality Reports Available to Download
2. AWIA Compliance Round 2: Tips for Preparing Your RRAs and ERPs
3. Asset Management 101
4. EPA Final Report: Handbook on Indicators of Community Vulnerability to Extreme Events
5. Getting Ready for LCRR
6. Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update
7. PFAS Update
8. Drinking Water Trivia!
9. Training Calendar
10. Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!
11. Supply Chain Reminders

Coming Soon- Self Paced Course on Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water and Wastewater Systems in Massachusetts (Massachusetts Board of Certification Approved for 1 TCH). See Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness and You section below.

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

2024 TNC and NTNC Water Quality Reports Available to Download

Every year 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 2024 TNC and NTNC reports are now available for download on the mass.gov website at https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-water-supplier-document-search. Using the pull-down arrows, search 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.

AWIA Compliance Round 2: Tips for Preparing Your RRAs and ERPs

Deadlines for submitting your public water system's Risk and Resiliency Assessments (RRAs) and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) begin in the spring of 2025 – just over 7 months away. It's not too early to begin preparing these documents!

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

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

What are some tips for updating my RRA and ERP?

One thing to note is that you are not starting from scratch preparing your RRA and ERP. You can use the RRA and ERP submitted in 2020/2021, or more recent versions of those documents, as a baseline for your RRA/ERP update. You can then update the RRA/ERP by using existing information from the past five years and engaging with relevant individuals or organizations to fill out the documents. The following list includes some more tips for updating your RRA and ERP.

- Include all changes to your system from the past few years, such as new or discontinued assets, operational changes, evolution of threats/hazards, capital improvements projects, and progress on mitigation measures identified in your previous RRA/ERP.
- Engage all relevant staff, which may include operations staff as well as engineering, administrative, security, or financial staff from other utility departments.
- Engage stakeholders in the community, such as health or fire departments, who may have a role in your emergency response actions.
- Gather information from **internal** and **external** sources to inform your analyses and updates for your RRA/ERP. **Internal** sources include system schematics, asset management databases, operational data, internal policies and procedures, and after-action reports. **External** sources include data from FEMA, NOAA, EPA, or other organizations.
- Identify any external dependencies you may have, especially related to power, chemical, fuel, or electronics needs, and incorporate action plans in your ERP for scenarios in which these entities are unable to provide you with what you need.
- Capture institutional knowledge about emergency preparedness and response procedures so that it is not lost during employee turnover.
- Consider your **cybersecurity** risks and action plans, including leveraging any free cybersecurity assessments or resources to strengthen your system's cybersecurity.
- Consider performing ERP exercises to practice action plans detailed in your ERP.
- If you are a combined utility (e.g. Water and Sewer), consider including your wastewater/sewer system in your AWIA update.
- Consider assessing your financial infrastructure and if related infrastructure and systems are vulnerable to cybersecurity threats.
- Tailor EPA's Incident Action Checklists [https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/incident-action-checklists-water-utilities] to your specific system.

Where can I find more information about this topic?
Use the following resources to learn more about RRAs, ERPs, AWIA, and more.

- MassDEP Guidelines for Public Water Systems Chapter 12 – Emergency Response Planning Requirements: https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-public-water-systems-chapter-12-emergency-response-planning-0/download
- MassDEP *In the Main*, March 7, 2024 - "Planning Ahead for Round 2 of AWIA Compliance in 2025/2026": https://www.mass.gov/doc/in-the-main-drinking-water-program-updates-03-07-2024/download
- EPA Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience
- EPA Water Resilience - AWIA Section 2013: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/awia-section-2013
- EPA How to Certify Your RRA or ERP: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/how-certify-your-risk-and-resilience-assessment-or-emergency-response-plan
- CISA Water and Wastewater Cybersecurity: https://www.cisa.gov/water
- AWWA Resources and Tools - Risk & Resilience: https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Risk-Resilience
- AWWA Resources and Tools - Cybersecurity: https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Risk-Resilience/Cybersecurity-Guidance

Asset Management 101

Written by Adam Horowitz, MassDEP/DWP Intern

Asset management is a planning process to ensure the greatest value from every asset while having the financial resources to replenish and replace them when necessary. Asset management allows public water systems to take a

proactive approach to water system planning and maintenance. Asset management planning helps systems protect public health by identifying, maintaining, and replacing system components in a sustainable fashion.

Public water systems can use asset management tools to minimize total ownership and operational costs while still maintaining high-quality drinking water.

Core Framework Questions of Asset Management

There are five core questions to ask your system pertaining to asset management:

1. What is the current state of my system's assets?
2. What is the required level of service for each asset?
3. Which assets are critical to the treatment and distribution of safe drinking water?
4. What are the minimum life cycle costs of each asset?
5. What is the best long-term funding strategy?

Benefits of Asset Management Planning

There are many benefits to adopting asset management planning.

- Prolonging asset life and aiding in rehabilitate/repair/replacement decisions through efficient and focused operations and maintenance.
- Meeting consumer demands with a focus on system sustainability.
- Setting rates based on sound operational and financial planning.
- Budgeting focused on activities critical to sustained performance.
- Meeting service expectations and regulatory requirements.
- Improving response to emergencies.
- Improving security and safety of assets.

Asset Management Plan Development and Tips

Asset management is performed through an asset management program, typically including a written asset management plan. An asset management program helps make risk-based decisions by prioritizing projects that rehabilitate critical assets. Strong financial decisions and long-term funding strategy developments are critical for implementing an asset management program. Asset management plans support the maintenance and long-term sustainability of drinking water and wastewater utilities. Through helping utility managers make informed decisions on timing and location of asset adjustments along with a long-term strategy, the utility ensures its ability to continually deliver a high level of service.

It is important to evaluate and follow up on the results of the asset management program or plan in place. This can be done by following the program/plan's progress, identifying changing factors, fine-tuning emerging practices, and acting based on such results.

The following items are tips for developing and maintaining an asset management plan.

- Identify the costs and benefits of **rehabilitation** versus **replacement**.
- Identify life cycle costs, especially for critical assets.
- Deploy resources based on asset conditions, prioritizing critical assets.
- Analyze the causes of asset failure to develop specific response plans.
- Revise rate structures and develop a funding reserve from current revenues (i.e. creating an asset annuity).
- Finance asset rehabilitation, repair, and replacement through borrowing or other financial assistance.

Additional Resources

- MassDEP – Asset Management Grant Program: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/asset-management-planning-grant-program
- MassDEP – State Revolving Fund Applications and Forms: https://www.mass.gov/lists/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms

- MassDEP – Public Water System Capacity Development – Asset Management: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-water-system-capacity-development#asset-management-
- MassDEP – Guidelines for Public Water Systems, Chapter 11 – Capacity Development, Section 11.4.3 – Asset Management Planning: https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-public-water-systems-chapter-11-capacity-development-0/download
- MA Clean Water Trust – Asset Management Grant Program Guidelines for Proposal Submittal and Project Selection: https://www.srfmadep.com/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms/cwdw/ampef.pdf
- US EPA – About Asset Management: https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/about-asset-management
- US EPA – Asset Management Best Practices Guide: https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/P1000LP0.PDF?Dockey=P1000LP0.PDF
- US EPA – Drinking Water Training: https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training
- US EPA – State Asset Management Initiatives Documents: https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/state-asset-management-initiatives-documents
- US EPA – Memorandum-Updating State Capacity Development Strategies to Meet America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 Asset Management Requirements: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/documents/awia_sec_2012_reflections_memo_508.pdf
- RCAC - Asset Management-Capital Replacement Plan Model (Excel spreadsheet): https://www.rcac.org/tools/

EPA Final Report: Handbook on Indicators of Community Vulnerability to Extreme Events

EPA recently announced the availability of the final report *Handbook on Indicators of Community Vulnerability to Extreme Events: Considering Sites and Waste Management Facilities.* The purpose of this handbook is to assist utilities in preparing for and preventing negative health and environmental outcomes from accidental contaminant releases from contaminated sites and waste management facilities during extreme weather events.

The handbook provides a framework and indicators to assess the indirect impacts of extreme weather events – such as extreme heat, floods, droughts, and wildfires – on communities through potential exposures to contaminant releases from nearby contaminated sites and waste management facilities. This approach can help utilities identify and prioritize communities that may be impacted the most by potential contaminant releases. As a result, utilities can better focus preparedness, response, recovery, and climate adaptation planning on areas that are the least resilient to extreme weather events.

The handbook and fact sheet can be found at https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?Lab=CPHEA&dirEntryId=358458.

Getting Ready for LCRR

Shout out to the Public Water Systems That Attended In-Person Office Hours

Thank you to the 13 PWS that attended the August in-person office hours offered at each MassDEP regional office! We would also like to thank a MWRA representative, and 2 other operators/PWS staff that serve multiple PWS.

All interested in attending a MassDEP regional office hour in September should complete the *September MassDEP DWP Service Line Inventory Regional Office Hours Survey:* https://forms.office.com/g/9PRV2nYRBR. This survey's goal is to see the interest in another round of in person office hour events at regional offices; if you are interested in in-person assistance, please fill out this survey as soon as possible.

PWS That Attended Regional Office Hours	
HAVERHILL WATER DEPT	DEVENS MASSDEVELOPMENT
NEEDHAM WATER DEPT	RUTLAND WATER DEPARTMENT
NORTH ANDOVER WATER DEPT	GROTON WATER DEPARTMENT
WALTHAM WATER DEPARTMENT	ACUSHNET MANUFACTURED HOMES
ARLINGTON WATER DEPT. (MWRA)	LITTLETON WATER DEPARTMENT
BELLINGHAM DPW WATER SEWER DIV.	MANCHAUG WATER DISTRICT OF SUTTON
DANVERS WATER DEPT.	

Updates Have Been Made to Service Line Inventory Certification Forms

MassDEP has updated the **LCRR Certification of Non-Lead Service Lines and Request for Approval** (also called the NONLSL Certification Form). Please make sure that you download the new NONLSL Certification Form if you are in the process of using the older version.

NONLSL Certification Form: https://www.mass.gov/doc/lcrr-certification-of-non-lead-service-lines-request-for-approval/download

Is your PWS ready for the upcoming LCRR requirements?

By October 16, 2024:

- Submit the completed **Service Line Inventory (SLI). Failing to submit your inventory by this deadline will result in enforcement by EPA.**
- Submit the **LCRR Certification of Non-Lead Service Lines and Request for Approval** (If the PWS has no lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), and lead status unknown service lines)
- Make your **SLI (or Non-Lead statement) publicly accessible.**

MassDEP recommends that PWS that do not have Lead, GRR, or lead status unknown (UNK) service lines submit their SLI and NON-LSL Certification form **prior to October 16, 2024,** to receive approval for your SLI prior to October 16, 2024. However, PWS **MUST** make their SLI publicly accessible or post a No-Lead statement in a publicly accessible location **by October 16th.**

- Prepare to use the **Tier 1 24 Hour Public Notice** if your PWS exceeds the lead action level.

By October 30, 2024:
- Submit the **SLI Certification Form.**

 The SLI Certification Form is provided upon the submission of your SLI. This document is only available upon the submission of the SLI and is not available online.

By November 15, 2024:
- Deliver all required **service line material consumer notices** to consumers with lead, GRR, or lead status unknown service lines.

SLI Do It Yourself Resources

- Lead and Copper Rule Requirements Trainings: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions#massdep-past-trainings- or https://youtu.be/L5FJ8PV9p1w?si=aEYMdlQon7RMBUrW
- Check out the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions webpage for guidance documents on the following topics:
  - LCRR Links of Interest
  - Predictive Modeling and Statistical Analysis
  - Electrical Resistance Testing
  - The LCRR Requirements that having Unknown Service Lines in your SLI Trigger
  - The Service Line Identification Guidance
  - A NTNC and Small COM Service Line Identification Guidance
  - How to Submit Your Initial SLI
  - Lessons Learned: Common Validation Errors Found in Submitted SLIs
  - And more!
- Through the Lead & Copper Forms and Templates webpage you can access the following:
  - **Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook for Systems with Split Ownership (Version 1.0.3)**
    - This template is for a PWS, such as a fire district or municipality, that serves multiple buildings and owns the distribution system and part of the service lines serving individual buildings, i.e. split ownership of service lines. **This template is the same as the previous workbook titled "Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook", newly titled to differentiate it from the new Systems Without Split Ownership workbook. This Workbook has NOT changed.**
  - **Instructions: Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook for Version 1.0.3.** Once the SLI is complete it needs to be exported to a CSV file for submission to MassDEP.
  - **Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook for Systems WITHOUT Split Ownership (Version 1.0.3)**
    - A macro-enabled Excel workbook for producing the CSV service line inventory. This template is for a PWS, such as an **NTNC** or COM system WITHOUT split ownership of

service lines. For example, a condominium or school where the PWS owns/controls all water system components. **This new version of the template is optional.**

- o **Instructions: Service Line Inventory Excel Workbook for Systems WITHOUT Split Ownership for Version 1.0.3.** Once the SLI is complete it needs to be exported to a CSV file for submission to MassDEP.
- Template Letter for PWS to send to customers for the MA-LSLI App
- Instructions: Mass Lead Service Line Identification (MA-LSLI) Web App. A tool created by MassDEP for customer identification of service lines and SLI participation.
- And more!

Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

Biden-Harris Administration Announces $26 Million in Grants to Protect Children from Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Childcare Facilities

On August 22, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced $26 million in funding to protect children from lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities. The funding is provided through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act and is for lead testing and remediation in schools and childcare facilities. **Massachusetts was allotted $1.285 million** and will use the funding for continued assistance to schools and childcares through the Water-Smart program.

For more information see the USEPA press release: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-26-million-grants-protect-children-lead-drinking

PFAS Update

Guidance to Public Water Suppliers on Dual Purpose PFAS Testing
On August 29th, MassDEP sent a letter to PWS regarding its policy on Public Drinking Water PFAS Testing Using EPA Method 533 and EPA Method 537.1, v. 2 This policy allows PWS to have their PFAS compliance testing under 310 CMR 22.07G performed and reported by laboratories approved by EPA in the UCMR5 program.

PFAS-Free Foam at Commercial Airports
The Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2024 includes two PFAS-related provisions: (1) FAA must report to Congress every 180 days on their progress toward transitioning airports to fluorine-free firefighting foam; and (2) FAA must facilitate commercial airports' transition away from PFAS-containing firefighting foam by creating a FAA-managed program to reimburse costs for airports' equipment purchases, cleanup, and disposal, with $350 million authorized to FAA. Text - H.R.3935 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

Drinking Water Trivia!

Today is the start of a Trivia section in *In the Main* to engage and tickle your brain on drinking water information. In each issue, we will ask 1-3 questions and provide the answers somewhere else in the newsletter to encourage your sleuthing skills.

Here is the first Trivia question:

 When is the LCRR Initial Service Line Inventory due?
   A. October 16, 2024
   B. November 05, 2024
   C. September 30, 2024
   D. December 21, 2024

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, 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

Onsite Wastewater Webinar Series: Inspection Tasks for Onsite Wastewater Systems
Tuesday, September 10, 2024; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar
Join us for a 1-hour webinar providing a comprehensive overview of essential inspection tasks for onsite wastewater systems to ensure their proper and sustainable operation. Designed for operators and decision-makers, the session offers practical guidance on operating, inspecting, and maintaining these systems. Presenter: Gregory Pearson, Water & Wastewater Trainer, Great Lakes Environmental Infrastructure Center at Michigan Technological University. Register here

Virtual Water Expo - Tricks To Treat: Treatment Approaches For PFAS, Phosphorus, Disinfection and Contaminant Removal
Wednesday, September 11, 2024; 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. ET; webinar
Implementing innovative water and wastewater solutions significantly streamlines maintenance schedules for operators. But innovation means more than simply going digital. On September 11th, Virtual Water Expo brings you a short list of solutions from some of the most innovative suppliers in the water and wastewater industry. From hydraulic modeling to pumping, and flow measurement to leak resolution, our knowledgeable presenters will provide you with a variety of solutions to consider in short information-packed, 15-minute windows. Register here

Key Trends for Public Procurement
Thursday, September 12, 2024; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar
Euna Solutions has released its annual, cutting-edge State of Public Procurement (SOPP) report, revealing significant data and insights in procurement. Join Euna Solutions to discuss and review key trends in procurement. In this webinar, you'll learn how to: adjust to economic changes, workforce shifts, and the rising cost of business operations, use technology for better collaboration in and outside the agency for strategic purchasing, meet communities' strategic goals such as vendor diversity and sustainability, use AI and other emerging tools to achieve efficient, compliant procurement. Register here

NEWMOA State Roundtable: Hazardous Waste Treatment
Tuesday, September 17, 2024; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar
We invite you to join your peers in exchanging knowledge and exploring the unique regulatory landscapes of our different states in a discussion focused on hazardous waste treatment (from the generator perspective). This two-hour session is designed specifically for state and federal environmental agency staff involved in hazardous waste management and policy development. Participants will provide insights based on their state regulations and practices, offering a comprehensive look at hazardous waste treatment across the NEWMOA member states.
Register here

PFAS: Investigating Inputs to Wastewater Treatment Plants
Tuesday, September 17, 2024; 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar
Please join NEWMOA for a webinar to learn about efforts to measure and address sources adding PFAS to wastewater treatment plants. Bring your questions! The fee is $75 with a reduced rate of $25 for government officials in the other 42 states as well as staff at non-profit organizations, students, and academics (read Note 2 below). If the fee is a true barrier to your attendance, contact Jennifer Griffith at jgriffith@newmoa.org to see if it can be reduced or waived. Register here

Decentralized Wastewater Systems: From Planning and Design to Operations (Part 1)
Wednesday, September 18, 2024; 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar
Join us for this two-part virtual training sessions that will provide background information on the implementation of new decentralized wastewater systems especially as it relates to converting onsite or individual wastewater systems. Decentralized (also cluster or satellite) wastewater systems can offer a sustainable wastewater solution for converting failing or inadequate onsite/individual wastewater systems. Attendance of both training sessions is not required, but is strongly encouraged. Part one includes an introduction to decentralized wastewater systems, key terminology, and their role in converting existing onsite systems. Planning, design, construction, and operations & maintenance (O&M) considerations for collection, treatment, and disposal systems. Register here

EPA Tools & Resources Training Webinar: Assessing Community Vulnerabilities to Potential Contaminant Releases from Extreme Events
Wednesday, September 18, 2024; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar
Extreme events (e.g., excessive heat, droughts, floods, wildfires) are projected to be more frequent and intense under future climate scenarios. During extreme events, contaminated sites and waste management facilities have the potential to release contaminants and impact nearby communities. Understanding the risks to communities from potential exposures to water- and airborne contaminants underlies preparedness, emergency response, and mitigation planning. To better understand and communicate what is known and unknown about such risks, EPA ORD developed indicators of environmental, public health, socioeconomic, or other conditions to assess community vulnerabilities to potential contaminant releases from extreme events. The Handbook on Indicators of Community Vulnerability to Extreme Events: Considering Sites and Waste Management Facilities provides the conceptual framework and indicators approach. Join the webinar to learn more about the handbook and how to use the approach. Register here

Decentralized Wastewater Systems: From Planning and Design to Operations (Part 2)
Thursday, September 19, 2024; 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar
Join us for this two-part virtual training sessions that will provide background information on the implementation of new decentralized wastewater systems especially as it relates to converting onsite or individual wastewater systems. Decentralized (also cluster or satellite) wastewater systems can offer a sustainable wastewater solution for converting failing or inadequate onsite/individual wastewater systems. Attendance of both training sessions is not required, but is strongly encouraged. Part two of these virtual sessions includes a brief introduction/review of previous webinar session and decentralized wastewater system program development, planning, permitting, and organizational considerations. 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/eisIsdQnXqE

- **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.

- **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/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_0_249m
or click here: ▶ YouTube

Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

2024-09-05

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

EPA is currently conducting AWIA/Cybersecurity inspections. Please ensure that you are up to date with all ERP and Cybersecurity planning and actions. If you have any questions please contact **program.director-dwp@mass.gov**, Subject: Cybersecurity

Check out the MassDEP Drinking Water Program cybersecurity resource hub (StoryMap) for what you need to know: **Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems (PWS) (arcgis.com)**. 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.

Free Cybersecurity Health Check Program- Office of Municipal and School Technology (OMST)
PWS can apply for this free program at no cost and access a variety of services. If PWS are unsure about which service to choose the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS)- OMST staff will assist them in selecting the service that best meets their needs. **Apply Today https://www.mass.gov/info-details/cybersecurity-health-check-program** *Note: PWS are free to apply independent of their municipality.*

Apply Today for Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program (MCAGP) and Receive Free Cybersecurity Training for Your Staff
The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program in Massachusetts offers funding for training and awareness initiatives to help PWS and local governments protect their systems and data from cyber threats. PWS are encouraged to apply for this valuable program. It's an excellent opportunity to enhance your cybersecurity measures at no cost, ensuring the protection of critical infrastructure and services. **Apply today here.** *Note: PWS are free to apply independent of their municipality.*

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program Cybersecurity Grant Program
The grant application deadline has been extended to October 1, 2024. Have you applied yet?
The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water Program (MassDEP DWP), is offering grant funds of up to $50,000, to PWSs that have completed a cybersecurity risk assessment and use operational technology equipment with an identified cybersecurity risk. More details are available here: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-water-suppliers-cybersecurity-improvements-grant-program

Incident Reporting:
- CISA's 24/7 Operations Center at Report@cisa.gov or (888) 282-0870 .
- FBI via your local FBI field office or the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch at 855-292-3937 or cywatch@ic.fbi.gov.
- Contact the EPA Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division at watercyberta@epa.gov to voluntarily provide situational awareness.

Additionally, WaterISAC can be notified by emailing analyst@waterisac.org, calling 866-H2O-ISAC, or using the online incident reporting form .

🚨 **Regularly review CISA'S [Shields Up](#) page.**

🚨 **EPA FREE CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

Register for a free assessment with simple steps by using the following link:
https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program.

🚨 **CISA Free In-Person Cybersecurity Assessments for Selected PWS in Massachusetts**

Do you want a cybersecurity assessment from the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)? If you are interested, please let us know at your earliest convenience at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject: CISA Cybersecurity Assessments. PWS will be chosen based on criteria such as PWS type, size, and particularly the timing of their sanitary surveys.

🚨 **Important Reminder: Sanitary Surveys and Cybersecurity**

Is your PWS scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2024? If your PWS is scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2024 **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.

- For details, please refer to the important notice, which was sent on December 28, 2023, to PWS, reminding them of their 2024 sanitary surveys and cybersecurity program assessment report/review: https://www.mass.gov/doc/important-notice-your-pws-2024-sanitary-surveys-and-cybersecurity-programassessment-report-inspection-reminder/download
- If you have any questions on this information, you may also contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:

🚨 **Cybersecurity Meeting for Water and Wastewater - SAVE THE DATE- Friday November 1st, 2024**

On Friday, November 1st MassDEP is holding an educational Cybersecurity Meeting for water and wastewater utility staff in Burlington, MA. There will be expert speakers from multiple organizations and a utility roundtable to discuss cybersecurity questions, issues and solutions. We hope you can attend. Please mark the date on your calendar. More details to follow.

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

MassDEP DWP is excited to announce the upcoming launch of our Cybersecurity Basics course, designed specifically for water and wastewater operators. This self-paced course allows you to earn 1 TCH (Training Contact Hour) while learning valuable cybersecurity skills. The course will be published soon and will provide you with the knowledge you need to protect critical infrastructure against evolving cyber threats. Stay tuned for more details!

Learning Goals:

- 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.

- Regardless of the size of the water system, this course empowers everyone, from field workers to office staff, to contribute to maintaining a reliable and resilient water system.

CISA Launched New Portal to Improve Cyber Reporting

- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) moved its cyber incident reporting form to the new CISA Services Portal as part of its ongoing effort to improve cyber incident reporting.
- The Portal is a secure platform with enhanced functionality for cyber incident reporting, including integration with **login.gov** credentials.
- To guide incident reporters through the reporting process, CISA also released a voluntary cyber incident reporting resource. It helps entities understand "who" should report an incident, "why and when" they should report, as well as "what and how to report." Several resources to reduce cyber risk are also available.
- CISA encourages all organizations to take advantage of its new streamlined portal and voluntarily report cyber incidents. Learn more by visiting the CISA Services Portal and Voluntary Cyber Incident Reporting Resource.

Upcoming Trainings
SANS Webinar: Architecting Safety using Cybersecurity Requirements and Assessments
Wednesday, September 25, 2024; 10:30 a.m. ET; webinar
This webinar will review cybersecurity considerations when planning safe operations. Attendees will be introduced to the ISA 62443 risk management process and high-level risk assessment data gathering that will fuel their information gathering requirements. Register now

Supply Chain Reminders

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.

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.**

Answer: A