



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.



Derby Wharf Light Station, Salem, Photo by: Jess Conger-Henry

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

2024-10-17

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

Use the search function in the Statehouse Archives at:

<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>



## LCRR Service Line Inventories – THANK YOU!

MassDEP/DWP thanks all COM and NTNC PWS for submitting their Service Line Inventories! We recognize the tremendous amount of work behind developing the inventories and appreciate your efforts to get your inventory to MassDEP/DWP on time.

To date, 96% of all COM and NTNC PWS have submitted their Service Line Inventories. These numbers may improve after we double check. Thank you to all of these incredible systems! If you did not submit a Service Line Inventory

for your COM or NTNC PWS or believe you did submit and can document your submission, please reach out to MassDEP/DWP at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) as soon as possible.

Type PWS	#PWS	Submitted
COM	524	494 (94%)
NTNC	144	143 (99%)
NTNC Schools	98	97 (99%)
Total	766	736 (96%)

MassDEP/DWP wants to thank the following partners for their support and cooperation during the LCRR process.

- All COM and NTNC PWS, for submitting their Service Line Inventories and working with MassDEP/DWP to meet the deadline of October 16, 2024.
- University of Massachusetts (UMass) – Amherst including Hannah Parzen and Cathy Wanat, CEI, and Weston and Sampson for providing Technical Assistance (TA) to PWS developing their Service Line Inventories via the UMass TA Program.
- All other consultants or contractors who assisted PWS developing their Service Line Inventories.
- Clean Water Trust and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for providing funding to PWS related to lead service line replacement and planning.
- MassDEP/DWP Staff who created tools and conducted trainings to assist PWS developing their Service Line Inventories. A special shout-out goes to the following Boston staff: **Jessica Sibirski, Jasmine Strangis, Tio Yano, Xochitl Perez, Justin Chin, Sage Grace, Damon Guterman, Andrew Durham, Ben Joaquin, and Yvette DePeiza (Program Director)**. A special thank you to the amazing support of the DWP regional staff: Melika Uter, Melissa Balcourt, Solomon Berenson (NERO), Andrea Lemerise, Josephine Yemoh Ndi, Nicole Orzechowski, Alexandra Wahlstrom (CERO), Nicholas Shuler, Courtland Ridings (SERO) and Adam Kinney, David Averill (WERO).
- And all other individuals or organizations, including EPA Region I, Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee, Section 70 Committee and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) with a special shout out to Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, who assisted PWS to comply with the October 16, 2024 LCRR federal mandate.

Thank You All!

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## LCRR IS HERE!

### All COM and NTNC PWS should prepare to use the Tier 1 Public Notice Template for Lead Action Level Exceedances

If any COM or NTNC PWS exceed the Lead Action Level (AL) in their 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, PWS must now release a Tier 1 24 Hour Public Notice (PN) to their consumers. PWS should use the MassDEP Instructions and Tier 1 PN, which are location on the [Public Notification Forms and Templates Webpage](#).

PWS are encouraged to contact their regional MassDEP office as soon as they expect to exceed the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, to approve their prepared 24-Hour PN template.

### All COM and NTNC PWS must have a Publicly Accessible SLI or Non-Lead Statement Available NOW

It is required under the LCRR that all PWS\* must make their SLI or non-lead statement (as applicable) publicly accessible midnight, October 16, 2024. Publicly accessible may include:

- Consumers being able to access the inventory or statement upon request by mail, email, or public viewing.

- Consumers being able to access the inventory or statement by posting it in a publicly accessible location for viewing, such as a water department office.
- Consumers being able to access the inventory online, if it is posted on a public website.

PWS serving 50,000 or more people must make their inventory or statement available online.

\*If your PWS has submitted a *No Service Line Inventory Certification Form*, if you have no service lines, this requirement is not applicable for your PWS. PWS must have submitted a No SLI Certification Form to be exempt from this requirement.

Please note that if your SLI has not received approval yet, this does not change this requirement. PWS must make their inventory or statement publicly accessible regardless of approval. If you are making a non-lead statement publicly accessible, and have not received approval, please ensure you do not have an approval date listed. You may instead use the MassDEP non-lead statement for PWS awaiting approval, which is available here:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/lcrr-no-lead-service-lines-statement-template-for-pws-awaiting-sli-approval/download>.

After PWS receive approval, they may then switch to the standard non-lead statement template here:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/lcrr-no-lead-service-lines-statement-template/download>.

### **Are you prepared to share your Service Line Material Consumer Notifications by November 15, 2024?**

All PWS which have Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR), or Lead Status Unknown (UNK) service lines must distribute a consumer notice to each consumer served by these 3 types of service lines by November 15, 2024. This means that notices must be delivered to consumers and in their hands by or on November 15, 2024. These notices must be distributed to both the consumer at the building served (the premise address) and the owner of the building served (billing address), if the owner and consumer are not the same person.

More information is available within the instructions for the consumer notices, which is available with each MassDEP consumer notice template. Consumer Notice templates are available on the [MassDEP Lead and Copper Forms and Templates webpage](#).

Instructions on how to certify the distribution of consumer notices is available in the released [consumer notification certification form](#). Certification of the distribution of consumer notices is not required until July 1, 2025.

### **The October 9<sup>th</sup> Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Updates Training Materials are Now Available**

The materials from the LCRR Training, conducted Wednesday, October 9, 2024, are now available for all to view. Materials include a video of the 1-hour training and a compiled Q&A of the questions asked during this training. Both materials are available on the Past Trainings section of.

[Find the LCRR October 9 Training Q&A here.](#)

[Find the LCRR October 9 Training Recording here.](#)

### **Upcoming Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Training**

The MWRA will be hosting a "**Lead and Copper Rule Updates: From Inventory to Implementation**" training on October 24, 2024, on zoom, to help communities meet new compliance challenges. Interested parties may review the full summary of the training and register here: [Navigating the Shifting Landscape of Lead and Copper Regulations | MWRA \(mwraadvisoryboard.com\)](#). Thank you MWRA to opening this training to all PWS!

**EPA announced the LCRI on October 8, 2024! Here's what you need to know.**

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements was issued to the public. This has not been finalized in the federal register yet (as of October 15, 2024). The LCRI pauses most LCRR requirements barring these 3:

- The Service Line Inventory, which was due October 16, 2024
- The Service Line Material Consumer Notices, which should be delivered to the applicable consumers on November 15, 2024, and then annually going forward.
- The Tier 1 24 Hour Public Notice, which must be issued if a PWS has exceeded the 15 ppb lead action level (AL).

All other requirements under the LCRR are paused until October 2027, when the LCRI goes into effect, in which all LCRI requirements will begin. Please visit the EPA LCRI webpage for more information and helpful guidance's regarding the LCRI: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>

The EPA will be holding webinars on the LCRI:

- **For the general public - an informational webinar for the general public on October 24, 2024** (register to attend [here](#)) and
- **For PWS - an informational webinar for drinking water utilities and professionals on November 14, 2024.**

To attend the drinking water professional community webinar, please register [here](#). Both webinar recordings and presentation materials will be made available following the webinars on EPA's LCRI website.

MassDEP plans to hold a training on the LCRI in January/February 2025. More to come on this training and a final date will be announced later on.

Please contact the MassDEP/DWP with any questions at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) or 617-292-5770.

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## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Imagine a Day Without Water – October 17, 2024

October 17, 2024, marks the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Imagine a Day Without Water! Imagine a Day Without Water is a National Day of Action that brings together diverse participants to highlight how water is essential, invaluable, and in need of continuous investment. In the last decade, the water industry has seen several critical changes, including historic federal investment in water infrastructure through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and increased commitment across the nation to building equitable and sustainable water systems in the face of climate impacts.

For this year's milestone Imagine a Day Without Water, the organization is asking us to think: what's your drop in the bucket? How does water play a critical role in your life? Consider sharing your thoughts on Imagine a Day Without Water by tagging @TheValueofWater on social media and using the hashtags #ImagineADayWithoutWater and #MyDropInTheBucket.

### 10 Tips for Engaging on Imagine a Day Without Water

Here are 10 tips to engage with Imagine a Day Without Water, summarized from the U.S. Water Alliance's resource guide: <https://uswateralliance.org/programs/the-value-of-water-campaign/imagine-a-day-without-water/resources/guidance/>

1. Join the Conversation: Use social media to share YOUR drop in the bucket or other content about the value of water.
2. Vote for Water: Register to vote and vote for candidates or bills that support funding for water.
3. Support your Water Workforce: Share water jobs or help increase equity in the water workforce.

4. Organize an Event: Engage with your community to share all the ways that water connects us.
5. Be a Water Warrior: Advocate for good water policy.
6. Make Policy Waves in Your Community: Encourage your community to officially recognize Imagine a Day Without Water.
7. Put Your Drop in the Bucket: Donate to local community-based organizations that support sustainable water management.
8. Host or Take a Water Facility Tour: Visit a water utility to learn about the water treatment and distribution process.
9. Get Water in the News: Write a blog post or article about water that can be shared online.
10. Let Your Creativity Flow: Use art to express the ways in which you value water.

#### Additional Resources

- Imagine a Day Without Water homepage: <https://uswateralliance.org/programs/the-value-of-water-campaign/imagine-a-day-without-water/>
- Highlights from previous Imagine a Day Without Water campaigns: <https://uswateralliance.org/programs/the-value-of-water-campaign/imagine-a-day-without-water/pasthighlights/>
- Social Media Toolkit from the U.S. Water Alliance: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tvXV6oYydqX9J6acuaK7CcRJZOZipXvQ>

## AWIA Updates and Upcoming Webinar

Are you a large Community PWS that serves over 100,000 customers? Then your Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) is due on March 31, 2025 – almost 5 months away!

Deadlines for submitting your public water system’s Risk and Resiliency Assessments (RRAs) and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) begin in the spring of 2025, depending on the size of you PWS. It’s not too early to begin preparing these documents!

<b>Community Water System size (by population served as of March 31, 2024)</b>	<b>Certify Risk &amp; Resilience Assessment (RRA) by:</b>	<b>Certify Emergency Response Plan (ERP) within 6 months of RRA, but no later than:</b>
≥ 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.

#### EPA Webinar: “Preparing for Round 2 of AWIA”

EPA will be hosting a free webinar on Thursday, October 31, 2024 from 2:00-3:30 pm ET to give PWS information about preparing their RRAs and ERPs for Round 2 of AWIA. Pre-registration is required. You can sign up for this webinar at <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/preparing-round-2-awia>.

EPA will host more webinars and trainings about AWIA compliance in the future. You can look at past webinars and find future trainings at <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/awia-section-2013sdwa-section-1433-workshops> or at <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/register-epa-water-utility-resilience-trainings>.

## 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-o/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>
- MassDEP *In the Main*, September 6, 2024 - “AWIA Compliance Round 2: Tips for Preparing Your RRAs and ERPs”: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/in-the-main-drinking-water-program-updates-09-06-2024/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>

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# 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 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, 1,045 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 664 (64%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 849 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 571 (67%) had one or more lead detections.

**Do you know of any schools or childcare facilities that could benefit from the Water-Smart Program? Please identify and encourage schools and childcares within your service area to participate in the program.**

Eligible facilities may apply for assistance at [https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbyr\\_U8wEMrA-Q2XifkK4l58x4GDtYrItvpKIKUAhSxpw9pSZtA/exec](https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbyr_U8wEMrA-Q2XifkK4l58x4GDtYrItvpKIKUAhSxpw9pSZtA/exec)

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## PFAS Update

### Public Water Suppliers

- Currently there are 1,608 active PWS in the state of which 1,418 were required to test for PFAS (have their own water source).
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- 175 PWS (approx. 12%), including Community, NTNCs, and TNCs, detected PFAS6 above the MCL of 20 ppt in one or more of their sources. See Tab 3 of the [storymap on our PFAS webpage](#) for details. TNCs are not subject to the MCL but may require an individual health risk assessment depending on the level of PFAS.
- 71 new water treatment facilities (WTFs) or additions to existing WTFs have been constructed and activated by PWS since 2020 (temporary and permanent systems). See Tab 6 on the [PFAS storymap](#) for details.
- 6 small PWS were connected to a municipal water system and declassified as PWS.
- 98% of the population that receives water from a Community PWS drinks water that currently meets the PFAS6 drinking water standard. 17 PWS are supplying water exceeding the PFAS6 MCL (10 of these are very small systems with populations under 500 people).
- PWS PFAS testing results are available to the public on the web in the [EEA data portal](#). Search under the chemical name: “PFAS6” or to see all the PFAS chemicals, search under the contaminant group “PFAS”.



### Federal MCLs

States are required to establish regulations that are no less stringent than the federal standards within 2 years of the promulgation of the federal rule (by April 2026).

EPA National Primary Drinking Water Standards for Community and Non-Transient Non-Community PWS		
PFAS	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Maximum Contaminant Level
PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid)	0	4.0 ppt
PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid)	0	4.0 ppt
PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid)	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFHxS (perfluorohexanesulfonic acid)	10 ppt	10 ppt
GenX (hexafluoropropylene oxide)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixture of 2 or more	PFNA	1 (unitless) Hazard Index
	PFHxS	
	GenX	
	PFBS (perfluorobutane sulfonic acid)	

- 11% of PWS nationally exceeded one or more of the EPA MCLs
- 20% of PWS in Massachusetts exceeded one or more of the EPA MCLs. MassDEP is already working with these systems on their plans and actions to address PFAS
- 24% of PWS in EPA Region 1 exceeded one or more of the EPA MCLs



### UCMR5 Testing

EPA publishes nationwide drinking water PFAS data collected under the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5 underway from 2023-2025). Occurrence data and the data summary document are posted here: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/occurrence-data-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule#5>. The data viewer is located here [Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Data Finder | US EPA](#)



## Grants/Loans for PWS

### Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program (DWSRF)

- MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust have issued 43 loans totaling over \$357 million at a 0% interest rate for construction projects to address PFAS contamination of drinking water; see the [Clean Water Trust webpage](#). MassDEP has also issued Project Approval Certificates (loan commitments) for another \$124 million, totaling \$481 million in loans to address PFAS.
- In addition, \$10 million was set aside in the IUP to finance other planning projects and PFAS design costs. MassDEP is accepting planning loan applications on a rolling basis while funding is available.
- In addition to the 0% interest rate, disadvantaged communities receive a percent of principal forgiveness on the loans.

### Emerging Contaminants - Small and Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Drinking Water Grant Program

- The EC-SDC grant is a noncompetitive grant. However, all projects are reviewed by MassDEP and EPA on an individual basis. For additional information on EPA's requirements for EC-SDC grant funding, see the [EPA Implementation Manual](#).

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## 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

#### From 2024 to 2050: Community Engagement and Empowerment (Water 2050)

Wednesday, October 23, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

Join AWWA's Diversity & Member Inclusion Committee Chair Donnell Duncan for a lively roundtable discussion with Equity, Access, and Community Engagement Strategic Implementation Team members Cheryl Porter, Great Lakes Water Authority COO and AWWA President; Denise Shmidt, Funding Navigator Director of EPIC and Kelley Dearing-Smith, VP - Strategic Communications & Marketing of Louisville Water Company. Together, they will reflect on the progress made on our journey to Water 2050, while looking forward to 2025 and outlining the next phase of action. Free for members, \$25 nonmember. [Register here](#)

#### EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

Thursday, October 24, 2024; 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET; webinar

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting an informational webinar for the public on October 24, 2024 about EPA's recently finalized Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). During the webinar, EPA will provide information and an overview of the final LCRI, including the regulation's requirements and implementation timeline. The webinar will be informational only. To view the final LCRI and for more supporting



information, please see EPA's LCRI website at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>. [Register here](#)

### **Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series – PFAS: Rule Implementation and Treatment**

Tuesday, October 29, 2024; 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This special extended webinar event includes talks given at the EPA 21st Annual Drinking Water Workshop on September 17-19, 2024. Presentations will include discussions on examples of state PFAS treatment requirements, treatment application process, rule implementation process and sampling and monitoring assistance efforts, decision trees for mitigating PFAS exceedances, advancements in PFAS treatment methods, and EPA's open-source treatment performance modeling tools for granular activated carbon and ion exchange. Q&A sessions will follow each presentation. Information on the annual drinking water workshop: <https://epa.gov/water-research/21st-annual-epa-drinking-water-workshop-small-system-challenges-and-solutions>. [Register here](#)

### **Compensation Survey Insights and Action Steps**

Wednesday, October 30, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

Learn the latest insights from the industry-leading AWWA Water and Wastewater Utility Compensation Survey. Based on data from 580 participating organizations, AWWA's survey partner, Newport Group, will guide attendees on maintaining competitive compensation in 2024. The annual AWWA Water and Wastewater Utility Compensation Survey continues to provide the most extensive study of salaries, salary ranges, and compensation practices in the water and wastewater utility industry. With the most recent initiative, 580 organizations participated, supplying data for around 30,000 employees. Newport Group administered the survey and will share key trends, insights and action steps for your 2024 planning. Summary data will be provided for the three population categories of water utilities along with additional total rewards information for roles within the executive team. \$75 member, \$120 nonmember. [Register here](#)

### **Preparing for Round 2 of AWIA**

Thursday, October 31, 2024; 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. ET; webinar

Are you prepared for round two of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA)? AWIA section 2013 revised Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) section 1433 and requires community water systems (CWS) serving more than 3,300 people to prepare or revise and certify risk and resilience assessments (RRAs) and emergency response plans (ERPs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by specified deadlines every five years. The next five-year re-certification deadlines are quickly approaching, with deadlines beginning in 2025 for larger CWSs and ending in 2026 for smaller CWSs. This webinar will help you prepare for round 2 of AWIA. [Register here](#)

### **EPA Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CRWU) Initiative's National Webinar Series on Climate Impacts and Solutions for the Water Sector**

Various dates; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET; webinar

USEPA's CRWU Initiative is excited to offer a new webinar series focusing on the real experiences of drinking water and wastewater utilities dealing with climate- and weather-related impacts and vulnerabilities, funding challenges and workable solutions. Hear how other utilities are using CRWU's tools and information. The webinar series is FREE. Participants have the option of attending all four sessions, or just the ones most relevant to their situation. [Register here](#). The schedule for the webinar series is as follows:

1. Session 1: Utility Success Stories Roundtable  
Tuesday, December 3
2. Session 2: climate Impacts Panel  
Thursday, December 5
3. Session 3: Success in Adaptation Funding  
Thursday, December 10
4. Session 4: CREAT 101: Adaptation Tools  
Thursday, December 12


- **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/Events-Education/Events-Calendar>

## 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**

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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>.

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# Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

2024-10-17

PLEASE SHARE THIS CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION 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](mailto: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 \(PWS\) \(arcgis.com\)](https://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.



**MassDEP Drinking Water Program Cybersecurity Grant Program: The Deadline Has Been Extended and Applications Will Be Accepted and Reviewed on A First-Come, First-Served Basis Until All Funds Are Exhausted.**

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](mailto: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](mailto:cywatch@ic.fbi.gov).
- Contact the EPA Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division at [watercyberta@epa.gov](mailto:watercyberta@epa.gov) to voluntarily provide situational awareness.

Additionally, WaterISAC can be notified by emailing [analyst@waterisac.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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- 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](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

## **NEW Critical Infrastructure Security Updates:**



### **Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2024**

- President Biden declared **October 2024 to be Cybersecurity Awareness Month**. The White House and the Biden Administration hoped to encourage agencies and states to take action to protect people, businesses, and infrastructure from the increasing cyber threats. Details [A Proclamation on Cybersecurity Awareness Month, 2024 | The White House](#)
- The EPA announced four weeks of cybersecurity trainings, with webinars and readings on password protection, phishing indicators, and software changes for water systems and utilities. Link <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/cybersecurity-awareness-month-2024-1>

### **4 Things You Can Do Throughout October, MassDEP will highlight key action steps that everyone should take:**

- **Think Before You Click, Recognize, and Report Phishing:** If a link looks a little off, think before you click. It could be an attempt to get sensitive information or install malware.
- **Update Your Software:** Don't delay - If you see a software update notification, act promptly. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.
- **Use Strong Passwords:** Make sure it's long – at least 15 random characters, and avoid using common or easily guessable passwords, such as simple keyboard patterns or slightly modified words, when creating your passwords. Don't share your password with anyone or use the same or similar password for multiple accounts.
- **Enable Multi-Factor Authentication:** You need more than a password to protect your online accounts, and enabling MFA makes you significantly less likely to get hacked.



### **REMINDER: MassDEP Cybersecurity Meeting for Water and Wastewater Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**

On Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> 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 register here [2024 - MassDEP Water Sector Cybersecurity Meeting Tickets, Fri, Nov 1, 2024 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#).

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

## **Upcoming Trainings**

### **CISA Webinars: Cybersecurity Awareness Month – Small and Medium Business Series**

Wednesday, October 23, 2024; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

Wednesday, October 30, 2024; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

- CISA in partnership with the IT SCC (Sector Coordinating Council) webinar discussion series focused on SMBs (Small and Medium sized Businesses) for cybersecurity awareness month. For 2024 the webinars are centering the conversation around Artificial Intelligence and its influence throughout the sectors.
- Register for webinar 1 [here](#) and webinar 2 [here](#).



**EPA Webinar: Preparing for Round 2 of AWIA- Community Water Systems (CWS) Serving More Than 3,300**  
Thursday, October 31, 2024; 2:00 - 3:0 p.m. ET; webinar

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Are you prepared for round two of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA)? AWIA section 2013 revised Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) section 1433 and requires community water systems (CWS) serving more than 3,300 people to prepare or revise and certify risk and resilience assessments (RRAs) and emergency response plans (ERPs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by specified deadlines every five years.

The next five-year re-certification deadlines are quickly approaching, with deadlines beginning in 2025 for larger CWSs and ending in 2026 for smaller CWSs. This webinar will help you prepare for round 2 of AWIA. [Register now](#)

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## 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.

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Answer: A, D