



Photo Credit: Lucien Gassie, Wyoming Sanitary Survey Rule Manager. Photo taken near Rolling Hills, Wyoming.

EPA Region 8 Wyoming Drinking Water Monthly Newsletter

April, 2024

[New EPA Region 8 Wyoming Drinking Water Newsletter](#)

Hello Wyoming Drinking Water Representative!

EPA Region 8's Drinking Water Program is committed to ensuring we share important information with relevant Wyoming water systems and technical assistance providers in a timely and inclusive manner. Therefore, we are implementing a new drinking water e-newsletter, where we will share important updates about the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and our program. We plan to distribute this newsletter once a month. You will continue to receive all other formal communications from the EPA.

One thing this e-newsletter will not share is the specific upcoming sample requirements for your water system. While we will share upcoming sampling deadlines in general, please refer to your monitoring and reporting requirements (also known as To-Do lists) document sent every Winter, and the monthly tickler, to better understand your specific upcoming monitoring requirements.

[Safe Drinking Water Branch Reorganization](#)

To provide better customer service and to increase work efficiency, Region 8's Safe Drinking Water Branch has gone through a reorganization. Previously split between Sections A and B, the Drinking Water Program will now be split into three sections: Field Services & Tribal Section (FSTS), Rules Implementation Section (RIS), and Partnerships & Data Section (PDS). Current section supervisors, Rob Parker and Judy Bloom will lead the FSTS and PDS, respectively, while

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[Resource: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\) Learning Exchange Webinar](#)

Seth Tourney (former DBP and CRM rules manager) will lead the RIS.

Although you may notice some different section names or signers for letters with this reorganization, Region 8's Tribal Team will remain the same.

[EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program contact sheet can be found here](#)



Resource: DNA-Based Water Quality Monitoring Methods to Support Aquatic and Human Health Webinar

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[World Water Day March 22, 2024: bridging divides through water cooperation](#)

The World Health Organization, [World Water Day 2024](#) calls us to action, to unite around the theme of "Water for Peace" and to leverage water as a tool for building a more stable, peaceful world.

"Access to drinking-water is a human right, but when water is scarce or polluted, or when people have unequal or no access, tensions can rise (1). This underscores the need to harness the cooperative power of water. Successful examples of water cooperation highlight its value in conflict resolution and community improvement."

[To read the full story, please click here](#)

[Biden-Harris Administration engages states on safeguarding water sector infrastructure against cyber threats](#)

On March 19, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan sent a letter to all U.S. Governors inviting state environmental, health and homeland security Secretaries to a convening by their deputies to discuss the urgent need to safeguard water sector critical infrastructure against cyber threats. A recent meeting highlighted current federal and state efforts to promote cybersecurity practices in the water sector, discuss priority gaps in these efforts, and emphasize the need for states and water systems to take immediate action.

"Drinking water and wastewater systems are a lifeline for communities, but many systems have not adopted important cybersecurity practices to thwart potential cyberattacks," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "EPA and NSC take these threats very seriously and will continue to partner with state environmental, health, and homeland security leaders to address the pervasive and challenging risk of cyberattacks on water systems."

“The Biden Administration has built our national security approach on the foundational integration of foreign and domestic policy, which means elevating our focus on cross-cutting challenges like cybersecurity,” said National Security Advisory Jake Sullivan. “We’ve worked across government to implement significant cybersecurity standards in our nation’s critical infrastructure, including in the water sector, as we remain vigilant to the risks and costs of cyber threats. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the EPA to bolster the cybersecurity of America’s water and wastewater systems.”

[To read the full news release, please click here](#)

[Resource: OSLI and DEQ Offer Free Assistance to Wyoming Water Systems to Plan and Develop Lead Service Line Inventories](#)

The Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are working together to protect public health by helping Wyoming’s communities identify lead service lines in drinking water systems.

As part of a nationwide initiative, drinking water systems need to identify and generate an inventory of material types for their system’s drinking water service lines. These initial system inventories are required to be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by October 16, 2024.

OSLI and DEQ have been working together and are pleased to announce that HDR has been contracted to provide public water systems throughout the state free assistance in meeting this federal inventory requirement.

“This is an important step to improving water quality for Wyoming citizens. The ultimate goal is to remove any lead service lines ensuring safe drinking water for our state,” stated Todd Parfitt, Director of DEQ.

“HDR is looking forward to working with drinking water systems across Wyoming, and the staff at DEQ and OSLI, to help with this task and provide helpful resources to assist water systems complete this inventory,” says Heath Turbiville, Project Manager for HDR.

We recognize that water systems may be at varying stages of inventory development. This project is in its early stages, and additional details on the inventory submission process are being developed. More information will be available at a later date for water systems on how to complete and submit their inventory form.

Interested water systems can email the project team at wyoingLSL@hdrinc.com with questions in advance and request to be added to a project email distribution list.

Interested water systems can also reach out to DEQ staff with questions and inquiries: Brad Ellis at 307-473-3469 or bradley.ellis@wyo.gov, or Stan Miller at 307-777-6371 or stanley.miller@wyo.gov.

[To read the DEQ bulletin, please click here](#)

[Resource: 16th Annual Fix a Leak Week](#)

On March 18, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [WaterSense program](#) is celebrating the 16th annual Fix a Leak Week. Minor leaks account for nearly one trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes. During the third week of March each year, WaterSense and its utility, government, retail,

builder, and manufacturer partners remind consumers and businesses to look for leaks and make simple repairs to save water.

Participating in Fix a Leak Week is simple. Take 10 minutes each day during Fix a Leak Week to look for leaks and save water using the following tips:

- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is probably a leak.
- Place a drop of food coloring in the tank at the back of the toilet. If color shows up in the bowl in 5-10 minutes, there's a leak; flush afterward to avoid staining the tank.
- If the rubber flapper in your toilet tank is more than five years old, replace it with a new one, as worn flappers can cause toilets to run or have silent leak.
- Check faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replace them if necessary. Leaky showerhead connections can be tightened using pipe tape and a wrench.
- Outside, check hose spigots for drips and look for broken or missing sprinkler heads in your irrigation system.

For plumbing and irrigation fixtures that cannot be repaired, EPA recommends replacing them with products that have earned the WaterSense label. WaterSense-labeled products are independently certified to use at least 20% less water and perform as well or better than standard models. For more information on finding and fixing leaks, visit [EPA's Fix a Leak Week website](#).

WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by EPA, helps preserve the nation's water supply by offering the public advice on simple ways to use less water. The WaterSense label makes it easy to choose products, homes, and services that deliver affordable water savings and performance. More than 42,000 models of toilets, showerheads, faucets/faucet accessories, urinals, irrigation controllers, and spray sprinkler bodies have earned the WaterSense label.

[To read the full news release, please click here](#)

[Resource: EPA Proposed Sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule \(UCMR5\) Public Comment Period and Public Webinars](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is requesting public input on drinking water analytical methods for emerging contaminants in drinking water, particularly those listed on the agency's Fifth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 5), that might support monitoring under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. The [Federal Register notice](#) describes published drinking water analytical methods and EPA drinking water methods currently in development for the CCL and other emerging contaminants, with an expectation that some of these methods will support the sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 6) and/or other future cycles of the UCMR program. Comments must be received on or before April 8, 2024.

The agency is also announcing [two virtual public meetings](#) (via webinar) to discuss potential approaches to developing UCMR 6 on April 17, 2023 from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM and on April 18, 2024 from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern Time.

The webinars will discuss the following: Drinking water analytical methods and contaminants being considered, UCMR 6 sampling design, laboratory approval, and other potential aspects of the monitoring approach. The agenda will include time for brief remarks by participants who pre-register.

[Resource: Cyber Incident Response Guide](#)

With contributions from 25+ Water and Wastewater (WWS) Sector organizations spanning private industry, nonprofit, and government this joint guide, co-sealed by CISA, FBI, and EPA provides incident response best practices and information on federal resources.

The WWS Sector has been impacted by various cyber events, including unauthorized access, and ransomware. Continued compromises or failures of the WWS Sector could cause cascading impacts across critical infrastructure. The guide outlines how water utility owners and operators can expect to work with federal partners as they prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the impact of a cyber incident.

This guide aims to enhance WWS Sector cybersecurity by:

- Establishing clear guidance for reporting cyber incidents
- Connecting utilities with available cybersecurity resources, services, and no-cost trainings
- Empowering utilities to build a strong cybersecurity baseline to improve cyber resilience and cyber hygiene
- Encouraging utilities to integrate into their local cyber communities.

[To view the Cyber Incidence Response Guide, please click here](#)

[Resource: Top 8 Cyber Actions for Securing Water Systems Webinar](#)

EPA will be hosting a webinar on April 17, 2024, from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Eastern Time to highlight the Top 8 Cyber Actions for Securing Water Systems. The Top 8 Cyber Actions for Securing Water Systems Fact Sheet, co-sealed by CISA, EPA, and FBI, outlines the top cyber actions water and wastewater systems can take today to reduce cyber risk and improve resilience to cyber-attacks. EPA and CISA will share the top cyber actions along with the free services, tools, and resources to support these actions.

[Top Cyber Actions for Securing Water Systems Fact Sheet](#)
[Please register for the webinar here](#)

[Resource: Oil Spill Response: Advances in Detection Capabilities Webinar](#)

EPA's Office of Research and Development hosts Oil Spill Response: Advances in Detection Capabilities webinar on April 10, 2024 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern Time.

About this Webinar: Thousands of oil spills occur every year in the United States, posing a major health, environmental, and economic threat to the Nation. Historically, visual observation is an emergency responder's first tool in identifying oil spills.

EPA researchers and their partners have been working to advance efforts in monitoring and detecting oil spills through improvements in various platforms (e.g., drone, vessel, submersible) and on-site sensor technologies. Oil sensing tools such as those that use fluorescence, scattering, radiometry, reflectance, and

acoustics provide responders with methods to measure droplet size, hydrocarbon and gas concentration, and are a good representation for dispersion efficiency.

This critical information assists decision-makers during oil spill response and damage assessment efforts. This webinar will present an overview of technologies and projects for tracking hydrocarbons underwater or in floating slicks. It will highlight the need for measurements that provide a better understanding of behavior and transport of spilled oil in water environments.

[Please register for the webinar here](#)

Resource: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Learning Exchange Webinar

The [Source Water Collaborative](#) is hosting its 2nd webinar as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Webinar Series on April 10, 2024 from 2:30 – 4:00 PM Eastern Time titled *Demystifying How to Access BIL Funds for Source Water Protection and Natural Infrastructure*.

This webinar will showcase the wide array of technical assistance (TA) available to help eligible partners develop project plans and application materials to access funding for source water protection, including through the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds. Attendees will learn how to request TA for support in accessing this unprecedented opportunity to invest in and expand source water protection programs. This funding will deliver long term environmental and public health benefits, particularly to small, underserved, and/or disadvantaged communities.

[Please register for the webinar here](#)

Resource: DNA-Based Water Quality Monitoring Methods to Support Aquatic and Human Health Webinar

The EPA Office of Research and Development invites you to this free webinar held on April 24, 2024 from 2:00 – 3:15 PM Eastern Time called DNA-Based Water Quality Monitoring Methods to Support Aquatic and Human Health.

1. Becoming Uncultured: Daily Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Using qPCR and Public Notification at Chicago Beaches. This presentation focuses on a two-year pilot program of rapid molecular testing of beach water samples that resulted in Chicago becoming the first large U.S. city to issue same-day water-quality warnings for all its public recreational beaches. They have successfully done so every year since 2017. The Chicago Park District and University of Illinois-Chicago School of Public Health partnership illustrates that true daily beach monitoring using same-day water quality results is an achievable goal.

2. Standard Control Material for Quantitative Real-Time PCR Recreational Water Quality Monitoring. This presentation describes a collaboration between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop Standard Reference Material® 2917 (SRM 2917), SRM 2917 “fit for purpose” performance assessment, and implications for qPCR recreational water monitoring implementation.

[Please register for the webinar here](#)

EPA Drinking Water Training: Stage 1 and Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct Rules (DBPRs)

Webinar Details

- Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024
- Time: TBA
- Registration: Registration information will be available at the [Drinking Water Training website at a later date](#).

This webinar is intended for primacy agency staff and water system operators, and will provide an overview of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct Rules and their requirements.

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: PFAS Treatment

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and Office of Water (OW), in collaboration with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), host this free webinar series to communicate the latest information on solutions for challenges facing small drinking water systems. The series topics vary each month and are primarily designed for state, territory, and tribal staff responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment technologies permitting. Others may also benefit from the webinars, including water system operators, technical assistance providers, NGOs, local government personnel, academia, and private sector.

Webinars are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET with an optional Q&A session from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET. For more information. Please see the [Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website](#).

Webinar Details

- Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024
- Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: Registration information will be available at the [Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website at a later date](#).

Resource: Stormwater Centers of Excellence Grant

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing the availability of \$3 million in grant funding through the new Centers of Excellence for Stormwater Control Infrastructure Technologies Grant Program. The Centers of Excellence will play an important role in conducting research and providing technical assistance to state, Tribal, and local governments to support stormwater infrastructure improvements that protect public health, safeguard the environment, and increase climate resilience. Approximately \$3 million in grant funding will support three to five awards to establish and maintain regional Centers of Excellence for Stormwater Infrastructure Technologies. Funding will also support one award to create and maintain a national electronic clearinghouse that contains information relating to new and emerging stormwater control infrastructure technologies. Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, research institutions, and nonprofit organizations

[Click here for more information](#)
[Deadline to apply is March 18, 2024](#)

Resource: Community Change Grant

EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) will invest approximately \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. EPA expects most awards will be between \$10-20 million for multi-faceted projects addressing a range of pollution, climate change, and other priority issues. For more information and a list of eligible activities, [please click here](#). This grant is now open and the deadline to apply is November 2024. To learn more about the grant, view a recording of the December informational [webinar here](#). Free Technical Assistance to help in preparing a grant application is available and can be accessed [here](#).

[Click here for more information](#)
[Deadline to apply is November 21, 2024](#)

Resource: WaterTA

All communities deserve access to clean, reliable water. Yet too many communities across America face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to their residents. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) presents an unprecedented opportunity to address water infrastructure needs by providing \$50 billion in new funding – the [largest federal investment in water in the history of our nation](#). New and existing EPA [Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\) programs](#) will be utilized to support effective implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) supports communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. To implement WaterTA, EPA collaborates with states, tribes, territories, community partners, and other key stakeholders. Learn more about [WaterTA services and programs](#).

EPA WaterTA aims to assist communities with applications for federal funding, quality infrastructure, and reliable water services. If your community is facing water infrastructure challenges and could benefit from support, we encourage you to learn more about [who can receive WaterTA and the challenges WaterTA can help your community address](#) then complete and submit a webform request by clicking on the link below:

[Request Water Technical Assistance for Your Community](#)

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Date	Event	Location
Last day of every calendar month	Last day to collect monthly total coliform samples	Sites approved on your RTCR sample plan
10 th of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform and DBP samples collected during the previous month	N/A

EPA Drinking Water Program Contacts

- Kyle St Clair, Wyoming Liaison – 303-312-6791 – stclair.kyle@epa.gov
- If there is an after-hours or holiday emergency, please call 303-312-6327.

Questions related to a specific newsletter article, please contact:

- Tamara Barbakova, Funding– 303-312-6970 – barbakova.tamara@epa.gov
- Bryce Faliskie, Water Security– 303-312-6651 – faliskie.bryce@epa.gov
- Marcella Hutchinson, Source Water Protection– 303-312-6753 – hutchinson.marcella@epa.gov
- Jill Minter, Lead Service Line Inventory – 303-312-6084 – minter.jill@epa.gov
- Kendra Morrison, UCMR5 and PFAS – 303-312-6145 – morrison.kendra@epa.gov
- Bailey Smith, DBP – 303-312-6940 – smith.bailey@epa.gov
- Erica Wenzel, Lead Service Line Inventory – 303-312-6411 – wenzel.eric@epa.gov

Other R8 Drinking Water Employee Contact Information Can be Found [Here](#).

If you would like to be added or removed from this newsletter distribution list, please email Kyle St Clair at stclair.kyle@epa.gov.