

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

EPA Region 8 Wyoming Drinking Water Monthly Newsletter

July, 2024

[Announcement: EPA Announces Final Rule to Improve Public Awareness of Drinking Water Quality](#)

On May 15, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the final Consumer Confidence Rule revisions to make annual drinking water quality reports more understandable and accessible to the public. These reports are an important tool that drinking water systems use to inform residents about water quality and any contaminants that have been found in the water. Starting in 2027, this final rule will ensure that these reports are easier to read and support access to translations in appropriate languages while enhancing information about lead in drinking water. EPA is also taking steps to streamline the delivery of reports by encouraging electronic methods.

The final revised rule will support public education by more clearly communicating important information in water quality reports and improving access to the reports. Water systems are currently required to provide annual drinking water reports to customers each year, and with this rule systems serving over 10,000 customers will be required to distribute reports twice per year. The final rule also introduces a new reporting requirement that will provide EPA with better information to make decisions on oversight, enforcement, regulatory revisions, and training and technical assistance. The final revised rule will require states to submit compliance monitoring data they already receive from public water systems to EPA annually.

[Announcement: Proposed Water System Restructuring Assessment Rule \(WSRAR\) Listening Sessions](#)

THIS MONTH

Announcement: EPA Announces Final Rule to Improve Public Awareness of Drinking Water Quality

Announcement: Proposed Water System Restructuring Assessment Rule (WSRAR) Listening Sessions

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Webinar: EPA Water Utility Resilience Trainings: Cybersecurity Refresher Webinar

Webinar: EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series: Temperature, Precipitation, and Beyond: Introducing Datasets Suitable for Comprehensive Analysis of Local Climate Change Impacts

Webinar: Computational Toxicology and Exposure Communities of Practice – PFAS in “Real World” Samples

Webinar: EPA Drinking Water Trainings: Revised Total Coliform Rule

Webinar: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Source Water Quality

Learn more about [EPA's Revised Consumer Report Rule](#), including upcoming webinars and fact sheet that provides more detail on the new requirements.

EPA will be hosting two listening sessions July 17th and 24th, 2024, to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Water System Restructuring Assessment Rule (WSRAR). The proposed WSRAR outlines a framework for states, public water systems, and the communities they serve to evaluate options for restructuring to help ensure safe, reliable drinking water. Water system restructuring may include operational changes, upgrades to or replacement of water system infrastructure, interconnection with another system, consolidation, or transfer of ownership. The listening sessions will be from 1:00 to 3:00 PM ET to allow for maximum public participation and engagement during the public comment period. Each listening session will include the same material and is open to all interested parties who wish to attend. Participants who wish to speak or provide comments for up to two minutes during the listening session are required to register ahead of time.

- [Click to register for the July 17, 2024 Session](#)
- [Click to register for the July 24, 2024 Session](#)

For more information:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-system-restructuring-assessment-rule>

Webinar: Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Nutrients Research Webinar Series: Climate Change: Nutrient and Sediment Impacts

Webinar: EPA Water Research Webinar Series: PFAS Treatment Using In-Situ Groundwater Remediation Techniques

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Resource: Best Shipping Practices to Ensure Sample Integrity and Delivery to Your Lab this Summer

Over the last couple of summers, EPA Region 8 noticed an increase in the number of drinking water samples that arrived at the laboratory outside of holding time and temperature range requirements. In advance of hotter temperatures this year, our office is reaching out to inform you that if holding times and temperature requirements are not met upon arrival at the lab, the lab should not analyze the samples. However, if the lab does analyze the samples, EPA must reject the analysis results and your system may be out of compliance until another sample can be shipped and analyzed.

In addition, **please double check that your laboratory is certified to analyze Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliance samples** either through EPA Region 8, the lab's home State, or a state TNI/NELAC program. Other third-party accreditations are not recognized by EPA as equivalent.

To help systems in meeting temperature requirements, please see some tips and considerations below to ensure your samples arrive at your laboratory within temperature requirements. To ensure that holding times are met, please reach out to your laboratory for additional information.

Some overall considerations:

- Sample early in the compliance period so if sample temperature and hold time are exceeded or there are shipment delays, you can resample before the end of the monitoring compliance period and avoid violations.
- Hold times for contaminants vary from very short (e.g., total coliform, nitrate/nitrite, asbestos) to longer and they are dictated by the testing to be performed on the samples. The hold time begins when you collect your sample and ends when the laboratory analyzes your sample. The hold time does not end when the lab receives the sample and most samples require some time for set up, so build extra time in planning for sample shipment.
- Check with your lab for instructions and any recommendations.
- Lab staffing on weekends is not a guarantee. Notify the lab if shipments will arrive near or on a weekend.
- Certifications require labs to notify their clients if samples arrive outside the requirements for temperature, hold time, and volume. Contact EPA for direction if this happens.
- Most carriers do NOT store shipments overnight in a temperature regulated facility. Coolers and boxes are usually stored on trucks in lots, subject to outside temperature extremes.
- Some next day air shipments may be transported out of state and then to your lab, so shipments could be affected by weather delays outside of the state from which samples were collected.

Ensuring Adequate Cooling and Successful Sample Delivery:

- Make sure there is adequate cooling and increase the amount of ice used during summer shipments.
- Almost always, samples should be kept cool at <6°C or <42°F.
- If your cooler is too small for adequate ice, request a larger cooler.
- Place your samples in the middle of the cooler, as far away from the sides as possible.
- In general, wet ice cools better than blue ice or ice packs. A mixture of ice blocks and wet ice can be used for additional cooling.
- If your lab recommends wet ice, cool your samples with ice in Ziploc baggies.
- If your lab recommends the use of ice packs, freeze the ice packs for at least 72 hours prior to sampling. Do not sample until ice packs are frozen solid.
- Place temperature blanks near the ice. Do not place temperature blanks along the edges of the cooler away from ice or in the top of the cooler.
- Consider taping around the cooler lid to seal in moisture. Leaky coolers can be discarded by shipping couriers.
- Ship samples to the lab as soon as they are collected.

- Refrigerate all bottles if unable to pack and ship immediately, keeping in mind that this may not be an option for samples that have short hold times.

[Webinar: EPA Emergency Response Research Webinar Series: EPA's Water-on-Wheels Water Treatment Cart](#)

EPA's Office of Research and Development hosts this webinar series to share current research activities and results. This webinar series covers the latest information on research supporting EPA's response to chemical, biological, and radiological incidents, as well as natural disasters. This forum allows EPA to communicate directly with partners and stakeholders to foster collaboration and dissemination of information. Webinars are typically held on the second Wednesday of the month. Webinar dates and topics are subject to change. For more information, please see the [EPA Emergency Response Research Webinar Series website](#).

Webinar Details

- Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024
- Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: [Click here to register](#).

[Webinar: Environmental Finance Center Network Webinar: Wastewater Collection Systems Operations, Maintenance, and Inspection](#)

This 1-hour webinar will explore essential routine maintenance, repair, and inspection tasks for wastewater collection systems. By the conclusion of this webinar, attendees will have gained a greater understanding of the O&M tasks necessary to keep wastewater collection systems operating effectively and will be able to perform the following:

- List methods used to clean sewer collection mains.
- Explain how smoke testing is conducted and interpreted.
- Describe flow testing procedures for collection system mains.
- List methods used to conduct condition assessment of collection system mains.
- Define inflow and filtration in collection systems.

Webinar Details

- Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024
- Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: [Click here to register](#).

Audience:

- Managers, owners, and operators of wastewater systems with an average daily flow of less than 1 million gallons
- Decision-makers for wastewater utilities, including mayors, finance officers, utility managers, public works directors, city councilors, board members, tribal council members, and clerks
- Consultants and technical assistance providers serving wastewater systems



[Webinar: EPA Water Utility Resilience Trainings: Cybersecurity Refresher Webinar](#)

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division will provide training on cybersecurity basics to water and wastewater utilities to reinforce their foundational understanding of cybersecurity and how it applies to the water sector.

Applications have been submitted for all water and wastewater operators to receive continuing education units (CEUs) for participating in the training. Check the registration pages for the most up-to-date list of state CEU approvals.



Webinar Details

- Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024
- Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: [Click here to register.](#)

[Webinar: EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series: Temperature, Precipitation, and Beyond: Introducing Datasets Suitable for Comprehensive Analysis of Local Climate Change Impacts](#)

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) hosts this free monthly public webinar series to translate EPA research and share research resources and information that are useful, practical/applied and available to meet stakeholders' research needs. In addition, the EPA Tools and Resources Training Webinar Series provides in-depth overviews and step-by-step tutorials on popular EPA science-based models and tools. Webinar dates and topics are subject to change. For more information, please see the [EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series website](#).

Webinar Details

- Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024
- Time: 3:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: [Click here to register.](#)

[Webinar: Computational Toxicology and Exposure Communities of Practice – PFAS in “Real World” Samples](#)

The complexity of environmental exposures can be difficult to adequately capture in laboratory settings, necessitating the analysis of ‘real world’ samples for many contaminants including legacy and novel PFAS. Following large scale historic contamination spanning decades in New Jersey, multiple environmental media, including soil, sediment, water, and biota, were collected, and analyzed using high resolution mass spectrometry, providing a more accurate understanding of the occurrence and behavior of novel, understudied, and legacy PFAS in interconnected environmental matrices.



Webinar Details

- Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024
- Time: 11:00-12:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: [Click here to register.](#)

[Webinar: EPA Drinking Water Trainings: Revised Total Coliform Rule](#)

This webinar series provides training for drinking water professionals, public officials, and anyone interested in gaining knowledge and skills related to compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, Building the Capacity of Drinking Water Systems, Drinking Water Grant Opportunities, Water Technical Assistance, and more.

Webinar Details

- Date: July 2024
- Time: TBA
- Registration: Registration information will be available on the [EPA's Drinking Water Training website](#) at a later date.
- Audience: This webinar is intended for primacy agency staff and water system operators and will provide an overview of the Revised Total Coliform Rule and its requirements.

[Webinar: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Source Water Quality](#)

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, July 30, 2024
- Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: [Click here to register](#).

[Webinar: Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Nutrients Research Webinar Series: Climate Change: Nutrient and Sediment Impacts](#)

Hosted by EPA's Office of Research and Development, Office of Water, and regional offices, this free webinar series is focused on communicating the latest, cutting-edge research related to nutrients and the priority impacts of nutrient pollution: harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxia.

Topics will include regional priorities; regulatory updates; and cutting-edge EPA research related to monitoring and forecasting, prevention, control, and response. Webinars are typically held bimonthly from 2 to 3 p.m. ET on the last Wednesday of the month. For more information, please see the [Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Nutrients Research Webinar Series website](#).

Webinar Details

- Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2024
- Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: [Click here to register](#).

[Webinar: EPA Water Research Webinar Series: PFAS Treatment Using In-Situ Groundwater Remediation Techniques](#)

EPA's Office of Research and Development hosts this free webinar series to share current research activities and results. Through innovative science and engineering, EPA's researchers are developing cost-effective, sustainable solutions to 21st century complex water issues. The scientific results and innovative technologies developed support

EPA's mandate to protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our Nation's water resources, and to ensure safe drinking water and water systems. Free webinars are typically held on a quarterly basis on the last Wednesday of the month from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET. For more information, please see the [EPA Water Research Webinar Series website](#).

Webinar Details

- Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024
- Time: 2:00-3:15 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: Registration information will be available on the [EPA Water Research Webinar Series website](#) at a later date.

Resource: Community Change Grant Program

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.

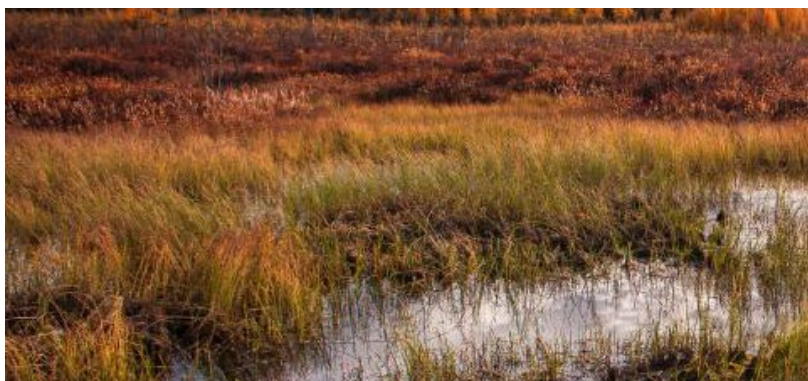
EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) supports communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. To implement WaterTA, EPA collaborates with states, tribes, territories, community partners, and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

Reminder: Public Water System Facility and Contact Changes

Please contact EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program if your system has a change in the treatment process; you add or remove a water source; there is a change in the number of people served or the number of water connections; or different contact information becomes available for your water system. This allows us to keep you up to date on monitoring requirements and keeps our inventory current. Failure to notify EPA about water source or treatment changes may result in a violation.



To access the EPA’s change form, send an email to R8DWU@epa.gov requesting the form or you can find the form on [EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Operations website](#).

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
- Angela Mendrala, Inventory Changes – 303-312-6533 – mendrala.angela@epa.gov
- Kendra Morrison, PFAS and Chemical Rule – 303-312-6145 – morrison.kendra@epa.gov
- Pragati Sharma, Consumer Confidence Report Rule and Nitrate Rule – 303-312-7285 – sharma.pragati@epa.gov

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

You can view this newsletter and previous newsletters by visiting: <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/epa-region-8-wyoming-drinking-water-monthly-newsletters>

Additional water and environmental topics for the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Clean Water Act (CWA) 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.

