Photo Credit: Lucien Gassie, Wyoming Sanitary Survey Rule Manager. Photo taken in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming.

EPA Region 8 Wyoming Drinking Water Monthly Newsletter June, 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.

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

THIS MONTH

Announcement: EPA Finalizes PFAS Rule

On April 10, 2024, EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for 6 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The regulation establishes legally enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA individually, and (2) a Hazard Index MCL for PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS. The Hazard Index MCL will protect communities from the additive health effects of multiple PFAS when they occur together. EPA expects that over many years the final rule will prevent PFAS exposure in drinking water for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses.

Chemical	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
PFOA	0	4.0 ppt
PFOS	0	4.0 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixture of two or more: PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	Hazard Index of 1	Hazard Index of 1
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety and are non-enforceable public health goals.		

On April 26, 2024, the rule was published in the Federal Register. The final rule requires the following:

- Community water systems (CWS) and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWS) must monitor for these PFAS. Initial monitoring must be completed within 3 years of publication of the rule, or by April 2027, followed by ongoing compliance monitoring.
- Starting in 2027, community water systems must provide the public with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water (annual CCRs).
- CWS and NTNCWS have 5 years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce these PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed the MCLs.
- Starting in 2029, public notification is required by CWS and NTNCWS that have PFAS in drinking water which violates one or more of these MCLs.

The PFAS rule homepage contains fact sheets, commonly asked questions, a general presentation, webinar recordings and presentation materials, and a copy of the Federal Register Notice.

The implementation for this rule will be EPA Region 8 guided, so our office will conduct additional outreach and trainings, provide ongoing compliance assistance, and let you know when initial monitoring will be required to begin. If you have questions, you can contact Kendra Morrison at morrison.kendra@epa.gov or (303) 312-6145.

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

If this summer is like last year's, maintaining sample integrity during shipping will be challenging. Last year temperatures were high, and the shipping sector was impacted by resource shortages. Here are some tips and considerations to ensure your samples arrive at your laboratory within temperature and hold time requirements.

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 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 <6o C or <42o 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.

Announcement: Biden-Harris Administration Announces $30.7 Million to Support Water Systems in Small and Rural Communities

On May 21, EPA announced its selection of training and technical assistance providers who will have $30.7 million to support water systems and private well owners in small and rural communities. This grant funding will support water systems with building technical, financial, and managerial capacity and will also assist private well owners with improving water quality, including actions such as testing for PFAS contamination. Since 2012, this grant has provided over $170 million in funding to technical assistance and training providers. These providers meet communities where they are and help them with water infrastructure challenges through circuit-rider and multi-state regional technical assistance programs, training and site visits, and focused efforts diagnose and trouble-shoot system operational and compliance-related problems and identify solutions.

The selected recipients of this year's funding are:

Rural Community Assistance Partnership

- $13 million to provide training and technical assistance for small public water systems to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, including assisting communities in conducting lead service line inventories and providing training on cyber-security.
- $3.4 million to work with private well owners to help improve water quality including testing for PFAS contamination.

University of New Mexico

- $5 million to provide training and technical assistance for small public water systems to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, including improving financial and managerial capacity.
- $1.2 million to work with small publicly owned wastewater and on-site/decentralized wastewater systems to improve water quality.

National Rural Water Association

- $7.9 million to provide training and technical assistance for small public water systems to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, including improving financial and managerial capacity and assisting systems in identifying and responding to potential cybersecurity threats.

EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) also provides services that support communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. WaterTA's services will build the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of water utilities, and enables them to have the capability to maintain regulatory compliance, improve resiliency, and sustainably provide safe drinking water to their communities.

Announcement: Biden-Harris Administration Announces $3 Billion for Lead Pipe Replacement to Advance Safe Drinking Water as Part of Investing in America Agenda

On May 2, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced $3 billion from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to help every state and territory identify and replace lead service lines, preventing exposure to lead in drinking water. Lead can cause a range of serious health impacts, including irreversible harm to brain development in children. To protect children and families, President Biden has committed to replacing every lead pipe in the country. Today's announcement, funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and available through EPA's successful Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), takes another major step to advance this work and the Administration's commitment

to environmental justice. This funding builds on the Administration's Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan and EPA's Get the Lead Out Initiative.

Working collaboratively, EPA and the State Revolving Funds are advancing the President's Justice40 Initiative to ensure that 40% of overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. Lead exposure disproportionately affects communities of color and low-income families. The $9 billion in total funding announced to date through EPA's Lead Service Line Replacement Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program is expected to replace up to 1.7 million lead pipes nationwide, securing clean drinking water for countless families.

EPA projects a national total of 9 million lead services lines across the country, based on data collected from the updated 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. The funding announced today will be provided specifically for lead service line identification and replacement and will help every state and territory fund projects to remove lead pipes and reduce exposure to lead from drinking water

Alongside the funding announced today, EPA is also releasing a new memorandum that clarifies how states can use this and other funding to most effectively reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. Additionally, EPA has developed new outreach documents to help water systems educate their customers on drinking water issues, health impacts of lead exposure, service line ownership, and how customers can support the identification of potential lead service lines in their homes.

For more information, including state-by-state allotment of 2024 funding, and a breakdown of EPA's lead Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, please visit EPA's Drinking Water website.

See the full news release here.

Announcement: Biden-Harris Administration Announces $41 million in Available Grants to Upgrade Stormwater and Sewer Infrastructure

On May 9, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of nearly $41 million in funding through the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program to help communities address stormwater and sewer infrastructure needs. Safely managing stormwater is critical to preventing contaminants, including untreated sewage, from polluting waterways. EPA's grant funding is available to states to support projects in cities and towns that will strengthen their stormwater collection systems to be more resilient against increasingly intense rain events made worse by the climate crisis.

Additional funding for stormwater and wastewater upgrades is available through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is providing $11.7 billion to states to upgrade wastewater infrastructure through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Additionally, the seventh round of EPA's WIFIA financing is available—with $6.5 billion through WIFIA and $1 billion through SWIFIA. EPA is currently accepting letters of interest for WIFIA and SWIFIA, a loan program exclusively for State infrastructure financing authority borrowers. Learn more about submitting a letter of interest for a WIFIA loan.

These programs advance President Biden's Justice40 Initiative, which sets a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

Learn more about the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program.

See the full news release here.

Webinar: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems: Inorganics Treatment: Arsenic and Nitrate

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, June 25, 2024
- Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: Click here to register.
- June 2024 SDWS Flyer (pdf)

1. Biological Nitrate Treatment: Innovations and Challenges
This presentation will focus on a biological nitrate treatment pilot study conducted at a water treatment plant. The study used an innovative denitrification system and nitrogen gas sparging to lower dissolved oxygen concentration, and it sometimes achieved complete denitrification. This discussion will also focus on the challenges of matching the acetic acid feed to a variable influent nitrate concentration and addressing clogging by bacterial flocs. The treatment approach showed promise; however, reactor design enhancements are needed to bring this technology to small systems. Asher Keithley, EPA Office of Research and Development.

2. Arsenic Refresher
This presentation will provide an overview of arsenic chemistry and treatment considerations. Arsenic accumulation in the distribution system and potential release back to the water will also be discussed, based on retrospective data analysis from EPA’s arsenic demonstration program. Simoni Triantafyllidou, EPA Office of Research and Development

3. An Arsenic Case Study in California: Oasis Mobile Home Park
This presentation will provide an overview of EPA Region 9’s enforcement case with Oasis Mobile Home Park for violation of the Arsenic Rule. Key topics will include environmental justice, enforcement, technical conditions, and community and stakeholder engagement. The unique challenges and successes of trying to bring a small public water system back into compliance will also be discussed. Maria Alberty, EPA Region 9.

Webinar: Infrastructure Finance: Opportunities to Advance Water Reuse

Various federal infrastructure funding programs exist to support community and state water management and infrastructure funding needs, including water reuse. These programs include EPA’s Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Title XVI Program, and USDA’s Rural Development. In this webinar, representatives from across the federal government will briefly discuss their funding programs, application requirements, and examples of previous water reuse projects funded under those programs.

Webinar Details

- Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024
- Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: Click here to register.

Webinar: Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Nutrients Research Webinar Series: Nutrients and Climate Interactions

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.

Resource: Empowering Communities with the EPA Flooded Homes Cleanup Guidance Tool and Updated Stormwater Smart Outreach Tools Now Available in Spanish

Extreme weather events such as tropical storms and heavy rainfall present a variety of challenges for communities across the country. Flooding is one of the most common types of natural disasters impacting people in the United States. A flooded home can result in various health hazards, in addition to financial and social challenges for homeowners and their families. In many cases it takes weeks for people to re-enter their homes after a flood event, and failure to remove contaminated materials before re-entering a flooded home can increase risk of long-term health impacts. Standing water and wet materials can contain microorganisms such as viruses, bacteria, and mold. Unfortunately, not all homeowners are aware of the health hazards or what to do when experiencing a flood. To address this issue, EPA scientists developed a website to inform the public about flooding-related health hazards.

The EPA Flooded Homes Cleanup Guidance website provides tips and informational videos for people impacted by flooding to prepare for re-entering their home and beginning cleanup. The site also explains the different health risks associated with flooding such as asbestos, mold, and lead paint.

The website is relevant to communities impacted by disasters involving water intrusion. The impact of this tool has national significance for addressing the needs of communities impacted by flooding to help improve their health and well-being. The human-centered design approach and the involvement of actual community members affected by

flooding helped ensure the website addressed the needs, interests, and values of the community and provided the information in a user-friendly manner.

Additionally, EPA Stormwater Smart tools are now available in Spanish! You will find the Spanish versions with their corresponding English version on the webpage, each ready for downloading and customizing. The Stormwater Smart collection includes brochures, infographics, one-pagers, and social media posts to educate the public.

Resource: Free Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Assistance from EPA's Creating Resilient Water Utilities Initiative

Drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater (water sector) utilities, along with other water sector stakeholders, are eligible to receive free climate change risk assessment technical assistance from EPA's Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CRWU) initiative. Through this technical assistance process, CRWU will assist approximately 75 water sector utilities / communities in identifying long-term climate change adaptation strategies, as well as potential funding options to implement adaptive measures.

If you are, or know of, a water sector utility that would like to receive this free technical assistance opportunity, please indicate your interest via email to Aliza Furneaux (furneaux.aliza@epa.gov) no later than Friday, August 15, 2024.

EPA will notify the utilities chosen to receive technical assistance by early September, and will assign each utility an assessment start-date of either October 2024 or January, April, or July 2025. If you'd prefer technical assistance sooner than later, CRWU has a few opportunities to assist you now. In your email response, please indicate you are immediately ready to engage.

More details on the technical assistance process are provided below and if you'd like to see what other utilities have already done related to climate change risk assessment, visit EPA CRWU's Adaptation Case Studies Map.

Technical Assistance Process
Using EPA CRWU's Resilient Strategies Guide or Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool, water sector utility owners and operators will be guided through a risk assessment process to:

- Better understand potential risk from climate change threats;
- Identify potential adaptive measures to become more resilient to those threats; and
- Explore potential funding sources for implementation of those potential adaptive measures.

Recognizing partner utilities' significant time constraints, EPA provides efficient technical assistance with substantial facilitation support. This opportunity requires the utility to dedicate approximately 35 to 40 hours, spread across two to four months, to the assessment process. Utilities typically designate a lead staff member to serve as a point-of-contact on the assessment. Additional utility staff and experts may be invited to contribute during certain meeting topics as well.

Webinar: Water & Wastewater Sector Cyber Incident Response Webinar

CISA Region 8 is hosting a Water & Wastewater Sector Cyber Incident Response Webinar in June. The webinar will review the Water and Wastewater Sector Cybersecurity Toolkit, including the Incident Response Guide which 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.

Webinar Details

- Date: June 18, 2024
- Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am MDT
- Registration Link: Region 8 Water Sector Cyber Webinar

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 Incident Response Guide, please click here

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
10th 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
- Jill Minter, Lead Service Line Inventory – 303-312-6084 – minter.jill@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
- Erica Wenzel, Lead Service Line Inventory – 303-312-6411 – wenzel.erica@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.