



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

## EPA Region 8 Wyoming Drinking Water Monthly Newsletter

May, 2024

### 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.

**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.

### THIS MONTH

#### EPA Finalizes PFAS Rule

Resource: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Technical Assistance for Lead

Resource: Accessing Laboratory Support Webinar

Resource: National Day of Action April 30<sup>th</sup> and Cybersecurity Webinar

Resource: Cyber Incident Response Guide

Resource: Prescribed Burning and Smoke Management Planning Webinar

Resource: Community Change Grant Program

Resource: WaterTA

Reminder: Public Water System Facility and Contact Changes

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program Contacts



- 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](mailto:morrison.kendra@epa.gov) or (303) 312-6145.



### **[Resource: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Technical Assistance for Lead](#)**

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, May 21, 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: Accessing Laboratory Support Webinar](#)**

EPA's Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) is hosting a webinar detailing the online Accessing Laboratory Support interactive tool. The interactive training tool guides water utilities, laboratories, and emergency responders through methods on how to find and access laboratory analytical support when emergency situations arise. This tool also provides an overview of the EPA's WLA, includes avenues for obtaining analytical support, and contains a one-page summary and reference sheet which summarizes the key information from the interactive tool. Participants will be walked through the five routes to access analytical support using the guide along with example scenarios of when and how it can be utilized to prepare for such incidents. The webinar will include a live demo of the tool to demonstrate the user-friendly nature of the guide.

## Webinar Details

- Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024
- Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
- Registration: [Register Here](#)

## [Resource: National Day of Action April 30th and Cybersecurity Webinar](#)

National PrepareAthon Day is observed annually on April 30th. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of having preparedness measures in place in case of emergencies like natural or human-made disasters. Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division (WICRD) resources that can be used to enhance preparedness in the Water and Wastewater Systems Sector are listed below.

### Assess Risks:

- [Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool](#): Assess risk to human-made threats and natural hazards (recommended for large systems).
- [Small System Risk and Resilience Assessment Checklist](#): Assess risk to human-made threats and natural hazards (recommended for small systems).
- [Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool](#): Assess risk to climate change impacts and build resilience through adaptation.
- [Resilient Strategies Guide](#): Identify assets that are vulnerable to climate impacts and learn about strategies and funding options for adaptation.

### Plan for Emergencies:

[Emergency Response Plan Template and Instructions](#): This resource can be used to develop a step-by-step plan to respond when an emergency strikes.

## [Cybersecurity Guidance for Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Webinar](#)

EPA's Office of Water will host a free webinar that highlights and discusses the latest cybersecurity-based guidance products under development by WICRD to enhance cyber resiliency within the Water and Wastewater Systems Sector. These products include the Cybersecurity Insurance Factsheet, Incident Action Checklist, and EPA Cybersecurity Risk Assessment Guidance for Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems.

## Webinar Details

- Date: May 21, 2024
- Time: 1:00 PM ET
- Registration: [Register Here](#)

[Additional resilience training can be found here.](#)

## [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: Prescribed Burning and Smoke Management Planning Webinar**

Prescribed burning is the deliberate and careful control of fires to help prevent more destructive fires or to kill off unwanted plants that compete with commercial species for plant nutrients. This webinar will focus on a prescribed burning case study in Flint Hills, Kansas. This ecoregion is an economically and ecologically important area encompassing the largest tallgrass prairie ecosystem in North America. Prescribed fires are used annually to control invasive woody species and improve forage production for the multi-billion-dollar beef-cattle industry. However, burning releases harmful pollutants that can contribute to air quality problems for communities across a multi-state area near the burning site.

#### Webinar Details

- Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024
- Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET
- Registration: [Register 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](mailto: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 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:barbakova.tamara@epa.gov)
- Bryce Faliskie, Water Security– 303-312-6651 – [faliskie.bryce@epa.gov](mailto:faliskie.bryce@epa.gov)
- Angela Mendrala, Inventory Changes – 303-312-6533 – [mendrala.angela@epa.gov](mailto:mendrala.angela@epa.gov)
- Jill Minter, Lead Service Line Inventory – 303-312-6084 – [minter.jill@epa.gov](mailto:minter.jill@epa.gov)
- Kendra Morrison, PFAS – 303-312-6145 – [morrison.kendra@epa.gov](mailto:morrison.kendra@epa.gov)
- Erica Wenzel, Lead Service Line Inventory – 303-312-6411 – [wenzel.eric@epa.gov](mailto:wenzel.eric@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](mailto:stclair.kyle@epa.gov).