



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

EPA Region 8 Wyoming Drinking Water Monthly Newsletter

December, 2024

Announcement: Lead Copper Rule (LCR) Sample Site Tiering Criteria Requirements

All community and non-transient non-community public water systems located in the state of Wyoming and Region 8 Indian Country are required to collect lead and copper samples in accordance with the tiering criteria. 40 CFR 141.86(a)).

What Is Site Tiering Criteria?

The lead and copper rule (LCR) established a tiering system to prioritize and identify sampling sites based on the susceptibility to high lead or copper concentrations in your distribution. Systems shall report all of the information including site tiering information to EPA (40 CFR 141.90) and sample from sites that meet the tiering criteria (40 CFR 141.86).

How Do I Develop LCR Sample Site Plan (TSSP)?

EPA Region 8 developed the Tap Sample Site Plan (TSSP) form to ensure samples are collected from locations that meet the tiering criteria and should be followed every time lead and copper samples are collected. The fillable sample plan can be found [here](#) along with [instructions](#) with how to correctly tier your locations.

Keep In Mind When Sampling

THIS MONTH

Announcement: LCR Sample Site Tiering Criteria Requirements

Announcement: New Tier 1 Public Notice for Lead Action Level Exceedances

Announcement: EPA Celebrates 50 Years of Safe and Clean Drinking Water

Announcement: EPA Releases Climate Change Considerations When Prioritizing, Development, and Implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads

Announcement: EPA's Watershed Academy Releases a New Learning Module - the Clean Water Act through an Environmental Justice Lens

Webinar: Water Infrastructure and Capacity Assessment Tool (Water ICAT)

Webinar: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Lead Chemistry, Communication, and Local Engagement

Webinar: 2025 Virtual Operator Conference

To ensure samples meet the site tiering criteria, water systems must sample from all available Tier 1 (highest priority) locations first. When all available Tier 1 locations have been exhausted, you must complete your sampling from all available Tier 2 sites. Once all Tier 1 and 2 locations have been exhausted, you must complete your sampling with Tier 3 sites. Tier Other (lowest priority) locations may be sampled after all available Tiers have been exhausted. [40 CFR 141.86(a)]. Do not skip any high priority locations. This may result in failure to monitor violations.

You must use the same locations, unless a location is no longer accessible to you or no longer fits the requirements of a priority site (e.g., the lead service lines that served the site have been removed), then you must notify EPA and update your TSSP. Any modification to your existing TSSP can be done by contacting the Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Manager.

Funding: Reducing Lead in Drinking Water

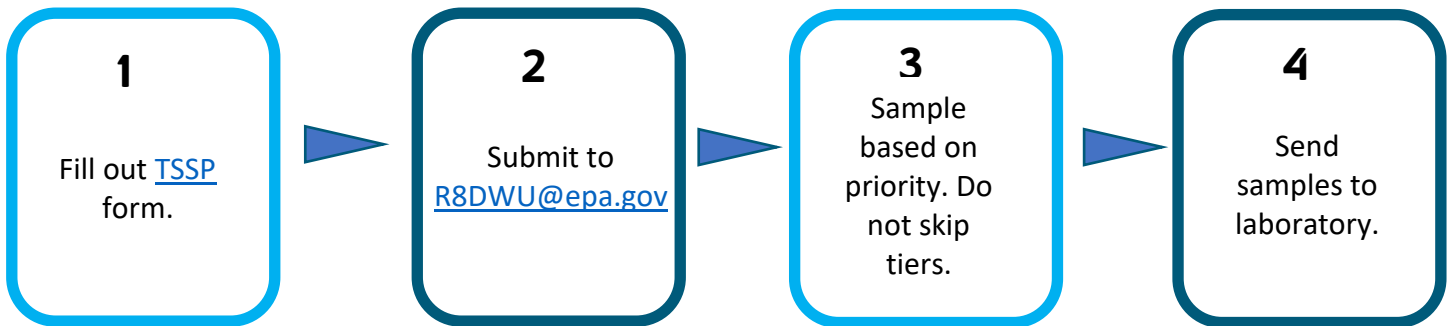
Funding: Department of the Interior's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Resource: WaterTA

Reminder: Public Water System Facility and Contact Changes

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program Contacts



EPA Region 8 will be reviewing your sample results and locations to determine whether the system collected samples in accordance with the tiering criteria. Systems that fail to submit site tiering information via TSSP form and/or fail to collect from locations according to tiering requirements may receive monitoring and reporting violations.

If you have any questions, please contact Bolor Bertelmann, LCR Compliance Manager, at bertelmann.bolor@epa.gov or 303-312-6233.



[Announcement: New Tier 1 Public Notice for Lead Action Level Exceedances](#)

An exceedance of the lead Action Level now requires public water systems to perform a Tier 1 Public Notice (PN) within 24-hours of the lead Action Level Exceedance (ALE). If a water system has a lead ALE, they should notify the ALE rule manager, Chelsea Ransom, at ransom.chelsea@epa.gov or 303-312-6876 immediately. Next, follow the instructions for filling out and distributing the Tier 1 PN. The instructions, template, and certification can be found on our website in word and pdf formats in English and Spanish at this location: <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/lcr-lead-action-level-exceedance-template>. Due to the tight time constraint, EPA does not need to pre-approve the Tier 1 PN template before it is distributed. Please send your Public Notice and certification to EPA as soon as possible after distribution. Note that if a system fails to do the Tier 1 PN within 24 hours of learning of the ALE, EPA is required to issue the public notification on behalf of the water system. EPA Region 8 would do this as a public service announcement in the media.

What is a Tier 1 Public Notice?

A Tier 1 PN is provided to persons served drinking water as soon as practical but no more than 24 hours after learning of the lead ALE. The PN informs the consumers about the potential lead impacts in their drinking water and any actions to take to minimize lead exposure. Additionally, the water system must also provide a copy of the notice to EPA Region 8.

Announcement: EPA Celebrates 50 Years of Safe and Clean Drinking Water

Today, December 16, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency marked the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), passed in 1974 to set federal standards for drinking-water quality. President Joe Biden issued a [statement commemorating the Safe Drinking Water Act's 50th anniversary](#).

Since December 16, 1974 — when Congress passed the Safe Drinking Act legislation that President Gerald Ford signed into law — EPA has worked with federal partners, states, tribes, and local officials, water systems, private companies, and the public to achieve the vision of the Safe Drinking Water Act, that people across America have clean and safe drinking water.

See the [full news release here](#).

Announcement: EPA Releases Climate Change Considerations When Prioritizing, Development, and Implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads

The EPA released the document titled [Climate Change Considerations When Prioritizing, Developing, and Implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads](#) to support states, territories and Tribes as they work to protect and restore their waters. The document provides examples and a selection of approaches for incorporating climate change considerations into TMDL processes that can be used individually or in combination, depending on each TMDL's circumstances.

Under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, states, territories and authorized Tribes develop lists of impaired waters, are required to establish priority rankings and develop total maximum daily loads. A TMDL includes a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet applicable WQS, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. Climate change impacts affect water quality pollutants, attainment of water quality standards and the processes involved in establishing TMDLs. For more information, see [EPA's website for Section 303\(d\) Lists and TMDLs](#).

Announcement: EPA's Watershed Academy Releases a New Learning Module - the Clean Water Act through an Environmental Justice Lens

The EPA released a new learning module that looks at the [Clean Water Act through an environmental justice lens](#). Developed by the EPA's Watershed Academy, the module explores the CWA as a guiding framework to highlight water equity challenges and watershed management opportunities. It explains the basics of environmental justice, provides a brief overview of 10 cornerstone CWA programs that drive surface-water quality protection and outlines clear opportunities for the public to engage in the CWA process.

For more than 25 years, the Watershed Academy platform has provided free webinars, tools, training and information on a comprehensive range of topics including watershed ecology, watershed change, analysis and planning, management practices, watershed law and the human element of watershed management. Visit the [Watershed Academy website](#) learn more about this new module and other resources.

Webinar: Water Infrastructure and Capacity Assessment Tool (Water ICAT)

In November 2024, EPA launched the [Water Infrastructure and Capacity Assessment Tool \(Water ICAT\)](#), an interactive map that helps users – such as technical assistance providers – identify drinking water and wastewater utilities that may benefit from water infrastructure technical assistance or capacity development assistance. Water ICAT combines water utility information with compliance, community, and water infrastructure funding data allowing users to efficiently screen for utilities that may benefit from additional federal, state, or local support. Please join us for an overview and demo of Water ICAT, hosted by the EPA.

Webinar Details

- Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025
- Time: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time
- Registration: [Click here to register](#).

Webinar: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Lead Chemistry, Communication, and Local Engagement

The EPA's Office of Research and Development and Office of Water, in collaboration with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, 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 1:00 to 4:00 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, January 28, 2025
- Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time
- Registration: [Click here to register](#).

Webinar: 2025 Virtual Operator Conference

This free, virtual training conference offers drinking water operators a chance to learn more about timely topics, improve fundamental skills, and get support for specific challenges while earning up to 12 hours of CEU credit. While there is no substitute for in-person training, this online event was created to specifically target operators of small and

rural public water systems who may not have the means or ability to travel. Conference instructors are technical assistance providers from the RCAP network.

In 2024 the conference was pre-approved or acceptable for drinking water CEUs in Wyoming. The team is currently submitting applications for 2025 and will begin sharing status updates soon.



Webinar Details

- Date: February 4-6, 2024
- Time: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time
- Registration: [Click here to register.](#)

Funding: Reducing Lead in Drinking Water

EPA announced the availability of \$35 million to assist disadvantaged communities and schools with removing sources of lead in drinking water. The EPA continues its focus on ensuring and advancing environmental justice and equity, revitalizing communities, and protecting public health through the reducing lead in drinking water program. The grant program is designed to facilitate reducing lead in drinking water in disadvantaged communities through infrastructure and/or treatment improvements or facility remediation in schools and childcare facilities. The goal of these projects is to address conditions that contribute to increased concentrations of lead in drinking water. The lead reduction projects should proceed to implementation upon award. Priority Areas identified in this announcement are for: (1) Reduction of Lead Exposure in the Nation's Drinking Water Systems through Infrastructure and Treatment Improvements and (2) Reduction of Children's Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Childcare Facilities.

[Click here for more information](#)
[Deadline to Apply is Dec 30, 2024](#)

Funding: Department of the Interior's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

The objective of this notice of funding opportunity is to invite States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with the Bureau of Reclamation on small-scale on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies. Proposed projects that are supported by an existing water management and conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or other planning effort led by the applicant are prioritized.

[Click here for more information](#)
[Deadline to Apply is Jan 14, 2025](#)

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

Gentle Reminder for yearly monitoring requirements:

It is about that time of the year to check if you have met your yearly monitoring requirement. If you know you still need to sample, please plan to collect the sample before the end of 2024. If you are not sure of what you need to sample for and what you have sampled for so far, please review your Monitoring and Reporting requirements also known as To Dos sent to you in February and compare that with the results recorded in Drinking Water Watch report at: <https://sdwisdww.epa.gov/DWWR8WY/index.jsp>

[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
- Bolor Bertelmann, LCR Sample Tiering Requirements – 303-312-6233 – Bertelmann.bolor@epa.gov
- Bryce Faliskie, Water Security and Resiliency – 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
- Chelsea Ransom, Tier 1 Public Notices for LCR ALE – 303-312-6876 – ransom.chelsea@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.

