



CWISA Emerging Contaminants Project Eligibility Decision Tool

STEP
1

Are you a Federally recognized Tribe?¹

NO

Pursue different sources of funding. For more information, visit the [Water Finance Clearinghouse](#) or search [other resources](#).

YES

Has the EC been identified?

YES

NO

Check whether your project would be generally eligible² for CWISA EC funding.

CWISA EC funds can be used to conduct laboratory sampling and analysis.

Before proceeding, contact your [EPA Regional Coordinator](#) to understand CWISA EC priorities and how funding applications are prioritized. EPA Regions manage CWISA EC awards.

Applicants may apply for CWISA EC funding prior to verifying the presence of an EC. CWISA EC funds can be used to verify the EC is present as part of the project. Before proceeding, contact your [EPA Regional Coordinator](#) to understand CWISA EC priorities and how funding applications are prioritized. EPA Regions manage CWISA EC awards.

Once EC(s) are verified other project components can proceed.

STEP
2

Piloting/Planning/Design

What phase of the project are you currently in?

Construction

Is the selected treatment technology or process reasonably expected to address the identified ECs?

YES

NO

- If the project is anticipated to result in a well scoped³ capital project, CWISA EC funds can be used:
- For planning and design, including development of engineering documents and associated travel costs,
 - To conduct a feasibility/pilot study, including any necessary sampling, testing and analysis,
 - For the purchase of monitoring or laboratory analysis equipment for ECs,
 - In combination with other funding sources such as IHS DSFC and CWSRF funding.

Project is CWISA EC eligible. Also, CWISA EC funding may be used to assess project effectiveness for the startup period⁴ after construction.

Identify a viable treatment technology and/or pursue a feasibility study/pilot project. Recommend further coordination with your local [EPA Region](#).

Project piloting, planning, and design is CWISA EC eligible.

STEP
3

Footnotes:

¹ Any Indian Tribe, band, group, or community recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in its list (<https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory>) of all federally recognized tribes in the United States are eligible for CWISA EC funding as well as funding through the CWISA program. From <https://www.epa.gov/small-and-rural-wastewater-systems/clean-water-indian-set-aside-program-guidance>

² You can review CWISA EC eligibility guidance, which includes project examples, at: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-03/cwisa-emerging-contaminants-eligibility-summary.pdf>. You can also read case studies about clean water emerging contaminants projects around the nation at: <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-emerging-contaminants#casestudies>

³ The elements of a well scoped capital project are outlined in <https://www.epa.gov/small-and-rural-wastewater-systems/clean-water-indian-set-aside-program-guidance>

⁴ The startup period is approximately one year following construction completion.

Acronyms:

CWISA	Clean Water Indian Set Aside
EC	Emerging Contaminant
CWSRF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund
IHS DSFC	Indian Health Service Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction

Glossary:

Emerging Contaminant (EC) – Substance or microorganism, including manufactured or naturally occurring physical, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear material, which is known or anticipated in the environment, which may pose newly identified or re-emerging risks to human health, aquatic life, or the environment. With the exception of PFAS, ECs are contaminants that do not have water quality criteria established by EPA under Clean Water Act section 304(a). A description of ECs can be found in Appendix B of EPA's March 2022 memorandum, [Implementation of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(pdf\)](#).