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

EPA Region 8 Wyoming Drinking Water Monthly Newsletter May, 2025

Resource: Potential Bacteria Sample Bottle Shipping Delays

Reduced Overnight Postal Delivery in Rural Areas
EPA has recently learned the United States Postal Service (USPS) and UPS (United Parcel Service) are ending or reducing their overnight delivery service in rural areas of the United States, including some areas of Wyoming. If you send your total coliform bacteria samples, overnight, to a laboratory, EPA recommends reaching out to your shipping service as soon as possible to ensure that sample bottles will be received by the laboratory within approved holding times.

This is important for both sending and receiving total coliform (and E. coli) bacteria sample bottles to and from the lab.

Shipping Water Samples to the Laboratory
Total coliform and E. coli bacteria samples have a very short holding time, only 30 hours. That means a water operator has 30 hours from the time the sample is collected to the time the water sample gets into the analysis machine. That doesn't mean that the water sample has to arrive at the lab within 30 hours, it means that it has to arrive at the lab BEFORE 30 hours so that the lab has time to process the sample, record all the

THIS MONTH

sampling information, and get it into the analysis machine before 30 hours have passed.

For example, if a total coliform bacteria water sample is collected at 9.00 am on a Monday, it must arrive at the lab a few hours before 3.00 pm on Tuesday so the lab can enter the sample information into the computer database and set up the water sample for analysis. If it arrives at 3.00pm, 30 hours after it was collected, the lab will reject it, and another total coliform sample will be required.

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program Contacts

Since shipping issues may cause problems on the holding time requirement for sample analysis, we recommend collecting your bacteria samples early in the week and early in the month, just in case any samples are lost or don't make it to the lab in less than 30 hours.

Receiving Bottles from the Laboratory

If a water system has a routine total coliform positive sample result, repeat and triggered source samples are required to be collected within **24 hours**. If a water system is notified that a sample result is total coliform positive on a Tuesday and it takes two days for the lab's repeat and triggered sample bottles to get sample bottles to the system (in a best-case scenario), then the repeat and triggered samples can't be collected until Thursday, at the earliest. Even if the samples could be driven to the lab in less than 30 hours, most labs don't accept bacteria samples on a Thursday or Friday, so sampling would be delayed until the following Monday, a week or more after the original routine positive water sample. If this is the case, it will lead to a Level 1 or Level 2 Assessment and a triggered source sample monitoring violation for not collecting the triggered source sample within 24 hours. DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!!! Plan ahead now and make sure deliveries to and from the lab can happen in less than 30 hours.

EPA recommends sampling early in the week and maintaining extra sample bottles on site to ensure repeat and triggered source sample requirements can be met.

Reminder: Consumer Confidence Report Deadlines

A Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), also known as a safe drinking water or water quality report, is an annual report that summarizes the quality of drinking water for a Community Public Water Supply System (CWS). CCR requirements apply only to CWS and to wholesalers that provide water to CWS.

The CCR is a great opportunity for a CWS to describe for its water consumers what is required to produce their drinking water, water sample results, how the CWS managed problems that might have occurred, and future improvements or requirements associated with operating the system. The reports are designed to assist consumers in making informed choices that affect their health and the health of their families.

Each year, every Wyoming and Region 8 Tribal community public water system (PWS) must prepare and distribute a CCR to its customers and send a copy of the CCR to the US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (EPA). The system must also provide a signed certification regarding the contents of the report and its distribution. Due dates for these requirements are listed below.

- ***April 1st*** - Final date for wholesalers to provide sample results to community public water supply systems that purchase their water.

- ***July 1st*** - Final date for all community public water supply systems to distribute a CCR to their consumers, as noted below and to submit a copy to the EPA.
- ***October 1st*** - Final date to submit a certification of report content and distribution to the EPA.

Below are **new lead requirements** for 2024 CCRs due in 2025:

1. Lead and copper: the 90th percentile concentration of the most recent round(s) of sampling (if your system completed two rounds of sampling then the report needs to include both 90 percentile values), the number of sampling sites exceeding the action level, *and the range of tap sampling results* [141.153 (d)(4)(vi)]
2. **Updated lead educational statement for all CCRs.**
   Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant women, infants, and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. [NAME OF UTILITY] is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact [NAME OF UTILITY and CONTACT INFORMATION]. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.
3. **Contaminant health effect statement [Appendix A to Subpart O of Part 141, Title 40]:**
   Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.
4. **Lead service line inventory statement [141.153 (d)(4)(xi)*]:**
   The report shall include a statement that a service line inventory (including inventories consisting only of a statement that there are no lead service lines) has been prepared and include instructions on how the information can be accessed publicly.

Additionally, you received a CCR due reminder the week of April 28, 2025, if your system had an open significant deficiency as of December 31, 2024, or conducted a Level 1 assessment, or a Level 2 assessment was conducted at your facility, or you were required to monitor for unregulated contaminants in 2024. Please remember to include that information in your 2024 CCR.

The following webpage includes detailed instructions and resources on how to prepare your CCR. Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Reports in Wyoming and Tribal Lands in EPA Region 8 | US EPA. The **CCRiWriter** tool has been updated with the requirements for 2024 reports. This includes the range of tap sampling results for lead and copper, Lead Service Line Inventory information and the updated health effect language for lead.

Please note that the EPA is planning on providing training on CCR requirements during the upcoming MAP virtual conference in May 2025. Contact Pragati Sharma, CCR Rule Manager at sharma.pragati@epa.gov if you have any questions.

Reminder: Upcoming Lead and Copper Compliance Dates

All community and non-transient non-community public water systems with compliance date of 2025 are to collect lead and copper samples in accordance with the tiering criteria. [40 CFR 141.86(a)].

Semi-annual (January -June) monitoring period ENDS	June 30th	2025
Annual & Triennial monitoring period BEGINS	June 1st	2025

Keep In Mind That

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.

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 to correctly tier your locations.

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 or need a copy of your plan, please contact Bolor Bertelmann, LCR Compliance Manager, at bertelmann.bolor@epa.gov (303-312-6233) or Claire Ohman, Technical Support, at ohman.claire@epa.gov (303-312-6578).

Resource: Lead Service Line Inventories - What's Happening Right Now

CERTIFICATION OF DELIVERY FOR THE 2024 CONSUMER NOTIFICATION OF LSL AND LSL INFORMATION MATERIALS – DUE JULY 1, 2025

- **Public Education Requirement:** ***Notification of service line that is known to or may potentially contain lead*** - All water systems with lead, GRR, or lead status unknown service lines in their initial inventory (originally due to EPA on Oct. 16th, 2024) were required to provide notification of a service line that is known to or may potentially contain lead to customers and all persons served by the water system at the affected service connections within 30 days of completion of the initial LSL inventory (or by Nov. 15, 2024). Notification must be delivered annually thereafter until service line is demonstrated to be non-lead. Delivery deadline of the 2025 notifications is by December 31, 2025.
- **Public Education Reporting Requirement:** ***Certification of Delivery for 2024 (initial inventory) Consumer Notification of LSL and of LSL Information Materials*** – By July 1, 2025 the water system must certify to the Primacy Agency that it delivered the LSL consumer notification and service line information materials to customers and all persons served by the water system at the service connection with a lead, galvanized requiring

replacement, or lead status unknown service line in accordance with § 141.85(e) for the previous calendar year of 2024. The water system must also provide an example copy of the notification and information materials for lead, galvanized requiring replacement, and lead status unknown service lines to the Primacy Agency.

- Submit certification and example copy(s) of notification EPA LSLI Team via email, mail or fax:
  - Email: R8DWU@epa.gov In Subject – "<Water System's PWSID> LSL Notice Cert", or;
  - Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, Mail code: 8WD-SDP, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado 80202, Attn: LSLI Team, or;
  - Fax: Attention LSLI Team, 1-303-312-7517
- Certification Reporting Template (Optional): Systems may use the provided Certification for Delivery of LSL Notification and Information Materials template reporting form if they would like a template form to be provided to them. The use of this template is not enforced. This template will be available on our website by May 19. https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/reporting-forms-drinking-water-systems-wyoming-and-tribal-lands-epa-region-8#lsli

COMING SOON - INITIAL LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY COMPLIANCE REVIEW REPORTS

EPA Region 8 LSL Inventory Team has finished reviewing all the submitted inventories for compliance. Next, we will be sending Compliance Review Reports to water systems to inform them of their overall compliance acceptability status (Accepted or Unacceptable). The overall compliance acceptability status is broken down in the report with an itemized compliance checklist of the requirements. Comments under each section's checklist provides the system with an explanation for any requirements determined to not meet compliance and any necessary follow up actions that must be taken by the water system to correct deficiencies. The comments sections may also provide recommendations for improvement to the inventory for future updates, even if it is currently in compliance with all requirements. Please review the comments carefully, respond to any request from EPA for follow up, and consider recommendations for improving your inventory prior to the next inventory update deadline. *Note: There is not a requirement to submit an inventory update to the Primacy Agency in 2025 or 2026.*

For more information from EPA on Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacements, visit:

- https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-service-lines

Visit the EPA Region 8 Lead Service Line Inventory webpage for additional information and resources for water systems in Wyoming, including: reporting forms, LSL technical assistance partners, instructions on how to submit your inventory to EPA Region 8, and more:

- https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/lead-service-line-inventories-wyoming-and-tribal-lands-epa-region-8

Curious about general information on the LCRI, visit these EPA websites for more information.

- https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements
- https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements-supporting-materials

If you have questions about the EPA Region 8 LSLI Program, you may contact Erica Wenzel at EPA Region 8. email: wenzel.erica@epa.gov, or call: (303) 312-6411

Resource: Technical Assistance for Tackling Emerging Contaminants in Drinking Water

EPA has recently launched a new technical assistance program to address emerging contaminants, such as PFAS, in small or disadvantaged communities. The objectives of this program, referred to as EPA's Tackling Emerging Contaminants (TEC), are to support small or disadvantaged communities in assessing and addressing emerging contaminants and PFAS in drinking water, to help connect more communities to historic federal funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

This is a no cost service to support communities with diagnostic water quality sampling and analysis, source water assessment, preliminary treatment design and evaluations, and identifying solutions to address emerging contaminant and PFAS contamination.

Region 8 systems that have confirmed or suspected contamination of emerging contaminants have begun to receive technical assistance in May 2025. To learn more about the kinds of actions that this initiative will support and to submit a request for assistance, click here.

Announcement: EPA Announces It Will Keep Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFOA, PFOS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency will keep the current National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), which set nationwide limits for these "forever chemicals" in drinking water. The agency is committed to addressing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water while following the law and ensuring that regulatory compliance is achievable for drinking water systems.

"The work to protect Americans from PFAS in drinking water started under the first Trump Administration and will continue under my leadership," ***said EPA Administrator Zeldin****. "We are on a path to uphold the agency's nationwide standards to protect Americans from PFOA and PFOS in their water. At the same time, we will work to provide common-sense flexibility in the form of additional time for compliance. This will support water systems across the country, including small systems in rural communities, as they work to address these contaminants. EPA will also continue to use its regulatory and enforcement tools to hold polluters accountable."*

To read more about the press release click here.

Resource: Cybersecurity 102 Webinar

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division will provide this course to build upon Cybersecurity 101. The technical assistance course will offer deeper insights into cybersecurity for those with basic knowledge in the field, as it applies to Operational Technology (OT). Whether you are an IT professional, business owner, or simply interested in protecting yourself online, this course will equip you with practical skills to navigate today's digital threats.

Webinar Details

- Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025
- Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time
- Registration: Click here to register.

Resource: Primary Mitigations to Reduce Cyber Threats to Operational Technology

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of Energy (DOE)—hereafter referred to as "the authoring organizations"—are aware of cyber incidents affecting the operational technology (OT) and industrial control systems (ICS) of critical infrastructure entities in the United States. The authoring organizations urge critical infrastructure entities to review and act now to improve their cybersecurity posture against cyber threat activities specifically and intentionally targeting internet connected OT and ICS.

More information about the cybersecurity resource can be found here.

Announcement: EPA Celebrates 100 Days with 100 Environmental Actions

On April 30th, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin released a recap of 100 environmental actions taken by the agency during President Trump's First 100 Days in office, including the record Phase 1 hazardous materials clean up after the catastrophic Los Angeles wildfires, the announcement of major actions to combat PFAS contamination, redevelopment at 21 Superfund sites across 13 states and removal of all, or a portion of 4 sites from the National Priorities List, completion of 25 State Implementation Plans, 16 of which were backlogged from the previous Administration, and so much more.

"EPA wasted no time following President Trump's directive to pursue clean air, land, and water for all Americans. Since January 20th, EPA has taken significant actions to fulfill its statutory obligations of safeguarding human health and the environment to ensure cleaner, safer, and healthier air, land, and water for every American while we work to Power the Great American Comeback," said EPA Administrator Zeldin.

To read more about the press release click here.

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.

EPA Drinking Water Program Contacts

- Kyle St Clair, Wyoming Liaison – 303-312-6791 – stclair.kyle@epa.gov
- Rob Parker, Field Services and Tribal Section Supervisor – 303-312-6664 – parker.robert@epa.gov
- Seth Tourney, Rule Implementation Section Supervisor – 303-312-6579 – tourney.seth@epa.gov
- Ándie Trujillo Guajardo, Partnerships and Data Section Supervisor – 303-312-6454 – guajardo.andrea@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:

- Bolor Bertelmann, Lead and Copper Rule – 303-312-6233 – bertelmann.bolor@epa.gov
- Bryce Faliskie, Water Security and Resiliency – 303-312-6651 – faliskie.bryce@epa.gov
- Jamie Harris, Revised Total Coliform Rule – 303-312-6072 – harris.jamie@epa.gov
- Angela Mendrala, Inventory Changes – 303-312-6533 – mendrala.angela@epa.gov
- Kendra Morrison, PFAS Rule – 303-312-6145 – morrison.kendra@epa.gov
- Pragati Sharma, Consumer Confidence Report Rule – 303-312-7285 – sharma.pragati@epa.gov
- Karen Ward, Emerging Contaminant – 303-312-6449 – ward.karen@epa.gov
- Erica Wenzel, Lead Service Line Inventory – 303-312-6411 – wenzel.erica@epa.gov

Other EPA Region 8 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.