



ePipeline

OHA-Drinking Water Services Newsletter

July 15, 2021

DWS updates phone system

Drinking Water Services (DWS) has changed some aspects of its phone system. For general questions about drinking water, call DWS at 971-673-0405. For questions specific to Eastern Oregon, call 541-276-8006. The Springfield office will no longer receive general calls. Messages are monitored every business day until 4:30 p.m., and callers leaving messages after 4:30 will receive a return call the next business day.

For after-hours emergencies, call 503-704-1174.

Most DWS staff now have mobile phones, and their desk phones have been or will soon be disconnected. See the [Drinking Water web page](#) for updated staff phone numbers and email addresses.

Outstanding Performers

Public water systems achieve Outstanding Performer status when they have no significant deficiencies identified and no unresolved violations, as evaluated during their routine water system surveys. Those that meet the Outstanding Performer criteria have their survey frequency reduced from every three years to every five years.

Below is a list of the water systems that have met the established criteria for outstanding performance during the period of April 1, 2021, through June 14, 2021. (Some survey results from that period may still be in the data entry process, so the list may be incomplete.) Drinking Water Services congratulates the operators of these systems for jobs well done!

Go [here](#) to find out how to qualify as an Outstanding Performer.

Water System Name	County Served
AGATE WATER SYSTEM	DESCHUTES
BENTWOOD ESTATES WATER SYSTEM	DESCHUTES
DEPOE BAY, CITY OF	LINCOLN
OAKVILLA MOBILE HOME PARK	LINN
RAINBOW WATER DISTRICT	LANE
WEST SLOPE WATER DISTRICT	WASHINGTON

Prepare for wildfire

As Oregon's climate and weather patterns continue to change, bringing increasing temperatures, snowpack decline, earlier runoff, and other effects, the likelihood of wildfire and drought increases. Wildfires can lead to public health emergencies, including emergencies that affect drinking water facilities. Drinking Water Services has developed [this guidance](#) to help water systems prepare for wildfire season.

Guard against cyberattacks

Cyberattacks on businesses, industry, and even public water systems have been in the news recently. Given the potential for cyberattacks on water systems across the United States, Oregon drinking water providers are encouraged to actively monitor their computers and automated control systems for unusual and suspicious activity. See [this guidance](#) for information about how to assess and reduce the potential risk of cyberattacks on your water system.

Low-cost funding available

The Drinking Water State Revolving fund (DWSRF) provides low-cost loans to community and nonprofit non-community public water systems for planning, design, and construction of drinking water infrastructure improvements. Repayment terms are favorable and all projects receive part of the loan as principal forgiveness. Many different kinds of projects are eligible, including (among others) treatment, seismic and security improvements and service line replacements. Go [here](#) for more information.

Training opportunities

Find information about free trainings, webinars and CEUs on the Operator Certification Training Opportunities web page at www.healthoregon.org/dwtraining.

Contact Drinking Water Services

info.drinkingwater@dhsosha.state.or.us or 971-673-0405

You can view or update your subscriptions, password or email address at any time on your [User Profile Page](#). All you will need are your email address and your password (if you have selected one).

This service is provided to you at no charge by the [Oregon Health Authority](#) and the [Oregon Department of Human Services](#).

If you have any questions about this service, [please visit the GovDelivery user support website](#).



Low-Cost Funding Available for Eligible Drinking Water System Improvements

By Adam DeSemples
July 15, 2021

Oregon's [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#) provides low-cost loans to community and nonprofit non-community public water systems for planning, design and construction of drinking water infrastructure improvements. Also referred to as the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, this funding program is co-administered by Oregon Health Authority and Business Oregon.

Help with funding

In addition to low-cost financing and favorable repayment terms, all projects receive part of the loan as principal forgiveness.

Projects DWSRF can fund

- Water sources, treatment, finished water reservoirs, pumping and transmission/distribution mains
- Aquifer, storage and recovery (ASR) projects
- Instrumentation, telemetry, water meter, automatic meter reading/advanced metering infrastructure (AMR/AMI), backflow device and pressure-reducing valve projects
- Safety, seismic and security improvements
- Projects that increase redundancy and reliability of critical assets
- Water system restructuring and/or consolidation to resolve noncompliance or technical, managerial and financial problems
- Planning and design in support of an eligible project, such as feasibility studies, master plans, design, and environmental documents

Service line replacements

Funding assistance is available for complete service line replacements, regardless of pipe material or ownership of the property where the service line is located. Funding assistance can be used for service line replacement from the public water main to the point it connects with premise plumbing.

Additional projects eligible for grants and loans

- [Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects \(SIPP\)](#): for water system planning and related activities that promote sustainable water infrastructure. Also includes seismic risk assessment and mitigation plan requirements for eligible public water systems.
- [Small System Equipment Assistance \(SSEA\)](#): for small-scale additions or replacement of equipment and instrumentation needed by water systems serving ≤ 300 connections
- [Drinking Water Source Protection \(DWSP\)](#): for eligible drinking water source protection projects

Public notice reminder

All public notices for comments can be found on the [DWSRF web page](#).

- Quarterly (Oct., Jan., April, July) notices: for infrastructure projects
- Quarterly (Oct., Jan., April) notices: for planning (SIPP) projects
- Annual (June or July) notice: for DWSP and SSEA projects and the [Intended Use Plan \(IUP\)](#)

For more information, visit the DWSRF web page at <http://healthoregon.org/srf> or contact:

- Adam DeSempé, Oregon Health Authority's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Coordinator, at 503-956-8287 or by email at adam.desemple@dhsosha.state.or.us or
- Jon Unger, Business Oregon's Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program and Policy Coordinator, at 503-507-7107 or by email at jon.unger@oregon.gov

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