



ePipeline

OHA–Drinking Water

October 16, 2023

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Prepare for Inclement Weather

Winter storms, severe rain, icy conditions, and other inclement weather can lead to watermain pipe breaks in the distribution system, loss of power and communications, limited access to critical infrastructure and other emergencies that affect drinking water facilities and public health. OHA-DWS has developed [this guidance](#) to help public water system operators and staff prepare for potential inclement weather during the fall and winter months.

Certification Renewals

If you have a Tester, Specialist, Distribution, or Treatment certification and your last name begins with a letter from L through Z, then it's time to renew your certification. Renewal notices will be mailed out by mid-October. **Read the instructions on page two of your renewal notice.** If you have questions, contact the program. More renewal information can be found on our website.

Distribution and Treatment

Contact: dws.opcert@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Web page: www.healthoregon.org/opcert

Tester and Specialist

Contact: cross.connection@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Web page: www.healthoregon.org/crossconnection

Clarification of Current Lead and Copper Requirements

EPA passed the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) on December 17, 2021, then shortly thereafter announced they would be replacing the rule with the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). EPA has clarified that the only provision in the LCRR that will not change is the requirement for all Community and Non-Transient water systems to conduct an inventory of all service lines and classify each one as Lead, Non-Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR), or Unknown. Systems should be working on this inventory now, and it must be submitted to DWS by October 16, 2024. EPA says they will release the proposed LCRI soon. Until the LCRI is finalized, systems are not required to implement any portion of the LCRR except for the service line inventory.

DWS will relay information on the proposed LCRI and the public comment process as soon as information becomes available.

What is Technical Capacity?

Water system capacity is the technical, managerial, and financial capability of a water system to achieve and maintain compliance with drinking water standards and consistently provide adequate amounts of safe drinking water.

Technical capacity, a part of water system capacity, refers to the physical and operational ability of a water system. This includes the ability to assess and ensure adequate source water and physical infrastructure such as treatment, distribution, and storage. Technical capacity also includes the technical knowledge and ability of system personnel to properly operate and maintain the system.

DWS provides free technical resources for public water systems serving populations of 10,000 and fewer:

- **Circuit Rider Program:** Provides free short-term (10 hours or fewer) on-site technical, managerial, and engineering assistance, as well as assistance with applying for funding. See the [Circuit Rider Program](#) web page for more information.
- **Small Water System Operators Course:** Training course for operators of groundwater or purchasing systems with 149 or fewer connections. See the [Operator Requirements](#) web page for more information.

For more information about technical capacity, see the [Capacity Development](#) web page.

Congratulations to 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 water systems that have met the established criteria for outstanding performance during the period of July 1, 2023, through October 10, 2023. (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
BEND WATER DEPARTMENT	Deschutes
CLACKAMAS RIVER WATER	Clackamas
COVE ORCHARD WATER ASSOCIATION	Yamhill
ESTACADA, CITY OF	Clackamas
HIGH PRAIRIE VILLA WTR SYSTEM	Lane
HILAND WC - HERITAGE WATER COMPANY	Marion
HILAND WC - STABLES	Yamhill
HILAND WC - WYLAND	Yamhill
METOLIUS MEADOWS PROP OWNERS	Jefferson
MOLALLA, CITY OF	Clackamas
ORCHARD POINT MOBILE HOMES	Lane
ROSEBURG, CITY OF	Douglas
SALEM PUBLIC WORKS	Marion
SOUTH FORK WATER BOARD	Clackamas
THE DALLES, CITY OF	Wasco

Funding News for Drinking Water Infrastructure and Planning

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding– The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is a federally funded infrastructure package covering multiple critical infrastructure sectors throughout the U.S., including drinking water. The law provides funding to states for investments in drinking water infrastructure over the next 5 years (2022 – 2026).

BIL funding is available through the state’s existing [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#), implemented jointly by Business Oregon and OHA Drinking Water Services. Funding is available for infrastructure improvements, addressing emerging contaminants (e.g., PFAS or other unregulated contaminants), and identifying and replacing lead service lines and gooseneck connectors – with current focus on lead service line inventory collection efforts.

A key priority of BIL is to ensure that disadvantaged communities benefit equitably from this historic investment in water infrastructure. Therefore, federal funding requirements stipulate that a significant portion of funds be provided in the form of loan subsidy to disadvantaged communities.

For infrastructure improvement funding, eligible systems must submit a [Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Letter of Interest form](#). For more details and how to apply, visit [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#).

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund - Oregon's (Base) [DWSRF](#) provides low-cost loans to community and nonprofit non-community public water systems for planning, design, and construction of drinking water infrastructure improvements. In addition to low-cost financing and favorable repayment terms, all projects receive part of the loan as principal forgiveness.

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation – The [Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation \(WIIN\) Act](#) is a federally funded program targeting assistance for public water systems in small, underserved (compliance issues), and disadvantaged communities (SUDC) designed to meet and comply with Safe Drinking Water Act regulations by providing funding for drinking water projects and activities. This funding source continues to be utilized by OHA and Business Oregon to target those systems with compliance related challenges that lack capacity, meet the SUDC criteria, and/or may be under State enforcement.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act – EPA's [Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act \(WIFIA\)](#) program accelerates investment in our nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. WIFIA has many benefits, particularly focused around larger scaled projects. For more WIFIA details, visit the [Program Overview Factsheet](#).

How to Apply

- For infrastructure improvements, eligible systems can submit a [Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Letter of Interest form](#) at any time. Projects will be reviewed, rated, and ranked annually after the January 15 submission deadline. Please note this annual submission deadline of January 15th is a change from its previous semi-annual (March 15 and September 15) submission deadline process.
- For emerging contaminants funding, submit a [Funding Interest Form](#) at any time. Projects will be reviewed, rated, and ranked after the March 15 and September 15 submission deadlines. Reducing to an annual project review, rating, and ranking process for emerging contaminant projects is also being considered in the future.
- For Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP), application submission deadlines will remain as March 15 and September 15. The SIPP application and program details can be found on the [SIPP webpage](#).
- For help, please locate your [Regional Development Officer](#) for your area.

Funding News continued

Contacts

- Business Oregon's [Regional Development Officers](#) can assist eligible public water systems with the best funding options in their area.
- Adam DeSemple, OHA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Coordinator, at 503-956-8287, or by email at adam.desemple@oha.oregon.gov.
- Debra Lambeth, OHA's DWSRF Environmental Review Coordinator, at 503- 936-7277, or by email at debra.g.lambeth@oha.oregon.gov.
- Nicole Bailey, Business Oregon's Safe Drinking Water Program and Policy Coordinator, at 971-719-6862, or by email at nicole.bailey@biz.oregon.gov.
- Gregg Baird, OHA's Emerging Contaminant Specialist, at 503-936-1657, or by email at gregg.c.baird@oha.oregon.gov.

Training Opportunities

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

You have received this message because you are signed up for the Pipeline Newsletter group of the Drinking Water Services email list.

Access past issues of the newsletter on the DWS Pipeline web page:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/OPERATIONS/Pages/pipeline.aspx>

Contact Drinking Water Services

info.drinkingwater@odhsoha.oregon.gov or 971-673-0405

See the [Drinking Water web page](#) for updated staff phone numbers and email addresses

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).

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