



## ePipeline

*OHA–Drinking Water Services*

April 17, 2023

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## Cybersecurity at Public Water Systems

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a memorandum saying that states need to assess cybersecurity risks at public water systems (PWSs) during the sanitary survey. For more information, see [EPA's Cybersecurity for the Water Sector website \(https://www.epa.gov/waterriskassessment/epa-cybersecurity-water-sector\)](https://www.epa.gov/waterriskassessment/epa-cybersecurity-water-sector).

OHA-DWS is in the process of determining how to implement these changes in the rules, templates, sanitary survey requirements and guidance for PWSs and is looking into potential partnerships to assist PWSs in conducting free cybersecurity risk assessments. OHA-DWS will provide updates via the ePipeline and the OHA-DWS website.

If your PWS has been impacted by a cybersecurity incident that could affect the delivery of safe drinking water, complete the [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's \(CISA\) incident reporting form](#). CISA works with the FBI and EPA to coordinate response assistance for PWSs.

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# Consumer Confidence Reports Due July 1

It's that time of year again — community water suppliers are preparing to deliver the annual consumer confidence report (CCR) by July 1 to inform customers about water quality, testing, and water system compliance for the previous calendar year. The OHA-DWS [CCR webpage](#) offers tools and resources to help you complete your CCR. Also available online is the [CCR Checklist](#) to ensure your CCR meets the required elements.

It's important to send OHA-DWS a copy of your CCR by July 1 and certify delivery methods by October 1 using the [CCR Certification Form](#). Completing the CCR and delivery certification is required. OHA-DWS recommends water suppliers submit both the CCR and certification form by email to [dwp.dmce@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:dwp.dmce@odhsoha.oregon.gov) by the dates specified. Email is the best method to ensure reporting deadlines are met and avoid receiving violations.

If you have questions or need CCR assistance, email [info.drinkingwater@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:info.drinkingwater@odhsoha.oregon.gov) or call 971-673-0405.

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## Operator Certification News

Small water system (SWS) operator renewal notices have been mailed to operators whose SWS certifications will expire on July 31, 2023. Visit [OAWU.net](http://OAWU.net) to register for the SWS course and exam that are required for renewal.

For randomly chosen A-K Distribution and Treatment operators, it is CEU audit time. Operators that are chosen will receive postcards sent to the address on file.

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# Opportunity to Participate in Groundwater Age Study

Nearly 88% of Oregon's public water systems rely on groundwater for their permanent or backup supplies of drinking water, yet scientists have an incomplete understanding of how sustainable the aquifers are. Some aquifers recharge (refill) over brief (annual or decadal) timescales, while others have groundwater that most recently recharged over 10,000 years ago. This ancient water is sometimes referred to as *paleowater* and is considered less renewable than modern water.

The Nature Conservancy is leading a new project to help public water suppliers and communities understand the age of their groundwater. The intent is to sample wells that represent regional groundwater use from a given aquifer. The Nature Conservancy hopes the resulting information will educate communities and help them plan for a sustainable water future.

The Nature Conservancy is seeking opportunities to collaborate with interested public water suppliers, irrigators, and domestic well owners to collect a small amount of raw (pretreatment) water for this study. The sampling will be quick and unintrusive, and sampling locations will not be made public. Please contact project leads Zach Freed ([zach.freed@tnc.org](mailto:zach.freed@tnc.org)) and Dr. Claire Ruffing ([claire.ruffing@tnc.org](mailto:claire.ruffing@tnc.org)) to learn whether your well or public water system is a good candidate for this project.

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## 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 January 10, 2023, through April 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.

<b>PWS Name</b>	<b>County Served</b>
LATIMER ROAD WATER ASSOCIATION	Tillamook
MCMINNVILLE WATER & LIGHT	Yamhill
NORTHWOOD WATER DISTRICT INC	Tillamook
RT 53 WATER INC	Tillamook
VINCENT WATER COMPANY	Umatilla
WEST HILLS WATER COMPANY	Tillamook

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## Funding News for Drinking Water Infrastructure and Planning

**Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** – The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is a federally funded infrastructure package covering multiple critical infrastructure sectors throughout the U.S., including drinking water. Funding is available for infrastructure improvements, identifying and replacing lead service lines and gooseneck connectors, and to address emerging contaminants (e.g., PFAS or other unregulated contaminants). For more details and how to apply, visit [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#).

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund** - Oregon's [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. Visit [DWSRF](#) to see all funding opportunities.

### Contacts

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

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

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*Access past issues of the newsletter on the DWS Pipeline web page at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/OPERATIONS/Pages/pipeline.aspx>*

**Contact Drinking Water Services**  
[info.drinkingwater@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto: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).

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](#).