



ePipeline

OHA–Drinking Water Services

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In this issue:

- [Cyber Resiliency for Water Utilities Pilot Program](#)
 - [Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements](#)
 - [Operator Certification News](#)
 - [What Is Managerial Capacity?](#)
 - [Congratulations to Outstanding Performers!](#)
 - [Funding News for Drinking Water Infrastructure and Planning](#)
 - [Training Opportunities](#)
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Cyber Resiliency for Water Utilities Pilot Program

Community (C) and Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) public water systems are required to implement cybersecurity measures as part of their emergency response plans when computer networks or automated control systems operate or monitor processes at the system. DWS strongly encourages water suppliers to be aware of cyber threats and protect their public water system as much as possible. Sign up for the Cyber Readiness Institute's *Resiliency for Water Utilities* pilot program. This program is free for water utilities serving 500–10,000 customers. The program requires just one hour per week for six weeks and requires minimal technical expertise. The program helps utilities establish an asset inventory and improve employee awareness of cybersecurity issues, and it provides coaching for:

- implementing trainings,
- policies for strong passwords,
- multi-factor authentication,
- business continuity, and
- other core cyber readiness topics.

If your system is interested in participating in this program or learning more, please visit the [Cyber Readiness Institute's Cyber Resiliency for Water System's web page](#).

For additional cybersecurity resources and [requirements](#), please visit the [DWS Emergency Preparedness and Planning web page](#).

Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

In 2021, EPA released the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), an update to the Lead and Copper Rule. In late 2023, a proposed update for the LCRR, Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), was published in the [Federal Register](#). The LCRI includes some notable changes from the LCRR:

- Lead action level will be lowered from 15 ppb to 10 ppb.
- Full lead service line replacement (all lead service lines and galvanized requiring replacement) must be accomplished within 10 years of the final rule date. In response to this proposed change, DWS will remove the requirement to include the replacement plan with the October 16, 2024, initial inventory.

- Service line inventory updates (reports about replaced lines and unknown service line determinations) will be required annually. These inventory updates must include addresses for all connections and connector information (if available).
- The tap sampling protocol for homes served by lead service lines will require the collection of first and fifth liter samples and using the higher of the two for compliance.
- Systems with three or more action-level exceedances in a rolling five-year period will need to complete additional action items (public education and provide approved lead-reducing filter pitchers to all customers).

The open comment period for the proposed LCRI ends on February 5, 2024. EPA is seeking comments on several areas, and we encourage water systems to review the LCRI and provide feedback to EPA.

Service Line Inventory (due October 16, 2024)

All Community and Non-Transient water systems are required to submit the initial service line inventory by October 16, 2024. Information has been sent to all affected water systems, and technical assistance providers have started reaching out to water systems with their contact information. See www.oregon.gov/lcrr for information related to this inventory requirement. Please contact Amy Word at amelia.a.word@oha.oregon.gov or 541-966-0901 with any questions.

Operator Certification News

Renewals for operators with names beginning with L through Z are wrapping up. If you submitted your renewal application packet but have not received your new wallet card, please contact the operator certification program at dws.opcert@odhsoha.oregon.gov or 971-673-0321, and staff will look into it.

Is your water system's operator list in [Data Online](#) up to date? Email updates to dws.opcert@odhsoha.oregon.gov. If the person assigned as Direct Responsible Charge for your system changes or information needs updating, please complete a [DRC designation form](#).

What Is Managerial 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 safe drinking water. Local officials and consumers play an important role in helping water systems meet regulatory requirements and protect public health. Besides protecting public health, communities that support their water systems are making long-term investments in sustainable communities and economic well-being.

Managerial capacity refers to the institutional and administrative ability of a water system. It is the ability of system decision makers to conduct necessary activities such as staffing, planning, maintaining accountability and interacting with customers and regulatory agencies.

Examples of managerial capacity include:

- Ownership accountability: Owners, governing board members, and managers have clearly identified responsibilities. These individuals are accountable for the management of the system.
- Governing board members and managers are actively involved in capital improvement and financial planning to meet the short- and long-term needs of the system.
- Governing board members, managers, and system staff build relationships with customers, technical assistance providers, and regulatory agencies to increase their ability to solve problems quickly.

For more information about managerial 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 October 10, 2023, through January 8, 2024. (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.

PWS Name	County Served
GREEN MEADOWS WTR CORPORATION	Umatilla
HALLS TRAILER COURT	Umatilla
PIONEER VILLAGE WATER COMPANY	Benton
ST PAUL, CITY OF	Marion
WEST LAUREL ACRES WATER CO	Washington
WILLOW DALE WATER DISTRICT	Clatsop

Funding News for Drinking Water Infrastructure and Planning

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.

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. Funding is available for infrastructure improvements, addressing emerging contaminants (e.g., PFAS or other unregulated contaminants), and identifying and replacing lead service lines and connectors. 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 \(BIL\)](#).

BIL Lead Service Line Replacement (BIL-LSLR) Funding — OHA intends to apply for federal funding to support lead service line inventory work and for the replacement of lead service lines and connectors. Eligible water systems include publicly and privately owned community systems and non-profit non-community systems.

When replacing lead service lines, the project must replace the entire lead service line, not just a portion, unless a portion has already been replaced. Projects must fully replace both the public and private side up to the point of premises' plumbing. For a list of activities which are considered eligible or ineligible, please refer to the [BIL-Lead Service Line Replacement Funding Eligibilities Handout](#).

Funding will be available to eligible water systems in the form of low interest loans. Under this funding program, 49% of annual state appropriations must be in the form of additional subsidy (i.e., principal forgiveness) allocated to [Disadvantaged communities](#). Eligible systems must submit a [BIL-LSLR Funding Interest Form](#) by the March 15, 2024, deadline.

OHA, in partnership with Business Oregon, plans to apply for the BIL-LSLR funding from EPA by mid-summer 2024 and anticipates receiving the funds by mid-fall. Invitation for water systems to move forward and receive a funding contract in this program is expected to begin in late 2024 to early 2025. Money will not be available prior to the required lead service line inventory submittal deadline but can be used for future inventory-related work.

For questions about this funding opportunity, contact Amy Word, OHA Drinking Water Services, at 541-966-0901, or by email at amelia.a.word@oha.oregon.gov.

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.
- **For Emerging Contaminants funding**, submit a [Funding Interest Form](#) at any time. Projects will be reviewed, rated, and ranked after the March 15 submission deadline.
- **For Lead Service Line Replacement funding**, submit a [Funding Interest Form](#) at any time. Projects will be reviewed, rated, and ranked after the March 15 submission deadline.
- **For Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP)**, application submission deadlines are 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.

Contacts

- Business Oregon's [Regional Development Officers](#) can assist eligible public water systems with the best funding options in their area.
 - Adam DeSemples, 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.
 - Amy Word, OHA Drinking Water Services, at 541-966-0901, or by email at amelia.a.word@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.

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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