



## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Funding for Safe Drinking Water

Following the passage of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be making significant investments in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities. With unprecedented funding to support our national infrastructure, EPA will improve people's health and safety, help create good-paying jobs, and increase climate resilience throughout the country.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law delivers more than \$50 billion to EPA to improve our nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. This is a historic investment that includes:

**\$11.7 billion to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and \$15 billion to the Drinking Water SRF for Lead Service Line Replacement. \$4 billion to the Drinking Water SRF for Emerging Contaminants. \$5 billion to Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grants to address emerging contaminants.**

In the coming weeks and months, EPA will provide additional information on the impact of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, including how resources will be directed and how the public can access them.

[Click here for more information.](#)

### THIS MONTH

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EPA Advances Science to Protect the Public from PFOA and PFOS in Drinking Water

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## EPA Advances Science to Protect the Public from PFOA and PFOS in Drinking Water

On November 16, 2021, EPA asked the agency's Science Advisory Board to review draft scientific documents regarding the health effects of certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). EPA is committed to science-based approaches to protect public health from exposure to Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), including by quickly updating drinking water health advisories with new peer-reviewed approaches and expeditiously developing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for these contaminants.

- [Press Release](#)

[Click here for more information.](#)

## EPA Announces Key Step to Limit Impacts from GenX Pollution

On October 25, 2021, EPA released a final human health toxicity assessment for GenX chemicals, which are part of the per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) group. The agency's final toxicity assessment represents a key step in advancing the scientific understanding of GenX chemicals and their effects on human health.

- [Human Health Toxicity Assessments for GenX Chemicals](#)

The agency's final 2021 GenX chemicals assessment uses the state-of-the-art systematic review process, incorporates new data available since 2018, and applies revised uncertainty factors. These changes resulted in a lower, more protective toxicity value for GenX chemicals relative to EPA's 2018 draft toxicity assessment.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Release of Funding Integration Tool for Source Water (FITS)

EPA's Source Water Protection Program recently released a new and innovative tool that helps users navigate and leverage funding opportunities for activities that protect sources of drinking water. The [Funding Integration Tool for Source Water \(FITS\)](#) includes information on eleven federal funding sources and outlines how these funding sources may be used for activities related to source water protection planning and implementation. The tool provides tips for long-term cross-program planning and includes thirteen examples on how these funding sources have been leveraged in the past. FITS is a web-based, interactive tool available on EPA's [Source Water Protection webpage](#).

EPA worked across the federal government and with many stakeholders and partner organizations in the creation of the tool to encourage the protection of sources of drinking water. Please join in sharing the Funding Integration Tool for Source Water (FITS) across your partner organizations. For any questions regarding the tool, please reach out to Daniela Rossi at [rossi.daniela@epa.gov](mailto:rossi.daniela@epa.gov).

## Preparing an AWIA-Compliant Emergency Response Plan; due December 31<sup>st</sup> for Some Water Systems

By now, your water system is likely familiar with America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Section 2013, which requires **Community Water Systems (CWSs) serving more than 3,300 people to develop** or update a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** and certify completion of each to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The graphic below shows the RRA and ERP deadlines, based on system population size, for the current AWIA certification cycle. All RRA deadlines have now passed. If your system, has not certified the RRA, please complete this requirement immediately. **If you are a small-sized CWS (serve 3,301 – 49,999 people) that recently completed your RRA, the next step is to develop or update an ERP that incorporates findings of your RRA and certify completion of the ERP to EPA by December 31, 2021.**

### ERP Guidance and Template

EPA has created an easy-to use ERP Template and Instructions to assist water utilities with developing an ERP in accordance with AWIA. The ERP Template and Guidance is available to download here [epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/develop-or-update-drinking-water-utility-emergency-response-plan](https://epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/develop-or-update-drinking-water-utility-emergency-response-plan). The ERP Template and Instructions is a PDF document that features an embedded blank ERP template in Word format that can be easily accessed and modified by utility personnel to meet their own water system needs. To access the embedded Word document, download the ERP template and open in a PDF reader. If you experience technical issues opening the template, ensure you are using a PDF reader and your settings are adjusted to allow embedded documents to open.

EPA does not require CWSs to use any designated standards, methods, or tools to conduct RRAs or ERPs. However, the ERP Template and Guidance is a tool provided as optional support during the process. If your CWS already has an ERP, you may use your existing ERP document as a starting point. Please review the document to make sure that the ERP covers all the criteria specified in AWIA and is up to date when it is certified to EPA.

EPA has hosted a series of free, virtual trainings on how to develop an AWIA ERP. For recordings of these trainings or information on upcoming ERP trainings, please visit [epa.gov/waterresilience/awia-section-2013#TNG](https://epa.gov/waterresilience/awia-section-2013#TNG)

### Certification Process

After the ERP has been completed, it needs to be certified to EPA. For information on how to certify, including a video and a PDF tutorial of how to use the electronic certification system, visit [epa.gov/waterresilience/how-certify-your-risk-and-resilience-assessment-or-emergency-response-plan](https://epa.gov/waterresilience/how-certify-your-risk-and-resilience-assessment-or-emergency-response-plan). If you already created an account to electronically certify your RRA and are logging back in to certify your ERP, here is how to navigate the electronic system to certify your ERP:

1. Log in to [encromerr.epa.gov](https://encromerr.epa.gov) with your User ID and Password.
2. From the home screen, click "Services".
3. Locate the water system and click the drop-down arrow.
4. Click "Add New Role To Existing Organization".
5. Under "Choose a Role," click "Certifying Official – Emergency Response Plan".

6. Click "Continue".
7. Enter the PWSID and click "Continue".

You will be returned to the home page. Locate the water system and click "Certify your Emergency Response Plan". You will be taken to the Emergency Response Plan certificate to complete your submission.

## Online Course to Enhance Coordination between Water Utilities and Emergency Management Agencies

EPA is offering a free, online course to enhance coordination between water and wastewater utilities and emergency management agencies (EMAs) by sharing best practices, real-world examples, and useful resources. This entry-level course is offered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute and is intended for water sector and emergency services sector personnel.

- [IS-553: Enhancing Coordination Between Water and Wastewater Utilities and Emergency Management Agencies](#)

The course provides information on coordination measures including:

- Building relationships and enhancing information sharing;
- Utilizing interstate and intrastate mutual aid;
- Conducting of joint messaging; and
- Implementing cross-sector coordination to develop and maintain emergency response plans.

Internet Explorer and Firefox are recommended for viewing and accessing course materials. Further technical guidance can be found on FEMA's System Requirements page for Independent Study (IS) courses.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Tribal Water Data Integration Webinar

Water quality data is a powerful tool for understanding and communicating the quality of waters in Indian Country. EPA Office of Water's Water Data Integration Branch (WDIB) is hosting a week of webinars highlighting various tools and techniques for processing, analyzing, and communicating tribal data. Session topics include data management and publishing in water quality program process for CWA 106 requirements, utilizing a common hydrography for water quality programs, and How's My Waterway application for tribal classrooms, among others.

- [Webinar Agenda and Information](#)

**When: December 13 - 17, 2021**

To sign up, please email Laura Shumway ([Shumway.laura@epa.gov](mailto:Shumway.laura@epa.gov)) and identify the webinar titles you are interested in attending.

## Tribal Environmental Justice Initiative and Webinar

This webinar is part of the U.S. EPA’s [Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#) - to build the capacity of tribal governments, indigenous peoples and other environmental justice practitioners, and discuss priority environmental justice issues of interest to tribes and indigenous peoples. It is also part of the EPA outreach and engagement efforts to raise awareness of the Justice 40 initiative.

This webinar will discuss Justice 40, an initiative announced in Presidential Executive Order 14008, to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities. The Justice 40 Initiative is a critical part of the Administration’s whole-of-government approach to advancing environmental justice. The webinar will include information on EPA’s commitment to this initiative, including some specific program efforts to implement the initiative. The webinar will also include a tribal government and/or indigenous organization representative perspective on Justice 40.

**When: Nov. 30, 2021; 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM ET**

[Click to Register.](#)

### Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines (Refer to Tickler for System-Specific Information)

Date	Event	Location
Last day of every calendar month	Last day to collect monthly total coliform samples	Sites approved on your RTCR sample plan
10 <sup>th</sup> of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform monthly routine samples from the previous month	N/A
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Many monitoring periods for different rules (eg. DBP, RADS, Chems, Nitrate, LCR) conclude. Refer to your monitoring requirements or tickler for system-specific information. Call EPA with questions.</b>	<b>Sites approved for each rule</b>
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Updated Emergency Response Plan for some water systems. Refer to article above for more information.	N/A
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Lead Consumer Notice for systems with a June – September Monitoring Period. Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information.	N/A

Key EPA  
Contacts

Region 8 Tribal Team

Nate Delano – Denver, CO Office – 303-312-6318 – [delano.nathaniel@epa.gov](mailto:delano.nathaniel@epa.gov) **\*\*Currently away from the office and checking messages infrequently\*\***

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Other R8 Drinking Water Employee Contact Information Can be Found [Here](#).

This newsletter can be viewed online by visiting: <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/epa-region-8-tribal-drinking-water-monthly-newsletter>.

If you would like to be added or removed from this newsletter distribution list, please email [delano.nathaniel@epa.gov](mailto:delano.nathaniel@epa.gov).