



December 12, 2023, 2pm-3:30pm ET

Join the US EPA for a free webinar on how to prepare your utility for disasters. The webinar will include:

- How to create a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) using **fire and cybersecurity scenarios**
- Information on a new opportunity where operators may be eligible to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for creating an RRA and ERP
- 10 quick and easy tips on how to prepare for disasters

This workshop is designed for drinking water systems that serve under 3,301 people and do not need to comply with America's Water Infrastructure Act. Water sector technical assistance providers and consultants are also encouraged to attend

Webinar: How to Prepare your Utility for Disasters

[Register Here](#)

THIS MONTH

Webinar: How to Prepare your Utility for Disasters

News: Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

Webinar: Water Utility Lab Talk

Webinar: Analytical Preparedness Full-Scale Exercise Toolkit

Resource: WaterTA

Resource: Lead Service Line Inventories (LSLI) Monthly Office Hours – Ask EPA

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Key EPA Contacts

News: Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

On November 30, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Learn more using the links below:

- [Rule Summary](#) and [General Fact Sheet](#)
- [General Questions and Answers](#)
- [Supporting Materials including the pre-publication FRN and technical fact sheets](#)

EPA invites members of the public to review the proposed LCRI and supporting information and once published in the *Federal Register*, provide written comments in the public docket associated with this rulemaking at www.regulations.gov, Docket ID Number: EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0801.

EPA will host an informational webinar for the public on **December 6, 2023** about the proposed LCRI. Learn more and register [here](#).

EPA will also hold a virtual public hearing on **January 16, 2024**, at which the public will be invited to provide EPA with verbal comments. Learn more and register [here](#).

Rule Summary

The proposed LCRI is a major advancement in protecting children and adults from the significant, and irreversible, health effects from being exposed to lead in drinking water. These advancements are based on the science and existing practices utilized by drinking water systems. Key provisions in the proposal include:

- **Achieving 100% Lead Pipe Replacement within 10 years.** When lead service lines are present, they represent the greatest source of lead exposure in drinking water. The proposed LCRI would require the vast majority of water systems to replace lead services lines within 10 years.
- **Locating Legacy Lead Pipes.** Knowing where lead pipes are is critical to replacing them efficiently and equitably. Water systems are currently required to provide an initial inventory of their lead service lines by October 16, 2024. Under the proposed LCRI, all water systems would be required to regularly update their inventories, create a publicly available service line replacement plan, and identify the materials of all service lines of unknown material.
- **Improving Tap Sampling.** The proposed LCRI would make key changes to the protocol that water systems must use for tap sampling informed by best practices already being deployed at the local and state level, like in Michigan. Water systems would be required to collect first liter and fifth liter samples at sites with lead service lines and use the higher of the two values when determining compliance with the rule.
- **Lowering the Lead Action Level.** EPA is proposing to lower the lead action level from 15 µg/L to 10 µg/L. When a water system's lead sampling exceeds the action level, the system would be required to inform the public and take action to reduce lead exposure while concurrently working to replace all lead pipes. For example, the system would install or adjust corrosion control treatment to reduce lead that leaches into drinking water.
- **Strengthening Protections to Reduce Exposure.** Water systems with multiple lead action level exceedances would be required to conduct additional outreach to consumers and make filters certified to reduce lead available to all consumers. The filters must be certified to reduce lead.

Taken together, these provisions in the proposed LCRI would strengthen public health protections, reduce complexity, and streamline implementation. EPA anticipates finalizing the LCRI prior to October 16, 2024.

For more information, visit the Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements Website: [Click Here](#)

Webinar: Water Utility Lab Talk

This free webinar will provide a forum for water utilities, state primacy agencies, environmental labs, and response partners to share information to prepare for a real-life water contamination incident. The conversation will focus on key lessons learned to enhance preparedness for managing contamination incidents. Dr. Jin Shin, the Water Quality Division Manager at the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), will share his experience supporting the response to a 2016 oil spill incident on the Potomac River. The conversation will also focus on key lessons learned to enhance preparedness for managing contamination incidents.

[Register here for the Webinar](#)

[Wednesday, December 13, 2023: 11:00 - 12:00 pm MDT](#)

Webinar: Analytical Preparedness Full-Scale Exercise Toolkit

Are YOU prepared for a water contamination incident?

The Analytical Preparedness Full-Scale Exercise (AP-FSE) Toolkit is a comprehensive guide to planning and executing a multi-organizational exercise to simulate response to a water emergency, with a focus on tools and best practices for utility coordination of laboratory support.

This free, one-hour webinar covers how an AP-FSE can increase preparedness, includes an overview of the contents and functionality of the Toolkit, and demonstrates how users can get started planning an exercise of their own with access to EPA support.

Webinar Registration:

<https://gdit.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsfuutqT4oGjENnD2W4OutL2zfEeSq44o>

Upcoming Webinar (Topic and Date):

- WCIT: Learning the Basics: February 22, 2024, 1:00 - 2:00 pm ET

Resource: WaterTA

All communities deserve access to clean, reliable water. Yet too many communities across America face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to their residents. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) presents an unprecedented opportunity to address water infrastructure needs by providing \$50 billion in new funding – the [largest federal investment in water in the history of our nation](#). New and existing EPA [Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\) programs](#) will be utilized to support effective implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

What is WaterTA?

EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) supports communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. To implement WaterTA, EPA collaborates with states, tribes, territories, community partners, and other key stakeholders. Learn more about [WaterTA services and programs](#).

Help for Your Community

EPA WaterTA aims to assist communities with applications for federal funding, quality infrastructure, and reliable water services. If your community is facing water infrastructure challenges and could benefit from support, we encourage you to learn more about [who can receive WaterTA and the challenges WaterTA can help your community address](#) then complete and submit a webform request by clicking on the link below:

[Request Water Technical Assistance for Your Community](#)

Resource: Lead Service Line Inventories (LSLI) Monthly Office Hours – Ask EPA

Jill Minter, Lead Service Line (LSL) Coordinator, and Erica Wenzel, Lead Copper Rule and LSL Specialist, will be holding virtual Lead Service Line Inventories monthly office hours, from 10am to 11am Central Time, and at the same time on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next office hours meeting is December 20th. This will be a time for operators and managers to ask EPA any questions on developing lead service line inventories as well as hear

questions from other operators. An email will be sent out each month to tribal public water system contacts with the LSLI Office Hours Teams meeting link, which is also copied below.

If interest is high, we can schedule additional LSLI Office Hours. We are thinking that holding monthly LSLI Office Hours will be an efficient way to answer questions and share information that may be common to multiple systems. The forum should also provide a good opportunity to learn from other operators who are also developing inventories and facing similar challenges. Do consider attending to listen in even if you do not have questions to ask that month. While we have scheduled monthly Office Hours, please know that water system operators and managers are always welcome to contact EPA with questions by email or by phone as well.

Monthly Meeting Info (3rd Wednesday of every month):

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 216 909 557 054

Passcode: e2Efid

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 202-991-0477,904938593#](tel:+12029910477904938593) United States, Washington DC

Phone Conference ID: 904 938 593#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Please check your monitoring schedules to make sure you have completed all required sampling for 2023. If you aren't sure what samples are left, please email or call. Also, sample early in December if possible and check with your lab to see which days they are accepting samples, especially towards the end of this month with the holidays.

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 th of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform and DBP samples collected during the previous month	N/A
December 31 st	Many monitoring periods for different rules (eg. DBP, RADS, Chems, Nitrate, LCR) conclude. Refer to your monitoring requirements or tickler for system-specific information.	Sites approved for each rule
December 31 st	Lead Consumer Notice for systems with a June – September Monitoring Period. Click here for more information.	N/A

Key EPA Contacts

Region 8 Tribal Team

Motaz Zarooq – Denver, CO Office – 303-312-6780 – zarooq.motaz@epa.gov

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Andrea Griese – Pierre, SD Office – 605-945-1192 – griese.andrea@epa.gov **(Andrea is retiring on December 14th)**

Bryce Faliskie (EPA WaterTA/BIL Funding Opportunities) – Denver, CO Office – 303-312-6651 – faliskie.bryce@epa.gov

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 griese.andrea@epa.gov.