UPDATE: New PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

On April 26, 2024, EPA published the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for 6 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Federal Register. The regulation establishes legally enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA individually, and (2) a Hazard Index MCL for PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS. The Hazard Index MCL will protect communities from the additive health effects of multiple PFAS when they occur together.

EPA expects that over many years the final rule will prevent PFAS exposure in drinking water for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses.

The final rule requires the following:

•Community water systems (CWS) and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWS) must monitor for these PFAS. Initial monitoring must be completed within 3 years of publication of the rule, or by April 2027, followed by ongoing compliance monitoring.
•Starting in 2027, community water systems must provide the public with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water (annual Consumer Confidence Reports).
•CWS and NTNCWS have 5 years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce these PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed the MCLs.
•Starting in 2029, public notification is required by CWS and NTNCWS that have PFAS in drinking water which violates one or more of these MCLs.

THIS MONTH

Chemical	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
PFOA	0	4.0 ppt
PFOS	0	4.0 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixture of two or more: PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	Hazard Index of 1	Hazard Index of 1
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety and are non-enforceable public health goals.		

The PFAS rule homepage contains fact sheets, commonly asked questions, a general presentation, webinar recordings and presentation materials, and a copy of the Federal Register Notice.

The implementation for this rule will be EPA Region 8 guided, so our office will conduct additional outreach and trainings, provide ongoing compliance assistance, and let you know when initial monitoring will be required to begin. If you have questions, you can contact Kendra Morrison at morrison.kendra@epa.gov or (303) 312-6145.

Best Shipping Practices to Ensure Sample Integrity and Delivery to Your Lab this Summer

Over the last couple of summers, EPA Region 8 noticed an increase in the number of drinking water samples that arrived at the laboratory outside of holding time and temperature range requirements. In advance of hotter temperatures this year, our office is reaching out to inform you that if holding times and temperature requirements are not met upon arrival at the lab, the lab should not analyze the samples. However, if the lab does analyze the samples, EPA must reject the analysis results and your system may be out of compliance until another sample can be shipped and analyzed.

In addition, **please double check that your laboratory is certified to analyze Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliance samples** either through EPA Region 8, the labs home State, or a state TNI/NELAC program. Other third-party accreditations are not recognized by EPA as equivalent.

To help systems in meeting temperature requirements, please see some tips and considerations below to ensure your samples arrive at your laboratory within temperature requirements. To ensure that holding times are met, please reach out to your laboratory for additional information.

Some overall considerations:

- Sample early in the compliance period so if sample temperature and hold time are exceeded or there are shipment delays, you can resample before the end the monitoring compliance period and avoid violations.
- Hold times for contaminants vary from very short (e.g., total coliform, nitrate/nitrite, asbestos) to longer and they are dictated by the testing to be performed on the samples. The hold time begins when you collect your sample and ends when the laboratory analyzes your sample. The hold time does not end when the lab receives the sample and most samples require some time for set up, so build extra time in planning for sample shipment.
- Check with your lab for instructions and any recommendations.
- Lab staffing on weekends is not a guarantee. Notify the lab if shipments will arrive near or on a weekend.

- Certifications require labs to notify their clients if samples arrive outside the requirements for temperature, hold time, and volume. Contact EPA for direction if this happens.
- Most carriers do NOT store shipments overnight in a temperature regulated facility. Coolers and boxes are usually stored on trucks in lots, subject to outside temperature extremes.
- Some next day air shipments may be transported out of state and then to your lab, so shipments could be affected by weather delays outside of the state from which samples were collected.

Ensuring Adequate Cooling and Successful Sample Delivery

- Make sure there is adequate cooling and increase the amount of ice used during summer shipments.
- Almost always, samples should be kept cool at <6°C or <42°F.
- If your cooler is too small for adequate ice, request a larger cooler.
- Place your samples in the middle of the cooler, as far away from the sides as possible.
- In general, wet ice cools better than blue ice or ice packs. A mixture of ice blocks and wet ice can be used for additional cooling.
- If your lab recommends wet ice, cool your samples with ice in Ziploc baggies.
- If your lab recommends the use of ice packs, freeze the ice packs for at least 72 hours prior to sampling. Do not sample until ice packs are frozen solid.
- Place temperature blanks near the ice. Do not place temperature blanks along the edges of the cooler away from ice or in the top of the cooler.
- Consider taping around the cooler lid to seal in moisture. Leaky coolers can be discarded by shipping couriers.
- Ship samples to the lab as soon as they are collected.
- Refrigerate all bottles if unable to pack and ship immediately, keeping in mind that this may not be an option for samples that have short hold times.

Notice of Funds Availability: Emerging Contaminants Program, Lead Service Line Replacement Program, and Small or Disadvantaged Communities Tribal Grant Program

The EPA Region 8 has established regional grant programs for utilization of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds to provide direct grant opportunities to improve public water system infrastructure serving Tribal communities. Programs available for direct grants are the 1) Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG-TSA) Emerging Contaminants Program, the 2) DWIG-TSA Lead Service Line Replacement Program and the 3) Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Tribal Grant Program.

These programs provide funding for federally recognized Tribes within Region 8 for public drinking water system infrastructure. Funds will be awarded through direct grant agreement between the EPA and the eligible entity with no match requirement.

The regional implementation manual, located on the Region 8 Waterops webpage, provides eligible uses of funds and details the project solicitation, selection criteria, and grant application process. Please direct any questions to Rachel Walters who can be reached at walters.rachel@epa.gov.

The deadline for submittal of project proposals is July 15, 2024.

2023 CCR Reports due to EPA Region by July 1, 2024

Every community water system (CWS) must prepare and distribute a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) (i.e. water quality report) annually. The CCR must be prepared and delivered to your customers, in addition to sending a copy of the report to EPA Region 8, by July 1st of each year. Please provide the PWS# in the submission.

In order to help water systems meet the regulatory deadlines for the Consumer Confidence Report Rule and create their CCRs, EPA has developed a CCR implementation guidance document and a program called CCRiWriter, respectively. These materials can be found on EPA's CCR compliance website at Click here.

Please send us your completed 2023 CCR by July 1, 2024, using one of the methods listed below:

Instead of submitting the CCRs by mail, we strongly encourage water systems to submit their CCRs via electronic format (email or fax). If you find it difficult to utilize these means of submitting your CCR to the EPA, please contact the CCR Rule Manager, Pragati Sharma, immediately. Sharma.Pragati@epa.gov ; (303)-312-7285

1. Email: R8DWU@epa.gov (Preferred method of delivery)

2. Fax: 1-(877) 876-9101

3. Mail: Attn: Pragati Sharma
   1595 Wynkoop Street
   Mailcode: 8WD-SDB
   Denver, CO 80202-1129

Remember to check our website every year to download the most current version of the appropriate CCR certification form that certifies to EPA how you distributed your reports to your consumers: Click here (click on "Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR)"). The form is due by October 1, 2024.

Resources:

- Region 8 & Tribal CCR website- Click here
- CCR iWriter - Click here
- EPA CCR website - Click here
- CCR Factsheets & Guidance – Best Practices & Unit Conversions located at Click here and Click here
- RTCR PN Templates: Click here.
- Drinking Water Watch for DW Data and Water Quality Data Table: Click here

Training Resource: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Inorganics Treatment: Arsenic and Nitrate

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and Office of Water (OW), in collaboration with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), host this free webinar series to communicate the latest information on solutions for challenges facing small drinking water systems. The series topics vary each month and are primarily designed for state, territory, and tribal staff responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment technologies permitting. Others may also benefit from the webinars, including water system operators, technical assistance providers, NGOs, local government personnel, academia, and private sector.

Webinars are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET with an optional Q&A session from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET. For more information. Please see the Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website.

Webinar Details

- Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024
- Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: Registration information is available at the Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website.

Training Resource: General Module & Very Small Water System Training Course

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) is pleased to offer the General Module & Very Small Water System training course. The course offers over 42 hours of training and is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of Tribal water utilities personnel.

The General Module portion of this training course is designed for tribal utilities personnel entering into the career path of water and wastewater system operations for the first time. The course provides a solid foundation on the principles of electricity, hydraulics, water and wastewater systems, basic math, and federal regulations. ITCA Level 1 water and wastewater operator training courses are designed with the expectation that students have already taken introductory training on the topics that are covered in the General Module. This training course additionally covers introductions to topics of drinking water treatment and distribution. The entire training course is ideal for preparing Tribal utilities personnel for the operations and maintenance of very small water systems (VSWS). Training reference materials will be mailed to registrants that are accepted into this course.

Training Details

- Part 1 (on-line): July 10-12, 2024, Zoom
- Part 2 (in-person): July 15-19, 2024, Billings, MT
- Cost: FREE
- Travel Expense Reimbursement Stipends Available
- Training Flyer
- Training Webpage (with Registration Link)
- Registration Deadline is July 3, 2024

Resource: Community Change Grant Program

EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) will invest approximately $2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. EPA expects most awards will be between $10-20 million

for multi-faceted projects addressing a range of pollution, climate change, and other priority issues. For more information and a list of eligible activities, please click here. This grant is now open and the deadline to apply is November 2024. To learn more about the grant, view a recording of the December informational webinar here. Free Technical Assistance to help in preparing a grant application is available and can be accessed here.

Click here for more information
Deadline to apply is November 21, 2024

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 July 17. 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# United States, Washington DC
Phone Conference ID: 904 938 593#
Find a local number | Reset PIN

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Date	Event	Location
Last day of every calendar month	Last day to collect monthly total coliform samples	Sites approved on your RTCR sample plan
10th of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform and DBP samples collected during the previous month	N/A
June 30th	Many monitoring periods for different rules (e.g., TOCA, RADS, Chems, Nitrate, LCR) conclude. Refer to your monitoring requirements or tickler for system-specific information. Call EPA with questions.	Sites approved for each rule
July 1st	Deadline to provide CCR report to EPA for many community water systems.	N/A

Key EPA Contacts

Region 8 Tribal Team

Motaz Zarooq – Denver, CO Office – 303-312-6780 – zarooq.motaz@epa.gov
Colby Brakke – Pierre, SD Office – 605-945-1192 brakke.colby@epa.gov
Megan Falk – Helena, MT Office – 406-457-5041 – falk.megan@epa.gov
Joe Faubion – Helena, MT Office – 406-457-5005 – faubion.joseph@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 brakke.colby@epa.gov.