



Announcement: Biden-Harris Administration requires replacement of lead pipes within 10 years, announces over \$168M in funding to EPA Region 8 states

The Biden-Harris Administration issued a final rule requiring drinking water systems across the country to identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years. To support that requirement, EPA is announcing \$168,106,000 in newly available drinking water infrastructure funding for the EPA Region 8 states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) require more rigorous testing of drinking water and a lower threshold for communities to act on lead in drinking water to protect people from exposure. The final rule also improves communication within communities so that families are better informed about the risk of lead in drinking water, the location of lead pipes and plans for replacing them. This final rule is part of the President's commitment to replace every lead pipe in the country within a decade, making sure that all communities have clean tap water.

"EPA continues to deliver water investments that are eliminating health risks across all communities, including those most affected by aging infrastructure," said EPA Regional Administrator KC Becker. "This historic funding will ensure our water providers have what they need to identify and replace lead pipes so everyone in our region can access safe drinking water."

The newly available funding will flow through the drinking water state revolving funds (DWSRFs) and is available to support lead pipe replacement and inventory projects. Also, 49% of the funding must be provided to disadvantaged

THIS MONTH

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communities as grant funding or principal forgiveness that does not have to be repaid.

Announcement: Initial Service Line Inventories Due!

Visit the [EPA Region 8 Lead Service Line Inventory Webpage](#) to stay up to date with the LSLI requirements, access to LSLI forms and templates, instructions for submitting your inventory, information about our LSLI technical assistance programs, EPA Region 8's LSLI team contact information, and more.

Below are some highlights from our LSLI webpage.

Service Line Inventory Reporting Requirements

Your water system's initial service line inventory must include:

- All service lines, regardless of actual or intended use.
- Material classifications for both the system-side and customer-side where ownership is split.
- Service line material classification for the entire service line. (The four service line classifications are lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), non-lead, or lead status unknown.)
- Location identifier (e.g., street address) for each service line.

EPA recommends that your service line inventory also include:

- Sub-classifications of service line materials (e.g., plastic or copper for non-lead).
- Additional service line characteristics (e.g., installation date, diameter).
- Lead connectors where data is available.

EPA Region 8's Tribal Community Lead Service Line Inventory Technical Assistance Program

EPA Region 8's LSLI Technical Assistance (TA) contractor, Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises and CH2M Joint Venture (OCH JV), is working with 70 eligible Tribal water systems, offering free technical assistance for development of initial service line inventories. OCH JV TA services include reviewing existing records, listing all service connections, assigning location identifiers, completing EPA's Service Line Inventory Template, submitting the initial service line inventory to EPA, and assisting with Notification to customers of lead and possible lead service lines. For more information about the project, check the links below or contact TribalCommunityLSLI@jacobs.com.

- [Lead Service Line Inventory Technical Assistance Project Flyer \(pdf\)](#) (769.1 KB)
- Tribal Lead Service Line Inventory Technical Assistance Project (*For more information, [check this link](#)*)

Submitting your Lead Service Line Inventory to EPA Region 8

For Tribal water systems *not* working with EPA Region 8's LSLI TA Contractor, OCH JV, we recommend that you use the National EPA Service Line Inventory Template. A complete initial service line inventory submittal includes both a detailed service line inventory based on a review of records as well as additional compliance documentation (i.e., water system, ownership, summary, methodology, and public accessibility information.) Compliance documentation can be found as tabs on the EPA Service Line Inventory Template spreadsheet or as a single fillable PDF file, EPA

Service Line Inventory Compliance Documentation Template. Both templates are available on our website under Reporting Forms, LSLI.

We have created a **Service Line Inventory Online Submittal Repository** to simplify submittal of inventory files to EPA Region 8 and ensure an email reply that your submittal was received. The Online Submittal Repository is on our LSLI webpage. When you click on the Upload Submittal Form link, you will be asked to complete the EPA Service Line Inventory Upload Submittal Form and attach your service line inventory file(s). Recommended file formats for the Service Line Inventory are Spreadsheet, Shapefile, File Geodatabase (FGDB). *Please keep spreadsheets in original file format, do not convert to PDF.* The Repository can handle file sizes up to 100 MB.

EPA Region 8 has also made available a GIS Version of the EPA Service Line Inventory Template. This tool is a free service available to water systems to use for developing and maintaining their service line inventories and submitting them to EPA Region 8. Please see our LSLI webpage for more information.

- To learn more about the EPA Region 8 Lead Service Line Inventory Repository, visit our webpage [Here](#)
- To submit your completed Lead Service Line Inventory to EPA Region 8, upload it online [Here](#).

Notification of Known or Potential Service Lines Containing Lead

All water systems with lead, GRR, or unknown service lines in their service line inventory must inform customers if the water they are receiving has been delivered through a lead, GRR replacement, or lead status unknown service line. A lead status unknown service line is considered a potential service line containing lead. **Notification must be delivered to each address within 30 days of submitting the initial service line inventory, or by November 15, 2024.** We have updated our LSLI webpage with a new section, Notification of Known or Potential Service Lines Containing Lead, where you can find more information, templates, and a Fact Sheet on this requirement. Region 8 has also revised the National EPA Notification of Known or Potential Service Lines Containing Lead template into **three separate Region 8 Notification Templates**, one each for a lead, GRR or unknown service line. These templates address the notification requirements in a fillable PDF file format similar in format to the Region 8 Notice of Tap Sample Results. For new customers, notification will need to be provided at the time-of-service initiation.

Region 8 Service Line Inventory Contacts

Jill Minter, Lead Service Line (LSL) Coordinator, minter.jill@epa.gov, 303-312-6084

- Point of Contact for Lead Service Line Inventory Regulatory and Compliance Requirements, EPA Contact for Tribal Lead Service Line Inventory Technical Assistance Program.

Erica Wenzel, LSL Specialist, wenzel.eric@epa.gov, 303-312-6411

Point of contact for: EPA Lead Service Line Inventory GeoSolution, EPA Region 8 Lead Service Line Inventory Repository, Lead Service Line Inventory Regulatory and Compliance Requirements, EPA Liaison for *WYRISKIT?* - WY Lead Service Line Technical Assistance Program.

What specifically is a Tier 1 Public Notice? A Tier 1 Public Notice is provided to persons served drinking water as soon as practical but no more than 24 hours after learning of the lead ALE. The public notice informs the consumers about the potential lead impacts in their drinking water and any actions to take to minimize lead exposure. Additionally, the water system must also provide a copy of the notice to EPA Region 8. The water system must provide the notice in a manner that can reach all persons using one or more of the following methods:

- Broadcast Media, such as radio and television
- Hand delivery
- Posting in conspicuous locations throughout your water service area

- Another method approved in writing by EPA Region 8.

The water system may need to use multiple methods of delivery (e.g., broadcast along with providing multiple copies to hospitals, clinics, or apartment buildings, etc). If you post or hand deliver the notice, EPA recommends printing your notice on your system's letterhead, if you have it. As a best practice, consider coordinating with your local health department.

If you have any questions, please contact Bolor Bertelmann, LCR Compliance Manager, at bertelmann.bolor@epa.gov.

Resource: Seasonal Systems Best Practices

Although there is no regulatory requirement to notify EPA when you stop serving water to the public, there are a few best practices that can save you time.

1. Look in Drinking Water Watch (<https://sdwisdww.epa.gov/DWWR8WY/>) and make sure your schedule is accurate. The database has the schedule that you send EPA in your Seasonal Startup Checklist. If it says that your system is open until October, but you stop serving water to the public in September, you should notify EPA in writing. Otherwise, EPA will send out a monitoring violation because we expected your season to go into October.
2. Even if your schedule on the Seasonal Startup Checklist matches what's in DWW you can still send a note to EPA letting us know the last day you'll be serving water to the public.
3. Consult with a professional for the best way to winterize your water system.
4. If you are planning on making any upgrades to the water system in the winter fill out an EPA R8 Public Water System Inventory Change Form (<https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/epa-r8-public-water-system-inventory-change-form>) and send it to R8DWU@epa.gov with your PWS No. and "Inventory Change" in the subject line. Check with Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to make sure the work doesn't require a permit.
5. Set up a reminder in your calendar to complete the 2025 Seasonal Startup Checklist and send it to EPA BEFORE serving water to the public in 2025.

If you have any questions please send an email to Harris.Jamie@epa.gov.

Training Resource: 2025 Virtual Operator Conference

This free, virtual training conference offers drinking water operators a chance to learn more about timely topics, improve fundamental skills, and get support for specific challenges while earning up to 12 hours of CEU credit. While there is no substitute for in-person training, this online event was created to specifically target operators of small and rural public water systems who may not have the means or ability to travel. Conference instructors are technical assistance providers from the RCAP network.

In 2024 the conference was pre-approved or acceptable for drinking water CEUs in 40 states. The team is currently submitting applications for 2025 and will begin sharing status updates soon.

February 4-6, 2025

10:30 am – 3:30 pm CST

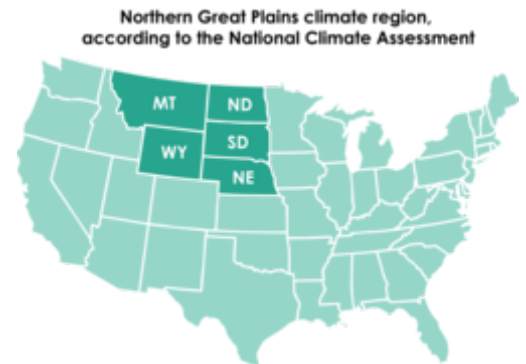
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Training Resource: Climate Resilience Training for the Northern Great Plains Water Sector

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CRWU) initiative is providing a series of two FREE webinars for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utility owners and operators, as well as other water sector stakeholders in Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and several Tribal Nations.

These webinars focus on building resilience to impacts from drought, wildfires, and flooding, as well as identifying and implementing adaptation options, and utility infrastructure financing.

See below for information regarding Continuing Education Units (CEUs).



SESSION 1

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 9:30am – 12pm MST

Introduction to Climate Change Impacts and Climate Adaptation Planning

- Explore climate trends and projections for the Northern Great Plains area, highlighting how drought, wildfires, and flooding affect water sector utilities, now and into the future.
- Become familiar with CRWU tools and resources for assessing climate risk at your utility, including the Climate Data Maps, Resilient Strategies Guide (RSG), and Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT).
- Become familiar with the CREAT climate risk assessment application.
- Delve into success stories from City of Laramie Public Works Department (WY), Town of Hartville Water System (WY) and Fort Berthold Rural Water, Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation (ND) to learn how local utilities used CRWU tools to enhance resilience and mitigate climate risk to their systems.

SESSION 2

Thursday, November 21, 2024, 9:30am – 12pm MST

Financial Resources for Climate Resilience Adaptation Projects

- Interpret the CRWU Adaptation Case Studies Map for Water Sector Utilities.
- Discuss available region-specific resources for financing climate-resilient infrastructure projects.
- Learn how to incorporate environmental justice and related funding into utility adaptation planning.
- Learn how to apply for suitable funding programs and about available technical assistance opportunities.

REGISTER BY November 12 [Here](#)

To learn more about climate change impact on the water sector, visit EPA's CRWU website: epa.gov/crwu. If you have questions or would like more information, email Audrey Ramming (ramming.audrey@epa.gov).

Training Resource: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: PFAS Rule Implementation and Treatment

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

Subject: PFAS: National Primary Drinking Water Regulation, Initial Monitoring Requirements, Implementation, and Community Engagement and Risk Communication

- Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024
- Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: Registration information is available at the [Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website](#)

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 November 20. 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](#)

Reminder: Public Water System Facility and Contact Changes

Please contact EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program if your system has a change in the treatment process; you add or remove a water source; there is a change in the number of people served or the number of water connections; or different contact information becomes available for your water system. This allows us to keep you up to date on monitoring requirements and keeps our inventory current. Failure to notify EPA about water source or treatment changes may result in a violation.

To access the EPA's change form, send an email to R8DWU@epa.gov requesting the form or you can find the form on [EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Operations website](#).

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
10 th of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform and DBP samples collected during the previous month	N/A
December 31st	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 31st	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 Zaroog – Denver, CO Office – 303-312-6780 – zaroog.motaz@epa.gov

Colby Brakke – Pierre, SD Office – 605-585-6741 – brakke.colby@epa.gov

Megan Falk – Helena, MT Office – 406-608-8849 – falk.megan@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.

