THIS MONTH

Pilot Monthly Region 8 Tribal Drinking Water Newsletter

EPA's Drinking Water Training System is Available

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Tribal Roundtable Date and Time

Ransomware: Effective Countermeasures for the Water Sector

Sample Bottles Reminder – DBP and Lead and Copper

Pilot Monthly Region 8 Tribal Drinking Water Newsletter

Hello EPA Region 8 Tribal Drinking Water Contact! EPA Region 8's Tribal Team is committed to ensuring we share important information with relevant tribal water systems and technical assistance providers in a timely and inclusive manner. Therefore, we are testing a tribal drinking water newsletter for the next few months, where we will share important updates about the Safe Drinking Water Act and our program. We plan to distribute this newsletter once a month. You will continue to receive all other formal communications from the EPA.

One thing this newsletter will not share is the specific upcoming sample requirements for your water system. While we will share upcoming sampling deadlines in general, please refer to your monitoring and reporting requirements (also known as To-Do lists) document sent every Winter, and the monthly tickler, to better understand your specific upcoming monitoring requirements.

If you have feedback over the next few months while we pilot this newsletter, please let us know.

EPA's Drinking Water Training System is Available

EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water is pleased to announce the Drinking Water Training System (DWTS), is once again available.

The DWTS is self-paced, provides an overview of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, and is available to anyone interested in learning about drinking water regulations. This training system in unique because the participant creates an account, selects a curriculum, and the training system tracks their progress. Once a curriculum is completed, the participant may print out a certificate of completion. The online training system can be found at: https://cfpub.epa.gov/epa_dwts/dsp_welcome.cfm

The online training system now has a suite of training modules that focus on sustainability topics including Capacity Development, Asset Management, Assessing Financial Capacity, Operator Certification, and Drinking Water Program Collaboration.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Tribal Roundtable Date and Time

On July 19, 2021, EPA will host a virtual roundtable specifically for tribes and tribal communities during which participants can discuss topics relating to the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and provide their unique perspectives to EPA. This roundtable will bring together representatives from tribes and tribal communities that may be disproportionately impacted by the challenges of lead in drinking water. EPA encourages participants who represent tribes and tribal communities including, but not limited to, tribal governments, public water utilities serving Indian country, tribal consortia, and tribally authorized organizations, to participate. The full announcement can be found at the EPA Tribal Safe Drinking Water Website: https://www.epa.gov/tribaldrinkingwater/tribal-roundtable .

The roundtable will be available to livestream by the public via YouTube. View the livestreams and access recordings of all previous LCRR virtual engagements here. Please note that the livestream will begin at the scheduled start time. If the livestream has not yet started, the link will show only previous roundtables. You may need to refresh the webpage after the start time to view the livestream.

Ransomware: Effective Countermeasures for the Water Sector

EPA's Office of Water urges all water and wastewater facilities to adopt these basic practices to reduce the risk of a successful ransomware attack:

1. Backup your data, system images, and configurations, regularly test them, and keep the backups offline: Ensure that backups are regularly tested and that they are not connected to the business network, as many ransomware variants try to find and encrypt or delete accessible backups. Maintaining current backups offline is critical because if your network data is encrypted with ransomware, your organization can restore systems.
2. Update and patch systems promptly: This includes maintaining the security of operating systems, applications, and firmware, in a timely manner. Consider using a centralized patch management system; use a risk-based assessment strategy to drive your patch management program.
3. Test your incident response plan: There's nothing that shows the gaps in plans more than testing them. Run through some core questions and use those to build an incident response plan: Are you able to sustain business operations without access to certain systems? For how long? Would you turn off your manufacturing operations if business systems such as billing were offline?
4. Check Your Security Team's Work: Use a 3rd party (CISA will do this for free) to test the security of your systems and your ability to defend against a sophisticated attack. Many ransomware criminals are aggressive and sophisticated and will find the equivalent of unlocked doors.
5. Segment your networks: There's been a recent shift in ransomware attacks – from stealing data to disrupting operations. It's critically important that your corporate business functions and manufacturing/production operations are separated and that you carefully filter and

limit internet access to operational networks, identify links between these networks and develop workarounds or manual controls to ensure industrial control networks can be isolated and continue operating if your corporate network is compromised. Regularly test contingency plans such as manual controls so that critical functions can be maintained during a cyber incident.

CISA has created a website that contains a collection of resources devoted to preventing ransomware attacks: https://www.cisa.gov/ransomware . And EPA has a cybersecurity website tailored to the water sector: https://www.epa.gov/waterriskassessment/epa-cybersecurity-best-practices-water-sector .

Sample Bottles Reminder – DBP and Lead and Copper

Many water systems have Disinfection By-Product (TTHM & HAA5) samples and Lead & Copper samples due for your public water supply system in the next couple months. Please check your sample schedules (To Do lists) for each water system to verify and make arrangements to order all needed bottles ahead of time.

Upcoming Regulatory Dates

Date	Event	Location
Last day of every month	Last day to collect RTCR monthly samples	Sites approved on your RTCR sample plan
10th of every month	Last day for EPA to receive RTCR monthly samples from the previous month	NA
End of September	Lead and Copper Samples for systems required to monitor AND who are on annual or triannual sampling schedules	Sites approved on your LCR sample plan
End of August	Disinfection By-Product Samples for systems required to monitor AND who are on quarterly sampling schedules	Sites approved on your DBP sample plan

Key EPA Contacts

Region 8 Tribal Team

Nate Delano – Denver, CO Office – 303-312-6318 – delano.nathaniel@epa.gov
Emily Gillespie – Helena, MT Office – 406-457-5009 – Gillespie.emily.j@epa.gov
Joe Faubion – Helena, MT Office – 406-457-5005 – Faubion.joseph@epa.gov
Andrea Griese – Pierre, SD Office – 605-945-1192 – griese.andrea@epa.gov

Other R8 Drinking Water Employee Contact Information Can be Found Here.