



Safe Drinking Water Branch Reorganization

In order to provide better customer service and to increase work efficiency, Region 8's Safe Drinking Water Branch has gone through a reorganization. Previously split between Sections A and B, the Drinking Water Program will now be split into three sections: Field Services & Tribal Section (FSTS), Rules Implementation Section (RIS), and Partnerships & Data Section (PDS).

Current section supervisors Rob Parker and Judy Bloom will lead the FSTS and PDS, respectively, while Seth Tourney (former DBP and CRM rules manager) will lead the RIS.

Although you may notice some different section names or signers for letters with this reorganization, Region 8's Tribal Team will remain the same.

R8 Drinking Water Employee Contact information can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/epa-region-8-drinking-water-program-contact-list>

Training Resource: Safe Drinking Water Act 101

On March 28, 2024, EPA will give an introduction to the Safe Drinking Water Act and its requirements. This webinar is intended for primacy agency staff and water system operators and will provide an overview of the Safe Drinking Water Act and its requirements.

March 28, 2024
2:00-3:30 Central

[Register for Webinar](#)

Announcement: Biden-Harris Administration engages states on safeguarding water sector infrastructure against cyber threats

March 19, 2024

THIS MONTH

Safe Drinking Water Branch Reorganization

Training: Safe Drinking Water Act 101

Announcement: Biden-Harris Administration engages states on safeguarding water sector infrastructure against cyber threats

Training: Small Drinking Water Systems
Webinar Series: Harmful Algae Blooms

Resource: WaterTA

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

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Key EPA Contacts

WASHINGTON – Today, March 19, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan sent a letter to all U.S. Governors inviting state environmental, health and homeland security Secretaries to a convening by their deputies to discuss the urgent need to safeguard water sector critical infrastructure against cyber threats. This meeting will highlight current federal and state efforts to promote cybersecurity practices in the water sector, discuss priority gaps in these efforts, and emphasize the need for states and water systems to take immediate action.

This virtual meeting will take place on Thursday, March 21, 2024, from 1:00pm – 2:30 pm EST. EPA will be sending meeting registration information to the states separately via email.

“Drinking water and wastewater systems are a lifeline for communities, but many systems have not adopted important cybersecurity practices to thwart potential cyberattacks,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “EPA and NSC take these threats very seriously and will continue to partner with state environmental, health, and homeland security leaders to address the pervasive and challenging risk of cyberattacks on water systems.”

“The Biden Administration has built our national security approach on the foundational integration of foreign and domestic policy, which means elevating our focus on cross-cutting challenges like cybersecurity,” said National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan. “We’ve worked across government to implement significant cybersecurity standards in our nation’s critical infrastructure, including in the water sector, as we remain vigilant to the risks and costs of cyber threats. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the EPA to bolster the cybersecurity of America’s water and wastewater systems.”

[Read the full story here](#)

Training Resource: Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Harmful Algae Blooms

Topics

- Establishing an Algal Toxin Rule and Regulatory Program
- Insights on Harmful Algal Bloom Dynamics in Urban Lakes and Introduction to Benthic Sample Preparation

Webinar Date: March 26, 2023, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm ET

A certificate of attendance will be offered for this webinar.

[Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series Website](#)

[Register for the Webinar](#)

[Webinar Flyer](#)

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 April 17th. 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
10 th of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform and DBP samples collected during the previous month	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.