

Water, Water Everywhere

DEQ WQD PWS Quarterly Newsletter **OCTOBER 2024**

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter for the Public Water Supply (PWS) Water Quality Division (WQD). This newsletter will keep you up to date on the latest in the world of water and will also help you ensure your systems are running smoothly by providing information and links to upcoming trainings, events, and funding opportunities. So dive in! The water's fine.



**Start the
quarter off right with
Source Water
Protection Week!**

The first week of October is source water protection week. Which aims to raise awareness about the importance of caring for drinking water resources. Participate and learn more [here](#).

DEADLINE ALERT! Lead Service Line Inventory

The date for completing the initial lead service line inventory (LSLI) is quickly approaching. By October 16th all Oklahoma water systems are required to submit their LSLI for compliance. Find training resources or contact DEQ WQD [here](#).



During state fiscal year 2025, \$15,703,030 of funding will be available through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to assist water systems from the development of lead service line inventories to lead service line replacement projects. Disadvantaged communities may

Upcoming Training & Events



Operator Renewal Training

Find training opportunities and information [here](#).



Operator & Board Member Training

Register for trainings such as Water Operator Certification and Board Member Training, discover more [here](#).

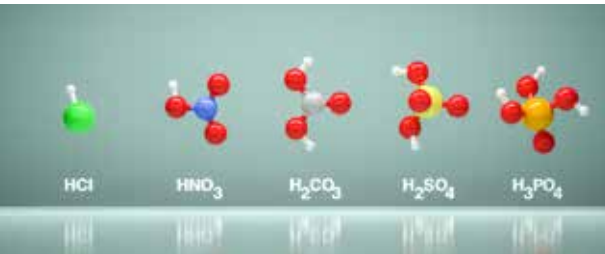
receive 50%-100%, or \$3.5M in loan forgiveness depending on population size and qualifications. Non-disadvantaged communities may also receive 100% loan forgiveness for projects benefiting low income areas. Find more information and to learn if your project qualifies for loan forgiveness, contact a DWSRF representative [here](#).

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\) Website](#)

[DWSRF Infographic](#)

[Addressing Lead in Drinking Water with the DWSRF](#)

[Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants - Tribal Set-Aside Program](#)



Which Chlorine Residual do you have?

Chlorine is a powerful disinfectant, but produces disinfection byproducts (DBPs), which can be harmful to human health. Chloramines are created when chlorine bonds with ammonia making it a more stable, but weaker disinfectant. Stability allows it to stay in water longer while forming fewer DBPs. Chlorine results in free chlorine residuals, while use of chloramines results in total chlorine residuals.

Chlorine:

- Can be primary disinfectant in Oklahoma (other forms also acceptable).
- Free chlorine residuals at point of entry must be kept above 1.0 mg/L.
- Free chlorine residuals throughout distribution must be kept above 0.2 mg/L.

Chloramine:

- Cannot be primary disinfectant in Oklahoma. The primary disinfectant is added before chloramines and the clearwell to meet contact time (CT), once chloramines are added no CT credit is given.
- Total chlorine residuals at point of entry must be kept above 2.0 mg/L.
- Total chlorine residuals throughout distribution must be kept above 1.0 mg/L.

Before a PWS can become a chloramine system they must:

- Complete a 6 week engineering study.
- Post a public notice informing customers of the change in treatment at least 30 days in advance.

Contact your District Engineer or Compliance Coordinator for more information.

All systems, including purchase systems must know what type of disinfectant is used to properly test residuals.

[DEQ Drinking Water Compliance Monitoring Website](#)

[DEQ PWS Technical Assistance & Enforcement](#)

[DEQ DBP & Chlorine Residual Sample Collection Guide](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WMcZfRH2-Q>



Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference

November 19-20 | Norman

Register and find more details [here](#).

News & Events

A primary source for news and upcoming events.

Click [here](#).



American
Water Works
Association

Southwest AWWA Annual Conference

November 19-20 | Norman

Register and find more details [here](#).

Did you Know?

A primary source for news and upcoming events.

Click [here](#).

Contact:
DEQ Public
Water Supply
405-702-8100

[Website](#)

What's the News on the New CCR?



EPA announced the final Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule Revisions on May 15, 2024. Here are the main takeaways:

- All CCRs delivered after 01/01/2027 must comply with rule revisions.
- CCRs must contain a report summary at the beginning of the report.
- CCRs must contain a statement that LSLI is available and where to find it.
- PWSs that serve large non-English speaking populations must include translated copies of the CCR or assistance in the appropriate language.
- Systems serving 10,000 or more must provide CCRs biannually (first CCR delivered by July 1st and second CCR delivered by December 31st).
 - Second CCR will consist of first CCR along with violations, action level exceedances, or unregulated contaminant monitoring data updates from January 1st - June 30th.
 - If no new violations, action level exceedances, or unregulated contaminant monitoring data updates, system can resend first CCR.
- Systems serving less than 10,000 will provide CCRs annually by July 1st.
- Systems that post CCRs on websites must maintain them for at least three years.

[EPA Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions Webpage](#)

[National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Consumer Confidence Reports](#)

[Proposed Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions Webinar Slides](#)

[Proposed Revised Consumer Confidence Report Rule FAQ](#)

Assistance Corner

There are a number of funding resources available. Follow these links for more information and reach out to us with any questions

[Oklahoma Water Resources Board \(OWRB\)](#)

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#)

[Rural Infrastructure Grant \(RIG\)](#)

[Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program](#)

[ORWA Technical Assistance](#)

[Funding and Technical Resources for LSLR in Small and Disadvantaged Communities \(EPA\)](#)

[CISA Cybersecurity Grant Program](#)

UPCOMING: Restructuring Assessment Rule

EPA proposes a Water System Restructuring Assessment Rule outlining options for restructuring to ensure safe, reliable drinking water. Learn more [here](#).

SECTION SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting systems and individuals that have shown excellence in meeting the needs of Oklahoma communities by keeping water systems healthy.

We spoke with Mark Stasyszen, PWS Engineering and Enforcement Section (E&ES) Manager at DEQ about his team to learn more about them, what they do on a daily basis, and how they can assist Public Water Systems.

Give an overview of your section:

The PWS Engineering and Enforcement Section is responsible for responding to citizen's complaints, performing sanitary surveys, managing enforcement cases, and providing technical assistance to water systems. Our goal is to ensure that PWS systems are in compliance and when they have a compliance or enforcement issue, that they have a pathway forward towards compliance

Who are the employees in your section and what are their job titles?

Our section has ten engineers that are assigned districts across the state and one administrative assistant. The engineers are Andrew Shaw, Caleb Astley, Dawn Hoggard, Isaac Sparks, Mason Manos, Moussa Coulibaly, Prasuna Maskey, Rocky Overgaard, Thomas Nguyen, and Xavier Branch. Our administrative assistant is Holly Cannon. The engineers are either District Representatives or District Engineers, depending on the Professional Engineer licensure status. We've had a lot of faces join the section over the past year, so if you don't know who your engineer is, feel free to give us a call.



Engineer Xavier Branch conducting a bulk chemical storage tank inspection during a sanitary survey.

What are some of the most challenging issues your team helps water systems address?

The most challenging issues we face are generally with systems that have little control over their water quality, governance issues, or a lack of funding. Sometimes we see all three at the same time. Purchase systems that are struggling with disinfection byproduct or corrosion issues are in a tough spot. Systems with a disengaged or non-functioning board are also challenged in addressing long term compliance issues, and of course, not having funding is a problem.

What are some of your team's major accomplishments or highlights from the past year?

Over the past year, we reduced the number of outstanding Notices of Violation by 250 or about fifty percent. This involved returning systems to compliance and for longer-term violations, entering into a Consent Order. Hopefully those systems with a Consent Order with us now have a pathway forward.



A couple of Engineers talking with a water operator about their monitoring and reporting processes.



E & ES Manager Mark Stasyszen going to inspect an intake.

When should a public water system reach out to your team for assistance?

Any time a system has a treatment upset, a major line break, emergency, or receives a Notice of Violation, they should contact us, but we're always available to assist any way we can.

How can water systems contact your team?

We have our district map posted on our website, but you can always call 405-702-8100 or 405-702-8107, and you will be put in touch with your district engineer.

CYBERSECURITY UPDATE:

Don't Delay, Secure your System Today!

How secure is your water system? Do you access your operational control a from your cellphone or tablet? Do your contractors have remote access to your systems? Do outsiders come into your facility to do work on electronic controls? Have you completed a cybersecurity assessment? Does your Emergency Response Plan include cybersecurity attacks or ransomware attacks? Are you feeling overwhelmed by these and other cybersecurity issues? Here are some helpful links:



Sign up for a free cybersecurity audit: [EPA's Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program | US EPA](#)

Funding for public PWS systems and POTWs: [State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Application Information](#)

Funding for PWS systems and POTWs serving under 3,300: [RIG Grant Program Application Form](#)

List of Federal Resources: [Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience | US EPA](#)

Self-paced Training Courses: [eLearning Course Catalog \(awwa.org\)](#)

Water and Wastewater Cybersecurity Training Information: [Water Quality Division - Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality](#)

List of Resources from the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security in conjunction with State of Oklahoma Planning Committee: [Cybersecurity \(oklahoma.gov\)](#)

International Water Sector Security Organization: [WaterISAC](#)

Free Cybersecurity Tools and Services: [Free Cybersecurity Services & Tools | CISA](#)