

EPA Happenings

Fall 2017 Joint Technical Conference

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US EPA Region III

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Exton, PA





Harvey, Irma, Jose, Maria...

- EPA staff work alongside state agencies
- Community Liaisons deployed
- Activated HQ Water Desk in EOC
- Drinking Water / Wastewater Assessments
- Private Domestic Drinking Water Wells Sampling
- Debris management
- Recovery efforts
- Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Tribes





Drinking Water and Waste Water Assessments (September 12, 2017)

Assessment Types	Daily Assessments	Total Assessments
On-Site DW Assessments	73	518
On-Site WW Assessments	34	347
Phone DW Assessments	145	6237
Phone WW Assessments	126	4571



	Number of Drinking Water Systems	Population
Fully Operational	2,109	NA
Boil Water Notices	104	NA
Shutdown	20	NA
Awaiting update	101	NA



Topics

- EPA's Focus Areas
- WIIN and Other Lead & Copper Rule Activities
- New Administration

**WPD
PROTECTS
DRINKING
WATER**

90% OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE MID-ATLANTIC
REGION DRINK WATER FROM PUBLIC SYSTEMS
REGULATED BY EPA AND THE STATES






EPA's Drinking Water Focus

1. Building capacity
2. Advanced SDWA oversight
3. Reducing lead risks
4. Strengthening Source Water Protection and Assessments
5. Addressing unregulated contaminants
6. Improving public education and risk communications

Advance Next Generation Oversight for the Safe Drinking Water Act



- Develop a national e-reporting rule to require water utilities and states to report SDWA compliance data electronically
- Implement the Compliance Monitoring Data Portal (CMDP), a compliance and analysis tool that facilitates electronic reporting.
- Publish regular on-site reviews of primacy agency drinking water programs.

Reduce Lead Risks through the Lead and Copper Rule

A photograph of a person's hand holding a glass under a kitchen faucet, filling it with water. The background shows a kitchen counter with a sink and some green plants.

The National Drinking Water Advisory Committee (NDWAC) provided their recommendations to EPA in December 2015.

EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Long-Term Revisions Work Group is considering the recommendations during deliberations to develop a proposed revised rule.



Potential LCR Revisions



- Lead service line replacement
- Improving optimal corrosion control treatment requirements
- Consideration of a health-based benchmark
- Potential role of point-of-use filters
- Clarifications of tap sampling requirements
- Increased Transparency
- Public Education Requirements for copper
- ALE PN under WIIN



Lead and Copper Rule in Region III

- Regionally, there are approximately 6,700 water systems that provide water to 29 million people and are required to comply with the lead and copper rule
 - 4,300 community water systems and
 - 2,400 non-transient non-community water systems



Lead and Copper Rule in Region III

- Total of 326 ALEs during 2013-2015
 - 279 (86%) have been resolved.
 - Many of the 47 (14%) have not been resolved, but have taken appropriate action in terms of public education, consumer notice, CCT studies, and follow up sampling.
- Region III conducted EPA-led audits during 2016 focused on review of sampling locations and proper actions following ALE.



Actions by Water Suppliers

- Tier 1 Sampling Sites
- Changes to corrosion control treatment?
 - Talk with PADEP engineer
- Increased transparency & information sharing



Recent EPA LCR Materials

**Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment
Evaluation Technical Recommendations**
Released in March 2016

**Clarification of Recommended Tap
Sampling Procedures for Purposes of the
Lead and Copper Rule**
Released in February 2016



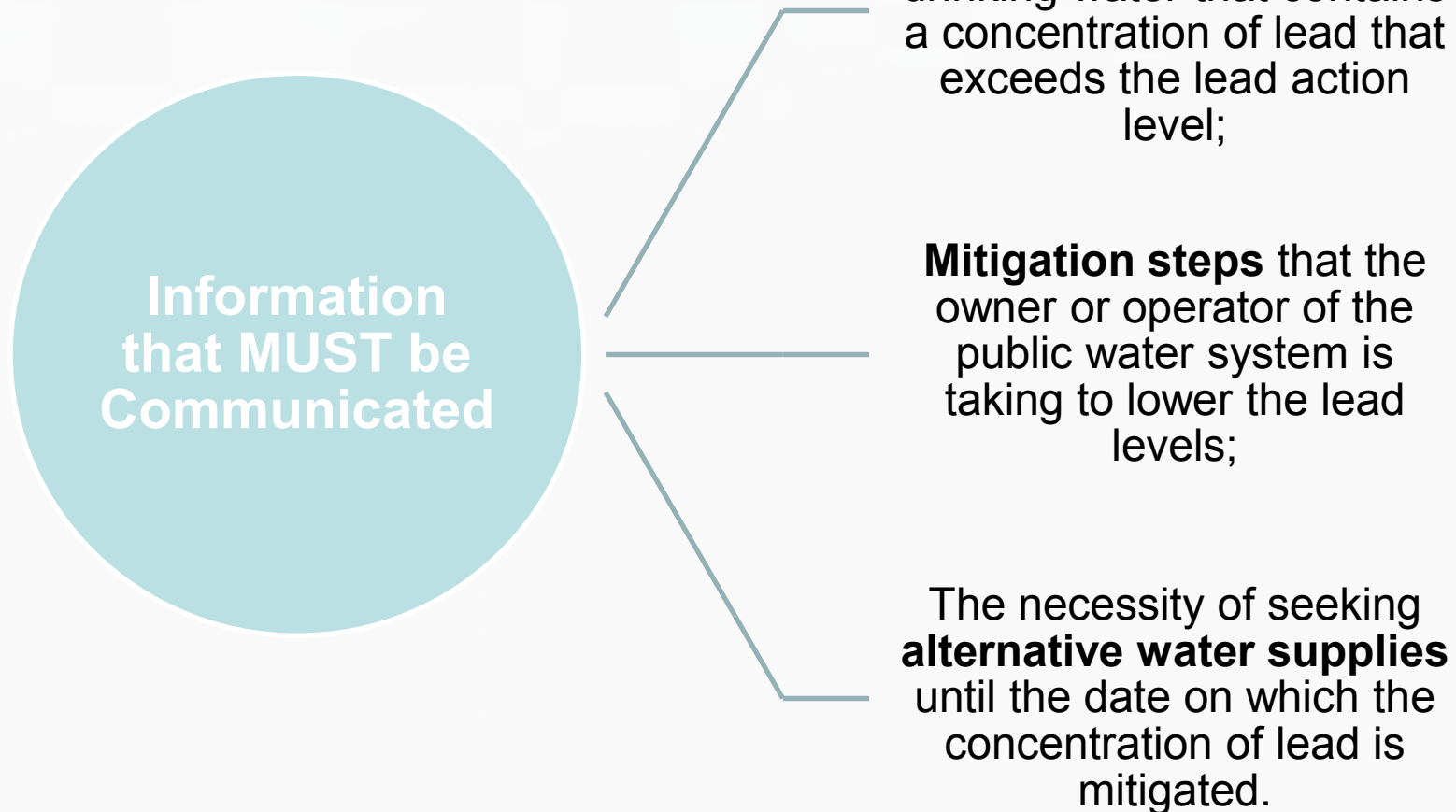
The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act

- Signed December 16, 2016
- Amends the SDWA
- Applies to EPA received data when lead levels are exceeded at the household level





The WIIN Strategic Plan



Take Action to Address Unregulated Contaminants

A photograph of a scientist in a white lab coat and safety glasses, pouring a clear liquid from a large, clear plastic jug into a smaller, clear plastic bottle. The background is a laboratory setting with various pieces of equipment and a green wall.

- New approaches to prioritize regulatory action
- Better leverage non-regulatory tools
- Protect sources of drinking water
- Address drinking water system vulnerabilities
- Promote affordable treatment technologies



UCMR 3 Results

Under UCMR 3, more than one million sample results were submitted to EPA

4,108 large water systems

1,549 small water systems

Final data is available on EPA's Website



Unregulated Contaminants: *Perfluorinated Compounds (PFC's)*

- Man-made compounds with unique chemical properties
 - Very stable and persistent in the environment
 - Highly soluble, non-volatile and poorly sorbed
 - Bioaccumulate
- The two most studied PFCs are
 - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
 - Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS)



Common Uses of PFCs

- Flame repellants
- Fire fighting foams (AFFF)
- Cooking surfaces – Teflon
- Food containers and contact paper
- Polishes and waxes
- Stain repellants on carpets and upholstered furniture
- Paints
- Emulsifiers
- Electronics
- Lubricants





UCMR 4 is coming...

Final Rule published December 20, 2016

Monitoring: Jan 2018 through Dec 2020



UCMR 4 Parameters

10 Cyanotoxins

2 Metals

**9 Pesticides/
Insecticides/herbicides/
fungicides**

3 DBPs

3 Alcohols

3 Semivolatile Organics

Plus basic WQ parameters



- Clear and understandable information about drinking water quality
- Potential health risks
- Investments and actions needed to reliably deliver safe drinking water
- *Potential changes to CCR requirements*
- *OIG looking at PN Rule implementation*



Executive Orders and Regulatory Development

- January 30, 2017 Executive Order:
 - “.... it is important that for every one new regulation issued, at least two prior regulations be identified for elimination, and that the cost of planned regulations be prudently managed and controlled through a budgeting process.”
 - “...any new incremental costs associated with new regulations shall, to the extent permitted by law, be offset by the elimination of existing costs associated with at least two prior regulations. ”



EPA Budget Cuts

- Budget cuts expected nationwide
- FTE cuts have occurred in FY 2017
 - Region III lost 42 people/ 7 from WPD
- Unknown actions to occur in FY 2018, based on proposed cut of 25% (3,785 FTEs)
- A U.S. EPA regional lab in Houston is slated to close in 2020.

Questions?

Are you on my email mailing list?

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