

Advancing Connecticut's Drinking Water Infrastructure

Protecting Public Health Through Strategic Investment and Regulatory Action

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Commissioner

CWWA/CTAWWA Fall Conference
November 5, 2026

Drinking Water Regulatory Update – Lead and Copper

Regulatory Update

- Connecticut's draft regulations are based on current federal regulations
- Draft regulations expected to be published in 2027
- DPH has partnered with EPA to implement portions of the rule while awaiting approval of final regulations/primacy

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

- Public Water Systems must complete and submit the baseline inventory of service connections by November 1, 2027

Drinking Water Regulatory Update – Lead and Copper – PWS Portal

Baseline Inventory - PWS Portal

- DPH has contracted with 120Water to provide a no-cost application for public water systems to manage, update, publish and report the Baseline Inventory

- Service line inventory information can be updated and submitted to DPH directly in PWS Portal to satisfy the Baseline Inventory Requirements

- Training sessions will be provided to all PWS representatives and certified operators prior to accessing PWS Portal

Session Dates and Times

1. Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 1:00 PM
2. Thursday, December 10, 2026 at 11:00 AM
3. Monday, January 11, 2027 at 4:00 PM
4. Tuesday, February 23, 2027 at 12:00 PM

Q&A sessions and additional trainings will be added

Sign Up Today!

Drinking Water Regulatory Update – Lead and Copper – Schools/Daycares

Lead Testing at Schools and Daycares

- All CWSs must develop and maintain a list of schools and childcare facilities they serve that are served by a lead, GRR, or an unknown service line or were constructed before January 1, 2014
- CWS must collect samples at 20% of elementary schools and 20% of childcare facilities per year in their service area over a five-year period
- Sampling begins November 1, 2027
- DPH intends to provide assistance by:
  - Creating opportunities for water systems to interact with the schools and daycare facilities that will need to sampled
  - Providing information that water systems can used to inform schools and daycare facilities about the sampling program
  - Developing a toolkit for schools and daycares to address elevated lead levels in drinking water

Drinking Water Regulatory Update – PFAS

Regulatory Update

- Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) established for PFOA, PFOS and 3 other PFAS contaminants and a Hazard Index

- On May 18, 2026, EPA announced two proposals to change the existing regulations:
  - Rescind regulations for 3 PFAS contaminants and the Hazard Index
  - Offer an extension of compliance deadlines for PFOA and PFOS MCLs to April 26, 2031
  - Proposals are still pending

- Connecticut's regulations are being drafted based on an evidence-based and common-sense approach

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

- Complete initial monitoring and submit results to the Department by April 26, 2027
- Small water systems still have time to begin collecting samples (Nov 2026)

Challenges Facing Our State's Drinking Water Infrastructure



Norwich Public Utilities, Service Line at Curb Stop

- Aging Infrastructure
- Lead Service Line Inventory & Replacements
- Emerging Contaminants
- Extreme Weather Events
- Cybersecurity
- Workforce
- Funding Gaps

Supporting Drinking Water System Challenges: Funding & Readiness

- **Multiple funding sources to support water systems, including resources dedicated to LSLR and emerging contaminant projects.**
  - include low interest loans, federal subsidies, and grants
- **Funding can be used across all phases of drinking water infrastructure projects**
  - planning, design, and construction
- **Technical Assistance is available**
  - EPA's RealWaterTA and Tackling Emerging Contaminants (TEC) Programs are providing initial technical assistance and building project readiness.
- **Master Agreement for professional engineering and support services to help utilities become ready to proceed and move projects forward.**
  - Includes services for planning, environmental review, DWSRF requirements, design and procurement, and more.
- **Co funding opportunities available**

Connecticut Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

- DWSRF remains a core investment tool ensuring safe, reliable drinking water statewide.
- Over $680M invested in ~380 projects since 1997.
- SFY26 was a record year— strongest performance since inception.
    - $128.5M invested in LSL replacement, PFAS treatment, and system upgrades.
- Improved readiness review and Call for Projects process.
- Expanded LSLR eligibility enabling full lead service line replacement.
- ~$130 Million in federal DWSRF funding remains available.



MONTVILLE WATER SUPPLY-531,200-GALLON TANK, MONTVILLE, CT

SFY 2028 DWSRF Call for Projects

- Now accepting applications for drinking water infrastructure projects seeking funding consideration for State Fiscal Year 2028 (July 1, 2027-June 30, 2028).
- Notice sent to public water systems on October 19th.
- Details available on the DWSRF webpage.
- Application Deadline: December 18, 2026

For questions or technical assistance, please contact the DWSRF Program at DPH.CTDWSRF@ct.gov .



Killingworth Elementary School - Point-of-Entry Treatment – PFAS & OCCT, GAC Filters, Killingworth, CT

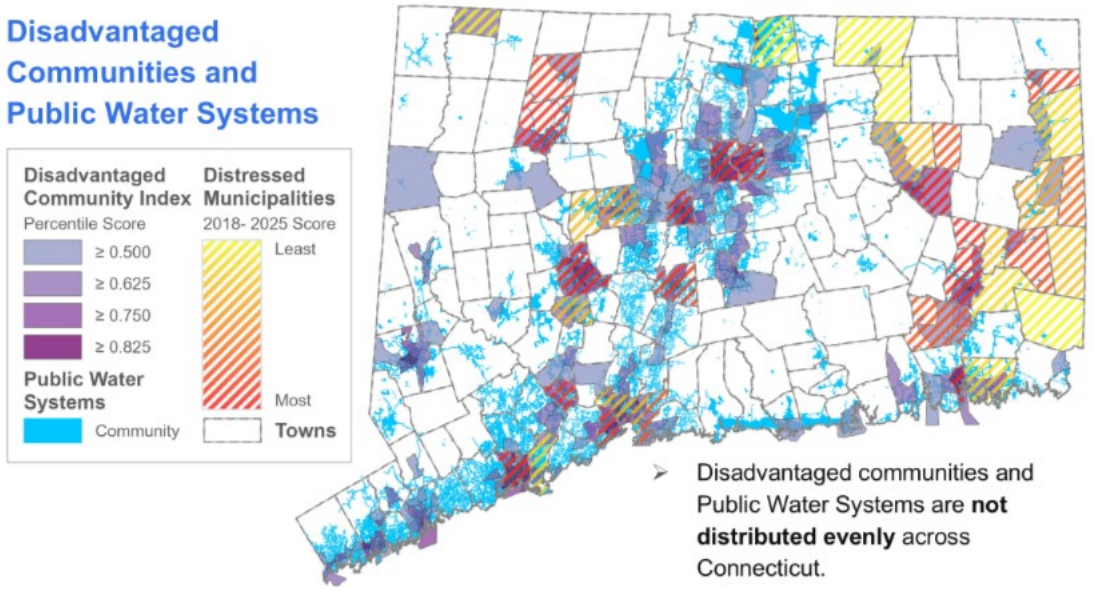
Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant

The Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged **(EC-SDC)** grant program originated from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted in November 2021.

Congress dedicated **$5 billon** nationwide ● Connecticut has been allocated **$47,285,000**

Eligibility requirements:

- Must have an emerging contaminant issue, such as PFAS,
- Be a small Public Water System (PWS) (serving less than 10,000), **or**
- Serve a disadvantaged community.



CT DPH Funded Assistance: A Real-World Example

Building Capacity to Address Drinking Water Challenges

CT DPH identified a small municipal system in Eastern Connecticut serving less than 500 customers, with elevated Manganese (a common EC) levels.

Assistance Pathway

01

Capacity Building: CT DPH has worked with the PWS for two (2) years to build capacity and prepare for treatment.

02

Technical Assistance: CT DPH assisted in their enrollment in EPA's RealWaterTA program.

03

Progress Towards Implementation: A Preliminary Engineering Report has been prepared, and the project is moving forward.

CONTACT US

ct.gov/DPH

- Drinking Water Section:
  - https://portal.ct.gov/dph/drinking-water/dws/drinking-water-section
  - Lead and Copper: DPH.LeadandCopper@ct.gov
  - PFAS: DWDCompliance@ct.gov
- DWSRF Program:
  - https://portal.ct.gov/dph/Drinking-Water/DWS/Drinking-Water-State-Revolving-Fund-Program
  - dph.ctdwsrf@ct.gov
- Emerging Contaminants Unit:
  - https://portal.ct.gov/dph/programs/health-and-the-environment/pfas
  - DPH.EmergingContaminants@ct.gov

