



## Emergency Response Plans: Template, Certification and Office Hours to Answer Your Questions

As you are likely aware, AWIA Section 2013 requires all community water systems (CWSs) serving more than 3,300 people to certify the development or update of an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to EPA by **December 31, 2021**. More information about AWIA Section 2013(b) compliance is available at <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/awia-section-2013>.

EPA is committed to assisting water systems in meeting their requirements. EPA has developed an [EPA ERP Template and Instructions](#) that can be used to develop an ERP in accordance with AWIA Section 2013.

In addition, for Community Water Systems that need additional assistance, EPA is hosting office hours to aid in complying with AWIA ERP requirements and utilizing the ERP Template and Instructions. EPA is hosting office hours held in 45-minute sessions from December 1-30, 2021 and everything discussed during office hours will remain confidential. If you are interested in signing up for an office hour, please click [here](#).

Water systems can also always contact any member of the tribal team for further assistance.

## THIS MONTH

Updated Emergency Response Plans: Template and Office Hours

EPA Announces Intent to Strengthen Lead and Copper Regulations, Support Proactive Lead Service Line Removal Across the Country

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Tribal Communities Website

New Tribal Affairs Reel on EPA Instagram

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Key EPA Contacts

## EPA Announces Intent to Strengthen Lead and Copper Regulations, Support Proactive Lead Service Line Removal Across the Country

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, EPA announced that the agency will begin developing a new regulation to better protect communities from exposure to lead in drinking water. Following the agency's review of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) under Executive Order 13990, EPA has concluded that there are significant opportunities to improve the rule to support the overarching goal of proactively removing lead service lines and more equitably protecting public health. EPA is announcing a two-prong approach to strengthen this regulatory framework.

Beginning December 16, the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions will go into effect to advance critical lead service line inventories that are necessary to achieve 100% removal of lead service lines. The agency plans to issue guidance—including best practices, case studies, and templates to help develop lead service line inventories—to assist its partners in implementation of the rule.

EPA will also develop a new proposed rule, the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, that will strengthen the regulatory framework. EPA intends to propose requirements that, along with other actions, would result in the replacement of all lead service lines as quickly as is feasible. EPA also intends to consider opportunities to strengthen tap sampling requirements and explore options to reduce the complexity and confusion associated with the action level and trigger level, with a focus on reducing health risks in more communities.

Additionally, EPA will allocate \$2.9 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to states, Tribes, and territories to remove lead service lines. This 2022 allocation is the first of five allotments that will provide \$15 billion in dedicated funding for lead service line replacements. In addition to the dedicated investment in lead service lines, the Law provides an additional \$11.7 billion in general funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which can also be utilized for lead removal projects.

### Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Tribal Communities Website

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, EPA is anticipating distributing significant funding to tribal drinking water systems as a result of the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. As Region 8 learns more about this process, we will pass information on to you. Recently, EPA HQ published an Tribal Communities and Infrastructure Website, which provides some detail on EPA's planning process. This website can be viewed [here](#).

### New Tribal Affairs Reel on EPA Instagram

EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs has launched a Tribal Affairs Reel on EPA's Instagram, check it out [here](#).

### Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines (Refer to Tickler for System-Specific Information)

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 <sup>th</sup> of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform monthly routine samples from the previous month	N/A
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Many monitoring periods for different rules (eg. DBP, RADS, Chems, Nitrate, LCR) conclude. Refer to your monitoring requirements or tickler for system-specific information. Call EPA with questions.</b>	<b>Sites approved for each rule</b>
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Updated Emergency Response Plan for some water systems. Refer to article above for more information.	N/A
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Lead Consumer Notice for systems with a June – September Monitoring Period. Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information.	N/A

## Key EPA Contacts

### Region 8 Tribal Team

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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>.

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