



Staff Update: New Tribal Drinking Water Team Members

EPA Region 8 is pleased to announce two new members of the Tribal Drinking Water Team! Megan Falk and Colby Brakke joined the EPA Region 8 Tribal Drinking Water Team on October 23rd.

Megan is working out of the Helena, Montana office and Colby is working out of the Pierre, South Dakota office. Megan comes to EPA from the Montana DEQ where she was a rule manager for various rules including lead and copper and disinfection byproducts and Colby previously worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers as their Environmental Compliance Coordinator for the Big Bend Project on the Missouri River.

Tribal Operators and managers in Montana can reach out to Megan at falk.megan@epa.gov or at 406-457-5041 for any compliance questions or help and Tribal operators in South Dakota and North Dakota can reach out for the same to Colby at brakke.colby@epa.gov (once Colby has a phone number we will let you know).

Be on the lookout for emails or phone calls from Colby and Megan as they reach out to introduce themselves!

THIS MONTH

Staff Update: New Tribal Drinking Water Team Members

Training Resource: Risk, Crisis, and General Communication Webinar

Training Resource: Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT): Learning the Basics (THIS WEEK!)

Training Resource: Webinar - How to Prepare your Utility for Disasters

Resource: WaterTA

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

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Key EPA Contacts

Training Resource: Risk, Crisis, and General Communication Webinar

Risk, Crisis, and General Communication Webinar: EPA's next webinar within the Small Drinking Water Systems is focused on communication. With many emerging issues facing drinking water and societal changes in how we access and share information, communicating about drinking water and public health risks can be challenging. This presentation discusses practical tools and resources used to help public water systems communicate about risk with their customers, including the Drinking Water Risk Communication Toolkit, and will include examples of how the toolkit has been used and future areas of expansion. The series is designed for state, tribal, and territory personnel responsible for drinking water regulations, compliance, treatment technologies, and permitting. Water system operators, technical assistance providers, local government personnel, and others may benefit from attending.

[Register here for the Webinar](#)
[Tuesday, November 28th: 12 PM – 1 PM MDT](#)

[Webinar Flyer](#)

Training Resource: Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT): Learning the Basics

Join US EPA for a free webinar on the [Water Contaminant Information Tool \(WCIT\)](#). WCIT is a secure database containing information on priority contaminants of concern for drinking water and wastewater systems to help systems prepare for, respond to, and recover from contamination incidents. The training will include a comprehensive overview of the database with a live demonstration of the tool and will cover the benefits of use by different stakeholders.

November 16, 12:00 – 1:00 PM CST

[Register here for the Webinar](#)

Training Resource: Webinar – How to Prepare your Utility for Disasters

This webinar is for very small drinking water systems that serve under 3,301 people.

When: Tuesday, December 12, 2023; 1:00 – 2:30 pm CT

Join the US EPA for a free webinar on how to prepare your utility for disasters. The webinar will include:

- How to create a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) using drought and water contamination scenarios
- Information on a new opportunity where operators may be eligible to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for creating an RRA and ERP
- 10 quick and easy tips on how to prepare for disasters

This workshop is meant for very small drinking water systems (those that serve under 3,301 people and do not need to comply with America's Water Infrastructure Act). Water sector technical assistance providers and consultants are also encouraged to attend. [Register Here](#)

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 November 15th. 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

December 31 st	Many monitoring periods for different rules (eg. DBP, RADS, Chems, Nitrate, LCR) conclude. Refer to your monitoring requirements or tickler for system-specific information.	Sites approved for each rule
December 31 st	Lead Consumer Notice for systems with a June – September Monitoring Period. Click here for more information.	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 – 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

Andrea Griese – Pierre, SD Office – 605-945-1192 – griese.andrea@epa.gov

Bryce Faliskie (EPA WaterTA/BIL Funding Opportunities) – Denver, CO Office – 303-312-6651 – faliskie.bryce@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>.

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