



IS YOUR DRINKING WATER OR WASTEWATER UTILITY PREPARED FOR AN EARTHQUAKE?

Thursday, October 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

EPA's Office of Water, with organizational help from Washington, Oregon, and California, is hosting a FREE virtual earthquake resilience workshop October 13, 2022, for water and wastewater utilities. [Read the flyer for more information.](#)

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

Training Hours: Conference organizers will apply to the states of California, Oregon, and Washington for water and wastewater operators to earn training hours for participating in the workshop. [Register here.](#)

IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER: OCTOBER 20

Watch our social media posts and blog for our #ValueWater participation. We encourage you all to join in and let your customers know about the value of water. Find more information and resources at [ImagineADayWithoutWater.org](#). We also have free bill stuffers available on our [Marketing Resources page](#).

LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS

In early August, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the [lead and copper rule revision service line inventory guidance](#). EPA states the guidance is "harmonizing regulatory requirements with unprecedented funding through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law." This enables water utilities to rapidly identify lead service lines and components in drinking water systems. The guidance provides a template for creating an inventory. Our Lead and Copper workgroup is reviewing the 164-page guidance. Their goal is to tailor the guidance for water utilities in Washington State. You can also check our new [LCR Revisions webpage](#).

NEW PEOPLE, NEW POSITIONS

Headquarters

We reorganized our administrative team. **Trisha Davis** supports director Holly Myers. **Katie Groeneveld** helps the Capacity Development and Policy Team, supporting team lead Mike Means. **Carmetrus Parker**, supports our new Field Operations manager, Sheri Miller.

Alba Cooksey joined our HQ administrative team. She previously worked as a customer service specialist with Employment Security, as a pharmacy technician, and as a bilingual receptionist for an Olympia medical clinic.

In mid-June 2022, **Nikki Guillot** joined us as the Source Water Protection Program Manager. Previously, Nikki worked seven years on water resource protection and stormwater NPDES program at City of Vancouver.

Brian Sayrs now serves as Policy and Planning Consultant and leads our Foundational Public Health work.

Regional Offices

Candida Granillo-Dodds joined our Southwest Regional Office (SWRO) as a regional engineer. Previous work includes service to the U.S. Navy as a nuclear trained surface warfare officer. She then served the State of California and reviewed water quality data, performed sanitary surveys, and drafted permits and enforcement actions. She also reviewed indirect potable reuse projects with the California State recycled water unit.

In mid-September, **Christine Hartman** joined SWRO as the Technical Assistance and Compliance Program Manager. She previously worked with Ecology in the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program and environmental analysis laboratories for seven years.

On September 1, **Deborah Johnson** moved to SWRO as a regional planner. Ms. Johnson was the wellhead protection specialist for our Source Water Protection Program since 2018. She has over 25 years' experience in both current and long-range planning.

Cecilia Welch joined our SWRO as regional engineering staff. She studied ecological conservation. Prior to joining us, Ms Welch worked at a conservation district office in Montana and as a research and development technician for drinking water and wastewater treatment products and technologies in Seattle.

Alexyss Miner started at ODW in 2018 as administrative support to a deputy director. After a stint in California, Ms Miner returned as office manager for our Northwest Regional Office (NWRO).

Alexis Medina joined NWRO and serves as regional engineering staff contact for Island County. Ms. Medina holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to ODW, she served as a Wash, Sanitation, and Hygiene Peace Corps volunteer in Panama.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE NEW ADDRESS

NWRO staff now work remotely since the Kent office closed. Review our [NWRO staff webpage](#) for updated phone numbers.

Please send mail to:

PO Box 47800

Olympia WA 98504-7800

Please note that public records requests for paper records formerly stored in our Kent office will not be available for six months or more as we scan and create electronic files.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN

Check out our publication [Dealing with Cyanobacteria: Time to Make a Plan 331-654](#).

To focus your water system's efforts, we've summarized three top tasks for management to complete.

1. Plan to routinely observe and monitor raw water source/impoundment(s).
2. Identify laboratories that analyze samples for cyanotoxins. Install a raw water sample tap at each surface water or GWI source.
3. Discuss with water system's governing body (board of directors or commissioners) how to communicate to customers during a bloom event. Receive direction from the governing body on response plan.

CROSS CONNECTION CHECK

Recently, a Grays Harbor County water system that serves about 1,500 connections, received a complaint of "slimy" water. Their operator investigated and discovered elevated pH levels (about 12) on a service line near their primary well site. This indicated an overfeed of caustic soda. Water systems use caustic soda to adjust the water's pH and prevent pipe corrosion. The water system's operator then determined the extent of the high pH levels and contacted their regional office. The high pH levels affected only one service line that served two residential connections. We met with water system personnel and inspected the well site for potential cross connections. We documented actions leading up to the cross connection and provided required follow-up actions. We continue to track the system response and corrective action.

OPERATING PERMITS GO ELECTRONIC!

Effective immediately, we no longer mail your water system operating permit to you. Instead, you may now download it through our Sentry Internet.

We will continue to mail your Annual Fee Statement to renew the operating permit.

Other stuff you need to know.

Electronic permits provide:

- ◆ Easy access for water systems, customers, local health jurisdictions, and the general public.
- ◆ Reduced paper use. Which is good for the environment!
- ◆ Reduced costs and labor. That make us more efficient!

How do I view or download a copy of my operating permit?

We put together easy-to-follow tutorials to help you learn how to view and download a copy of your operating permit.

- ◆ [Written Instructions](#)
- ◆ [Video Instructions](#)

For more help, check out our publication [Online Annual Invoice Permit Renewal Guide 331-688](#).

If you have questions or can't access the links, please contact: [Brian Wilson](#) 360-236-3042 Operating Permits and WFI Program Coordinator.

Please share this newsletter with anyone who might be interested. [Sign up for future issues](#).

[Read ODW Now online](#).



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