

JOANNA SETO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

For ten years, the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) was fortunate to have Joanna Seto leading us as branch chief. On March 1, 2021, Joanna was appointed as the Environmental Health Program Administrator for the Environmental Management Division of the Department of Health - a promotion well deserved. Joanna has over 25 years of combined private and public engineering experience with her two former positions within the Environmental Management Division. Although we are sad to see her leave the SDWB, we know that the division will be in good hands with Joanna at the helm.



We are grateful that Joanna went above and beyond the call of duty during her time in the SDWB. She interacted with each of us in the branch and always with a smile. There was no problem that she shied away from and no job was too small.

Under Joanna’s leadership, there were numerous rule changes, the creation of the Joint Government Water Conference, the development of online systems including the Sample Collection and Reservation System and Loans and Grants Tracking System, the reduction of unliquidated obligations in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program, the flurry of technical support for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, the move to Waimano Ridge, the merger of two conferences into the Pacific Water Conference, and the changes to our work environment due to the pandemic. Through it all, Joanna worked tirelessly to support us in promoting the mission of the SDWB to safeguard public health by protecting Hawaii’s drinking water sources from contamination.

Congratulations, Joanna! We hope that the next step in your career rewards you with everything you deserve. Thank you for genuinely caring about the work that we do. We hope that you always remember your time with us with the same smile you greeted us with everyday. You’ll be just up the hill, but the SDWB won’t be the same without you as we continue our mission with Mike Miyahira, SDWB Acting Chief. Mahalo!

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APRIL 2021

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READY FOR LCRR?

The Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) is providing this notification to point out the newest revisions of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). This revision to the LCR will apply to all regulated community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems and is in effect as of **June 17, 2021**.

The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) take a proactive and scientific approach to improving the current rule – from testing, to treatment, to telling the public about the levels and risks of lead in drinking water. The LCRR will require more water systems to act sooner to reduce lead levels and protect public health, improve transparency and communication, and better protect children and the most at-risk communities.

Under the LCRR, a community water system would be required to take new actions, including, but not limited to:

- ◆ **Increasing drinking water sampling reliability** by requiring water systems to follow new, improved sampling procedures and adjust sampling sites to better target locations with higher lead levels.
- ◆ **Identifying the most impacted areas** by requiring water systems to prepare and update a publicly available inventory of lead service lines (LSL), and require water systems to “find-and-fix” sources of lead when a sample in a home exceeds the Action Level (AL) of 15 ppb.
- ◆ **Replacing Lead Service Lines** by requiring water systems to replace the water system-owned portion of an LSL when a customer chooses to replace their portion of the line. Additionally, depending on their level above the new trigger level (TL) of 10 ppb, systems would be required to take LSL replacement actions, as described below.
- ◆ **Strengthening drinking water treatment** by requiring corrosion control treatment (CCT) based on tap sampling results.
- ◆ **Improving risk communication to customers** by requiring water systems to notify customers within 24 hours if a sample collected in their home is above the AL of 15 ppb. Water systems will also be required to conduct regular outreach to the homeowners with LSLs.
- ◆ **Better protecting children in schools and childcare facilities** by requiring water systems to take drinking water samples from the schools and childcare facilities served by the system.

Based on better science, the LCRR requires water systems to follow new, improved tap sampling procedures that will better locate elevated levels of lead in drinking water. One key improvement in testing protocols is the new “fifth liter” sampling requirement for lead service lines only. Under the new rule, a sampler must draw four liters of water before collecting a test sample so that the water is more likely to come from the LSL and not the internal plumbing of a building. To get the most accurate test results, the rule also requires wide-mouth bottles for collecting samples and prohibits sampling instructions that recommend flushing and cleaning or removing the screen (called an aerator) that covers the faucet before collecting samples. Additionally, to target homes with the highest potential for elevated lead levels, systems must collect samples at homes with LSLs. If there are no LSLs, systems must collect samples from other leaded plumbing.

When an individual sample at a home exceeds 15 ppb, systems must conduct follow-up sam-

READY FOR LCRR?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

pling as part of a “find-and-fix” process to identify sources of lead and take actions to reduce lead in the drinking water.

The EPA did not change the existing action level of 15 ppb. However, the EPA has created, for the first time, a new lead trigger level (TL) of 10 ppb, which ensures water systems take a progressive set of actions that would reduce lead levels in drinking water. The EPA’s new 10 ppb TL will enable systems to react more quickly should they exceed the 15 ppb AL in the future. These actions will include reevaluating current CCT or conducting a corrosion control study. Systems above 10 ppb but below 15 ppb would be required to set an annual goal for conducting LSL replacement and conduct outreach to encourage resident participation in replacement programs. Water systems above the AL of 15 ppb would be required to annually replace a minimum of three percent of the number of known or potential LSLs in the inventory at the time the AL exceedance occurs.

LCRR requires water systems with Optimal corrosion control treatment (OCCT) to re-optimize if the 90th percentile lead level exceeds the TL or AL. It requires water systems without OCCT to study OCCT if the 90th percentile exceeds the TL and implement OCCT if the AL is exceeded. Sanitary survey requirements for water systems will include CCT review and Optimal Water Quality Parameters assessment.

To better protect our children, water systems will be required to compile a list of schools and childcare facilities by the compliance date of January 16, 2024. They will then be required to test at least 20% of the schools per year over the following five years thereafter, until all required schools and childcare facilities have been sampled. The EPA’s 3Ts toolkit will be utilized for sharing information related to sampling and results, providing information about the health risks of lead, and notifications of sampling schedules.

Additionally, small systems that exceed the TL and AL will have flexibility with respect to treatment and LSL replacement actions. This will allow smaller systems to protect public health by taking the action that makes sense for their community.

Water systems must comply with the previous LCR until the **Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Compliance Date: January 16, 2024**. This compliance date is expected to be extended to September 16, 2024 and the effective date to December 16, 2021 pending a review by EPA’s new administration which focuses on protecting the most at-risk communities. LSL inventory, LSL replacement plans, and an inventory of all schools and childcare facilities served by the system are due by this date. The EPA will work with the state and interested stakeholders to help provide guidance and other tools.

Additional information about the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions can be found on the EPA’s website and in the links provided below. For any questions about the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions please contact Whit Somerall at 808-586-4265.

Final Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/final-revisions-lead-and-copper-rule>

Side-by-Side Reference Guide to LCRR:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-12/documents/reference_guide_for_pwss_12.21.20.pdf

3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Toolkit:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water-toolkit>

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

- ◆ **3/29-4/1 DSO Grades 1-2 Exam Review**
- ◆ **4/6-9 DSO Grades 3-4 Exam Review**
- ◆ **4/9 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **4/9 MRDL Report Due**
Disinfection Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **4/9 TCR Report Due**
Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **4/9 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**
Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements
- ◆ **4/13-16 WTPO Grades 1-2 Exam Review**
- ◆ **4/20 Lanai DSO/WTPO Exam**
- ◆ **4/23 Kauai DSO/WTPO Exam**
- ◆ **4/26 Kona & Molokai DSO/WTPO Exam**
- ◆ **4/27 Hilo DSO/WTPO Exam**
- ◆ **4/27 DSO/WTPO Applications & Exam Registrations Due**
July Examinees
- ◆ **5/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **5/10 TCR Report Due**
Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **5/25 Board of Certification Meeting**
10:00 am
- ◆ **6/1 Lead & Copper Sample Collection Starts**
Systems on annual and triennial collection schedules
- ◆ **6/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **6/10 TCR Report Due**
Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **7/1 CCR Distribution Due**
Community Systems

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29 DSO Grades 1-2 Exam Review	30 DSO Grades 1-2 Exam Review	31 DSO Grades 1-2 Exam Review	1 DSO Grades 1-2 Exam Review	2 HOLIDAY	3
4	5	6 DSO Grades 3-4 Exam Review	7 DSO Grades 3-4 Exam Review	8 DSO Grades 3-4 Exam Review	9 DSO Grades 3-4 Exam Review CT Report Due MRDL Report Due TCR Report Due Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due	10
11	12	13 WTPO Grades 1-2 Exam Review	14 WTPO Grades 1-2 Exam Review	15 WTPO Grades 1-2 Exam Review	16 WTPO Grades 1-2 Exam Review	17
18	19	20 Lanai DSO/WTPO Exam	21	22	23 Kauai DSO/WTPO Exam	24
25	26 Kona & Molokai DSO/WTPO Exam	27 Hilo DSO/WTPO Exam DSO/WTPO Applications & Exam Registrations Due	28	29	30	1

MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 CT Report Due TCR Report Due	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Board of Certification Meeting	26	27	28	29
30	31 HOLIDAY					

JUNE 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Lead & Copper Sample Collection Starts	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 CT Report Due TCR Report Due	11 HOLIDAY	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1 CCR Distribution Due		

**REQUESTING RESPONSES FOR THE
DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
NEEDS SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT**

The seventh nationwide survey of drinking water systems' 20-year capital investment needs, also known as the 2021 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA), is currently being conducted in partnership with the US EPA and the states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa) and the Navajo Nation. Approximately 3,900 regulated water systems across the country have been selected to participate in this year-long undertaking. Some of you will be contacted by the Hawaii Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) or the US EPA's DWINSA contractor Cadmus Group in the coming weeks.

Your cooperation and responses will help determine the total capital investment needs for drinking water systems nationwide, which in turn helps determine the amount of money our state and EPA Region 9 receives under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The DWSRF enables us to provide low interest loans and other forms of technical, mana-

gerial and financial capacity assistance to Hawaii's regulated water system community. Participation in the previous Needs Survey last conducted in 2015 was over 99%, reflecting the acknowledged importance of this survey to the drinking water community.

This 7th DWINSA includes for the first time a set of Supplemental Questions regarding the presence of leaded components in your system's service line inventory, as well as the current status of your operator workforce and concerns you may have for its viability over the coming years. Both issues are of significant national concern. Your responses will better inform future state and national decisions related to infrastructure investment, economic stimulus, and workforce development and sustainability.

Please take the time to assist us with completion of any requested survey information in the coming months. If you have questions, please contact Michael Miyahira at the SDWB at 586-4258 or via email at michael.miyahira@doh.hawaii.gov.

OPERATOR JOB POSTINGS

HAWAII WATER SERVICE - KAPALUA, MAUI

- ◆ **Superintendent - 3 certifications required or via reciprocity**
WTPO 1, DSO 2, WW 2
- ◆ **Operations Foreman - 2 of 3 certifications required**
WTPO 1, DSO 2, WW 2
- ◆ **Utility Worker(s) - 1 certification preferred but not required**
WTPO 1, DSO 1, WW 1

Application deadline is 4/7/2021 at <https://www.calwatergroup.com/careers/>

IT'S LEAD & COPPER SEASON

The summer Lead and Copper Rule sample collection season is fast approaching! Here are a few updates and reminders.

1. Systems that are on the annual and triennial sample collection schedule **must collect samples between June 1 and September 30. Samples collected outside of this period will be rejected** and new samples will need to be scheduled and collected. Systems using the State laboratory for analysis should have their samples received by the lab by September 15. You may need to send your samples to a Department of Health (DOH) certified private laboratory if this deadline cannot be met.
2. Systems on the triennial schedule that wish to collect samples prior to the third year of the monitoring period must consult with the SDWB prior to scheduling the sample collection.
3. Please check Sample Collection and Reservation System (SCRS) for the **minimum number of samples** required to be collected. **Do not assume that it is the same number from the last time – populations change, compliance schedules change...**
 - If you have already scheduled a date (and have not yet initiated), but you want to change the number of samples to collect (i.e., add more than the minimum), prior to initiating them, go into SCRS and click on the schedule box next to the date that you scheduled for, then go to the top of that section and click the reschedule/cancel tab to make your revisions.
 - If you have already initiated the samples and want to change the number of samples to collect, you will need to schedule the additional set of samples separately. Each set of samples will have a separate chain of custody. You may choose the same date as the first set or another date, depending on the lab's availability, as shown in the calendar.
 - Info for Lead/Copper scheduling and initiating in SCRS can be found in the SCRS user guide which may be downloaded from the SCRS site by clicking on the "Sampling Instructions/Resources" icon on the SCRS home page and then clicking on the small "Resources" heading in the popup window.
4. **Please review your existing list of approved sample sites for vacant or frequently vacant homesites where stagnant plumbing can result in results exceeding Action Levels. Consult with SDWB if necessary.**
5. The sample bottles will be sent out to the neighbor island systems in the latter part of May. For Oahu systems, the sample bottles will be placed by the SDWB's receptionist desk and an email will be sent to the systems that the bottles are ready for pick up.
6. Chain of custody forms **must be filled out completely and correctly or the samples will be rejected**, and new samples will need to be collected. Samplers, please pay attention to proper sample collection, i.e., first flush samples only, no treatment units on the fixture, only kitchen or bathroom fixtures sampled!
7. Guidance and instructions on sampling and chain of custody completion are available through SCRS' Sampling Instructions/Resources button.

For any questions about the Lead and Copper Rule or to modify sample site locations, please contact Whit Somerall at 808-586-4265.

For SCRS technical support or issues with sample bottles please contact David Kawahara for Maui County (Maui, Lanai, Molokai) and Oahu water systems and David Kawahara/Theresa McGeehan-Takiue for Kauai and Big Island water systems at 808-586-4258.

DSO & WTPO EXAMS

Both the DSO and WTPO overall pass rates increased from the last testing window with more operators taking exams. Results shown in the following tables are from exams administered through February 13. The overall DSO pass rate increased from 21% to 29%, and the WTPO pass rate increased from 50% to 56%. Congratulations to those who passed!

DSO Exam				WTPO Exam			
Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate	Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
1	4	7	57%	1	4	4	100%
2	1	7	14%	2	1	4	25%
3	1	6	17%	3	-	-	-
4	1	4	25%	4	0	1	0%
Total	7	24	29%	Total	5	9	56%

Hawaii Rural Water Association held DSO exam review classes prior to the exams as well as a new class for WTPO exam review. Eighty percent of the operators taking the WTPO exam review class passed!

This quarter, paper-based exams were finally administered on Kauai, Molokai, and Lanai in addition to the session on the Big Island. It has been a year since those outer island operators were given the opportunity to take exams. Thank you to those operators for your patience during the pandemic. Exam administration will remain the same for the next quarter with operators on Oahu and Maui taking computer-based exams and those on Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, and the Big Island taking paper-based exams.

DSO & WTPO Exam Review Class by HRWA

DSO Grades 1 & 2
March 29 - April 1

DSO Grades 3 & 4
April 6 - 9

WTPO Grades 1 & 2
April 13 - 16

Contact HRWA at hrwaoffice@hawaiiirwa.org for registration information

MAY 25, 2021
10:00 A.M.

MEETING

Board of Certification of
Public Water System Operators

BOARD MEMBERS

Glenn AhYat - Guy Moriguchi
Eric Okazaki
Mark Prescott - Jodi Yamami

Contact Jodi Yamami at
jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov for
virtual meeting link

**DRINKING WATER AT SELECTED HAWAII
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE
FACILITIES TO BE TESTED FOR LEAD
FROM MAY TO DECEMBER 2021**

DOH PRESS RELEASE 1/29/2021

To ensure the water at Hawai‘i public schools and child care facilities is safe to drink, the Hawai‘i State Department of Education (HIDOE), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Human Services (DHS) launched a joint project to test tap water at selected schools and child care facilities for the presence of lead. The project began in February 2021 and will continue through the end of the year.

The project is part of a nationwide program established under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2017 to test drinking water for lead in schools and child care centers. The Hawai‘i project is being paid for by a \$222,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The State of Hawai‘i’s contribution to the project is an additional \$696,000 from the technical assistance set-aside portion of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

“Hawai‘i has been fortunate in that we have not experienced the same types of challenges with lead contamination as we have seen in the continental United States, so it’s important to note this project is a precautionary measure,” said State Toxicologist Dr. Diana Felton. “Historically, public water systems in Hawai‘i have not had lead contamination. However, it is possible for lead to contaminate drinking water through fixtures and piping within a school or child care facility, particularly in older buildings, so we want to make sure keiki are safe.”

Lead exposure can harm the brain and nervous system. Long-term childhood lead exposure can result in problems with learning, school performance, attention, and behavior as well as anemia and other health problems.

“Our investigations will determine if we need to take any immediate action,” Dr. Felton added, noting that the samples will be tested by the health department’s State Laboratories Division.

“If any of the samples result in the presence of lead above action levels, the water at those schools will be shut off within 24 hours or the next school day and will no longer be available for use. Follow-up testing will be conducted, and plans will be developed to address the cause of the lead contamination.”

The results of a school or child care facility’s water sampling will be sent to each facility or school to post in their administrative office. The results will also be posted on the WIIN project website at <http://health.hawaii.gov/wiin>.

Schools and child care facilities were selected for the tests based on the age of the buildings, the children who are served at the schools, whether they have had their drinking water tested in the past, and other factors. For a list of schools and child care facilities to be tested, visit <http://health.hawaii.gov/wiin>.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR UTILITIES IN NATIONAL DISASTERS

KEVIN LETTERLY, ASDWA

Water and wastewater utilities often indicate that they do not know which federal funding is available to prepare for or recover from disasters. The US EPA’s tool, Fed FUNDS helps water and wastewater utilities to better take advantage of funding from a variety of federal programs from the US EPA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Small Business Administration (SBA). By answering a few questions, a utility can determine which federal funding is most appropriate and get information on eligibility and how to apply. In early 2021, Fed FUNDS was updated and refreshed to become even more

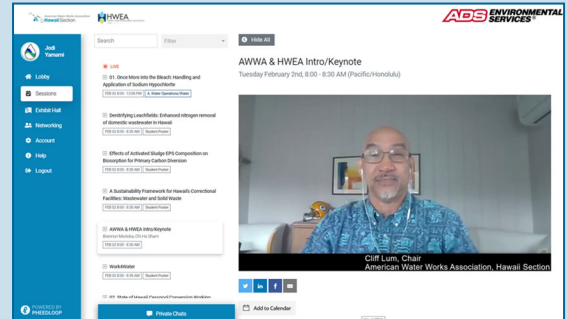
helpful by adding:

- 1) information on FEMA’s new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities funding program;
- 2) hundreds of utility success stories of funding for disaster and mitigation projects;
- 3) a dozen videos and examples of successful applications from utilities;
- 4) information on how to combine funding from different federal agencies; and
- 5) key practices for obtaining funding.

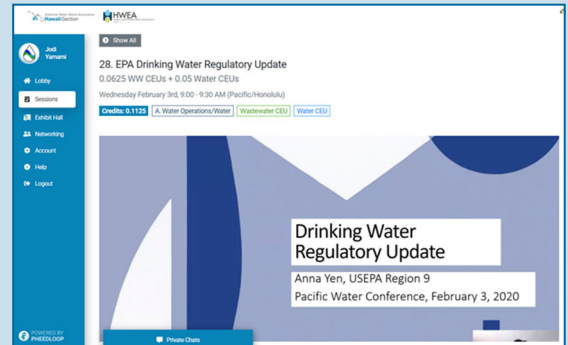
Fed FUNDS is located at <https://www.epa.gov/fedfunds> and has been used extensively by utilities as a one-stop shop on federal disaster and mitigation funding.

PACIFIC WATER CONFERENCE

The American Water Works Association, Hawaii Section and Hawaii Water Environment Association did a fantastic job in transforming the 2021 Pacific Water Conference (PWC) to a virtual conference on the event platform, PheedLoop. The conference did not miss a beat with everything from sessions, exhibits, and networking all contained within the platform over three days, February 2-4. The organizers took the theme to heart - Go With the Flow, The Importance of Flexibility, Adaptation, and Resilience During Uncertain Times. A big difference with the virtual conference was the screen to screen contact instead of face to face. However, an added bonus was the availability of all sessions for an extended period of time. For drinking water operators, that meant they could accumulate all their required Continuing Education Units with beneficial content from this one event. Thank you, PWC for going with the flow and continuing the conference tradition during these uncertain times.



Cliff Lum, AWWA, Hawaii Section Chair, kicks off the conference



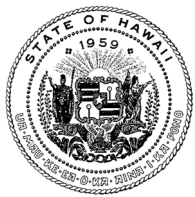
Anna Yen, USEPA, presents Drinking Water Regulatory Update



**HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SAFE DRINKING WATER
BRANCH**

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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor of Hawaii

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
Director of Health

KEITH E. KAWAOKA, D. Env.
Deputy Director for Environmental Health

The mission of the Safe Drinking Water Branch of the Department of Health is to safeguard public health by protecting Hawaii's drinking water sources (surface water and groundwater) from contamination and assure that owners and operators of public water systems provide safe drinking water to the community. This mission is accomplished through the administration of the Safe Drinking Water Program, Underground Injection Control Program (UIC), Groundwater Protection Program (GWPP), and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

We're on the Web!

<http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/>

We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write or call our Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 or at 808 586-4616 (voice) within 180 days of a problem.

WHIT SOMERALL JOINS SDWB

On February 16, the SDWB welcomed our Lead and Copper/Capacity Development Engineer, Whit Somerall. Whit earned a degree in Chemical Engineering and comes to us from Halliburton Energy Services in Louisiana where he was responsible for the implementation and quality control of hydraulic fracturing treatments and completion tools and also technical design.

As the newest member of the SDWB, Whit is looking forward to learning from his counterparts about the many aspects of the branch and is excited to be able to help ensure our communities have safe drinking water.

Whit moved to Hawaii with his fiancé last year, and they both are avid cyclists and home gardeners.

Welcome to Hawaii and the SDWB, Whit!

