

Lead in Drinking Water Workgroup Meeting - Minutes

November 20, 2024 10:00 am EST

Hybrid format- In person at 300 Sower Blvd. and Zoom virtual meeting

Workgroup Member Attendance:

Elizabeth Dowling, KY DOW
Mary Carol Wagner, NKWD
Greg Heitzman, Blue Water KY
William Davis, Carrollton Utilities
Jacob Northington, PWW
Doug Kimbler, BGMU
Emily Fritz, LWC
Brad Montgomery, American Engineers, Inc. (AEI)
Maggie Neal, RCAP
Justin Sensabaugh, KY American Water

Absent Workgroup Members:

Jennifer Burt, KDE
Sarah Gaddis, KY DOW

Other Attendees:

Ethan Givan	JD Sloan
Eileen Miller	Tim Tucker
Cortni Edwards	Sharmista Dutta
Pete Conrad	Kayla Chasteen
Emily Fritz	Jon Zambrano
Joey Lee	Joe Burns
Joey Bentley	Sara Sgantas
Bryan Parker	Jennifer Whitaker
Abbey Osborne	Lori Dials
Trina Miller	Steve Cole
Bob Money	Ameerah Palacios
Lindsey Rechten	Chris Bobay
Julia Harrod	Alicia Jacobs
Channa Newman	Todd Ritter

The minutes from July 31, 2024 meeting were approved.

Discussion of Final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI):

DOW provided a presentation summarizing the final LCRI, highlighting areas that differ from the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and the proposed LCRI. There was discussion throughout the presentation, especially focused on the replacement requirements and schedule of requirements/deadlines.

Subgroup Open Discussion Period:

Communications and Public Outreach:

- Customer inquiries
 - No specific trend in type of inquiries as of yet, but there has been an increase
 - Requests for tap sampling - water system should have a plan on if they are offering sampling or where to direct customers to
 - Make sure all internal employees (to include front office staff) are informed of communications prior to being sent out and have information on how to respond
- Customer notifications for service lines- Importance of shaping your message
 - Many systems who sent out a "scarier" worded letter are now seeing a more scared and concerned response from customers (many more questions and negative customer feedback)
- Identifying unknowns communications
 - Takes 6-7 times to reach a customer on average
 - Focus communication type on the age of the population
 - Build "water ambassadors" - Community Partners
 - Find people/organizations in the community that can help spread your message and/or educate your customers (DPH, city officials, churches, volunteer fire department, schools, recreation centers, etc.)
- Imperative to maintain reliable customer lists to include phone numbers, address, and email
- Need for good comprehensive ALE PN templates - Cortni Edwards from DOW is working on this

Requests from workgroup:

- If possible please send any input on the following ideas to Eileen.miller@ky.gov
 - Input for materials that can be developed for city officials to easily digest (examples if you have already sent something)
 - Examples for a "communications showcase"
 - Good news stories - effective partnerships you have built with organizations/persons in your community
 - Good attempt stories- We can learn just as much from what worked as we can from what did not. What were some ways you tried to communicate that you found to be least effective in your area?
 - Templates or examples of communications resources you have used (social media posts, letters, postcards, phone scripts, yard signs, etc. - can be scrubbed of all logos/names if needed or can include)

Corrosion Control Treatment:

- The subgroup discussed thoughts on how the January presidential administration change may affect the LCRI. DOW provided an overview of the DOW CCT program getting started. A proposal was put forth to create a timeline for CCT compliance based on the timelines outlined in the LCRI – this would include timing for CCT pipe loop studies. There was a discussion comparing the proposed LCRI to the final version. Some points included:
 - Distribution-only systems may be required to provide CCT treatment if they have an ALE, which is difficult or impossible for them to do at this time. This was in both the proposed and final versions of the rule.

- EPA did not address concerns or requests to identify other CCT treatment options (e.g., CSMR) in the final rule, but the final rule does provide provisions for states to have flexibility in approving alternative methods. The methods mentioned in the final LCRI are silica, alkalinity/pH, and phosphate treatment.
- There was discussion of impacts to wastewater systems related to an increase in phosphate. Subgroup members will reach out to the DOW KPDES section to collaborate.
- DOW shared a summary of the DOW CCT program being developed
- The CCT group will be working on a timeline for CCT compliance, including a list of triggers for various requirements.

SRF Project Updates:

- Water systems that have lead projects approved for funding should be sure to fill out the milestone checklists and consult with Water Infrastructure Branch for environmental review and cross cutting requirements.

EPA Updates:

- Final LCRI released
- EPA has created new templates and fact sheets for other components of LCRI:
<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements-supporting-materials>
- EPA has asked DOW to submit a list of which systems have not submitted an inventory at all NLT December 15, 2024 and a preliminary list of which systems submitted incomplete inventories or who will potentially be out of compliance NLT February 15, 2025.
 - DOW will contact systems prior to submitting the “potential out of compliance” list to EPA. If systems do not respond to DOW, then there is nothing the state can do once the list is submitted.

General Comments/Discussion:

Division of Water has created a Teams page for members of the subgroups and committee members. This is intended to be a place to collaborate on documents, share materials and examples.

Contact Elizabeth.Dowling@ky.gov to be added to the Division of Water email list for “Drinking Water Wednesday”. This is a weekly newsletter with updates, guidance, tips, and more from Division of Water on different drinking water topics.

Next meeting: **April 9, 2025 at 10:00 am EST**. It will be a hybrid meeting (in-person at 300 Sower in Frankfort and virtual via Zoom).