

Lead in Drinking Water Workgroup meeting

February 24, 2026

Minutes

Meeting recording:

Recording Passcode:

Workgroup attendees:

Elizabeth Dowling

Alicia Jacobs

Jennifer Burt

Doug Kimbler

Brad Montgomery

Maggie Mahan-Neal

William Davis

Emily Fritz

Absent workgroup members:

Jacob Northington

Justin Sensabaugh

Peter Goodmann

Other attendees:

Andy Dezarn

Tim Tucker

Pete Conrad

Roy Gray

Shanna Stone

Sharmista Dutta

Shelby Guenther

Ralph Young

Arianna Lageman

Amber Agee

Trina Miller

Daren Thompson

Nick Callahan

Frank Hall

Jim Tackett

Rose Wood

Julia Harrod

Kayla Chasteen

Kevin Stewart

Richard Harrison

Steven Cole

JD Sloan

Chandler Marks

John Moor

Taylor Rosenhagen

Kay Sanborn

Mike Asalon

Russell Neal

Minutes approval: Brad Montgomery (first), Maggie Neal (second). No changes requested.

Workgroup changes:

Peter Goodmann from Louisville Water Company will represent AWWA on the workgroup. Looking for a representative for the Area Development Districts.

Workgroup session at the KY/TN Water Professionals Conference:

- We have requested a 90-minute session for the LiDW workgroup at the conference, which is in Lexington this year, July 19-22.
- Session will have (6) 10-minute presentations, one for the workgroup as a whole and one for each subgroup, followed by a guided discussion/Q&A time.
- Each subgroup will have a flyer; need to make a template for the flyers for consistency. Idea to have a LiDW logo. Options we voted on:



Option chosen:



Subgroup report-outs:

Service Line Inventory subgroup (Maggie Mahan-Neal reporting):

- Next meeting March 30.
- Working on information that needs to be collected as part of the service line inventory certification. (For reference, for LCRR, DOW collected information in a multi-page certification document or in multiple tabs in the DOW Excel ISLI template).

- KRWA is updating a schema for utilities interested in using a GIS format for the SL Inventory. [The KRWA template was used for LCRR compliance by several dozen water systems]. The new schema should be available to water systems by mid-March and will align closely with DOW Excel template. It will also enable water systems to assign tier levels to each SL which align with LCRI 5-tier definitions for tap sampling.
- There have been three one-day trainings for lead focused on SL inventories. There is another one planned for March 4 in Frankfort and a 3-hour hybrid (virtual and in-person) training on March 25 at KRWA office in Bowling Green. In addition, there will be LCRI trainings at the KWWOA conference in Owensboro in April and a regional KWWOA training in northern Kentucky.
- Reach out to DOW (Eileen Miller, Eileen.miller@ky.gov) for information about GRR reclassifications; DOW has a procedure that could be followed to help reclassify GRRs to non-lead.

Service Line Replacements and Funding (JD Sloan reporting):

- This subgroup hasn't met recently, but is planning on beginning monthly meetings starting in March.
- Carey Johnson of AECOM would like to join this subgroup

Communications and Public Education (Eileen Miller reporting):

- Did not meet in the past quarter.
- Working on a FAQ document for Drinking Water Wednesday
- There will be LCRI communications and administrative requirements included in the March 4 training in Frankfort.
- Suggestion that this subgroup create a flyer for county judge executives, legislators, etc., which water systems can use to help facilitate discussions about the LCRI requirements. Include info about having to sample and replace privately-owned service lines, and why this is so different than previous protocol

Corrosion Control Treatment (Brad Montgomery reporting):

- Haven't had a full subgroup meeting in last quarter, but workgroup successfully hosted the CCT workshop on December 9 at Louisville Water, which included a plant tour. There were at least 50 people in attendance and a request to hold another one. Many experts in corrosion control on the panel, and sponsors provided food throughout the day. Sponsors were RCAP, Hazen and Sawyer, and STV.
- Will plan to do another workshop next fall; maybe one per year

- Suggestion put forth that other subgroups consider hosting workshops as well.

School/Childcare and Tap Sampling (Emily Fritz reporting):

- Did not meet this past quarter
- Working on finalizing a guidance document for PWS, a one-page summary for stakeholders, and a timeline for PWS/stakeholders
- Would like more engagement from partner agencies (e.g., Department of Education, Department of Public Health, Head Start)
- Suggestion to reach out to school superintendents. They have an annual meeting, and there are multiple educational cooperatives around the state that the superintendents belong to. Try to get into the co-ops' regularly-scheduled meetings. (Eileen Miller has been working toward this and will continue).

DWSRF Update (Russell Neal from KIA, reporting):

- SFY 2027 will be the last year of IIJA funding (for lead projects and emerging contaminants)
- An overview of the annual funding amounts provided each year of the IIJA funding was provided. Funding for lead projects has varied each year because of the data source EPA used to decide how much each state can receive.
 - SFY2023: EPA used the 2021 DWINSAs
 - SFY2024-25: EPA used the 2024 DWINSAs (with state amendments to the lead page of the DWINSAs used to determine the amount of funds for SFY 2025-26)
 - SFY2026-27: EPA used data submitted by water systems to states for the initial lead service line inventory.
- The amount of funding Kentucky received for SFY2026 and SFY2027 is less than previous years.
- Project eligibilities have also changed over the 5-year period of IIJA lead allocations
 - In particular, how funds can be used to replace galvanized service lines has changed, and most recently, there is an amendment that allows water systems to use the IIJA lead funds to replace components connected to lead and 'galvanized requiring replacement' service lines, including main lines, meters, backflow preventers, and connectors. This may also apply to projects awarded funds in previous years, but KIA is still waiting on EPA guidance.
 - Disadvantaged communities also have some benefits as far as project eligibilities.
- The SFY2026 Final IUP is now available on KIA's website.

- There are 6 lead projects listed, receiving 71% principle forgiveness
- It is possible to modify past or current projects, given that the information and eligibilities have changed, as long as project scopes abide by federal law.
- KIA has also applied to receive any unused IJA lead funding available, which may end up being a source of funding for lead projects beyond SFY2027
- If questions, reach out to Russell: RussellS.Neal@ky.gov.

Compliance update (Elizabeth Dowling):

- No new information
- Remember to visit the DOW DW Compliance webpage for the most updated guidance and information; it is updated regularly.
www.tinyurl.com/DrinkingWaterCompliance
- New documents are now online for homeowners who want to replace their own service line

Public Comment period:

- Q: is lead a DOW priority, or what is the main drinking water priority for DOW?
 - Regionalization will always be a major priority, as well as projects related to complying with the new rules (LCRI and PFAS)
 - Whether there are funds available or not in future years, lead projects will still be eligible for DWSRF funds and may still have some level of prioritization in the DOW priority guidance document; that is to be decided by the Water Infrastructure Branch.
- Voluntary lead testing in schools program update:
 - Lead remediation funding has been approved and is now available for lead remediation projects in schools and childcares
 - Water systems reaching out to their schools and childcares recently has increased facility sign-ups for the program. Water systems are encouraged to continue to reach out to their facilities.
 - This program samples up to 25 outlets at a facility (compared to 5 or 2 outlets required by LCRI), so it is a more comprehensive sampling effort. In some facilities sampled in KY, all outlets were below the program 1 ppb lead goal except for one or two outlets that had high lead levels; this means sampling at the LCRI minimum might miss some problem areas in a facility.
 - The highest lead level detected at a fixture was 691 ppb in a classroom faucet. They are using remediation funding to fix the problem.
- GRR Reclassification program:

- This is a program being put in place right now by DOW to help certain water systems reclassify galvanized requiring replacement service lines to a non-lead classification.
- DOW is working with systems that have all service lines identified and have not found any lead SLs – their inventory consists only of ‘non-lead’ and GRR service lines. Priority systems are those that do not have any known history of lead in the distribution system, but are unable to demonstrate that with records or other means.
- If interested, contact Eileen Miller at Eileen.Miller@ky.gov or Elizabeth Dowling at Elizabeth.Dowling@ky.gov.
- DOW Corrosion Control Treatment program:
 - DOW technical assistants are visiting all water treatment plants to assess water quality parameters and current chemicals used and identify what sort of corrosion control measures, if any, are in place. They have visited about 80% of WTPs so far and hope to finish by this summer.
 - Goal: get a better understanding of current conditions and help water systems be in a better position to take action if changes to CCT/water quality parameters are required once the LCRI requirements are in effect. This will also give DOW staff more information about areas where support is needed.
 - Please feel free to provide DOW with more information or join the CCT subgroup to get engaged.

Next meetings:

- June 10, 2026
- September 9, 2026
- November 10, 2026

Attached to meeting minutes:

- Abstracts submitted for 2026 KY-TN WPC
- SFY2026 Final IUP
- Link to Voluntary Lead Testing in Schools and Childcares program web page.