Lead in Drinking Water Workgroup meeting
June 10, 2026
Minutes

Meeting recording: Zoom meeting link

Recording Passcode: 2@K*##0h

Workgroup attendees:

Elizabeth Dowling
Alicia Jacobs
Peter Goodmann
Brad Montgomery
Maggie Mahan-Neal
Emily Fritz
Jacob Northington
Jennifer Burt

Absent workgroup members:

Justin Sensabaugh
Doug Kimbler
William Davis

Other attendees:

Andy Dezarn
Roy Gray
Kevin Stewart
Richard Harrison
Trina Miller
Jason Lambert
John Moor
Kay Sanborn
Russell Neal
Ethan Givan
Gabe Tanner
Sara Sgantas
Eileen Miller
John Brady
Taylor Rosenhagen
Nick Callahan
Terry Roach
Kayla Chasteen
Greg Heitzman
Jory Becker
Dustin Horn
Rose Wood
Lori Dials
Lisa Jones
Steven Cole
Kim Padgett
Haly Hennigan
James Noel

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

The Lead in Drinking Water Workgroup session at the KY/TN Water Professionals Conference (WPC): July 20, 2026 from 10:30-12:00. We have drafts of flyers for SL Inventory, Funding and Replacement, and CCT subgroups. Waiting on Schools/childcares/tap sampling and Communications subgroups. Showed a draft of the SL Inventory flyer for demonstration.

Looking for people to sign up for the discussion panel, which is the last 30 minutes of the session.

We will be submitting a single PowerPoint presentation for the whole session. It is due to WPC by July 13, 2026. Elizabeth Dowling will submit it; send her all the information you want to present.

Quarterly Meeting Format: Since many subgroups are finding it hard to meet in between the quarterly workgroup meetings, consider having more time in quarterly meetings to talk about subgroup topics. One other issue is that many people are on multiple subgroups, so multiple meetings take a lot of time. Also, as we get closer to the deadline, we may see an increase in need for focused subgroup discussions. Discussed these options:

- focusing on just one or two topics per workgroup meetings
- some subgroups are busier now and should still meet in between quarterly meetings
- could assign 1-3 subgroups to have focused discussion, and cycle them through the quarterly meetings, but pick up the pace more as we get closer to November, 2027

Subgroup report-outs:

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

- Met three times since last workgroup meeting
- Have a full draft of flyer and presentation for WPC
- KRWA has 140 water systems using the updated GIS schema for the baseline service line inventory. They also have two hydrovac trailers and two GPS units that they will lend out to water systems for free to use for the inventory.
- There is a waiver now available for systems that qualify to waive the SL Validation requirement. Waiver must be submitted by 11/1/27.

Service Line Replacements and Funding (Jordan Basham reporting):

- Met twice since last workgroup meeting
- Have a full draft of flyer for WPC

- Upcoming needs identified: replacement plan template, funding options and ideas for when IIJA funding expires,
- Funding update: EPA will be administering Community Project Funding, aka Congressionally Directed Spending, aka earmark funding. Funding application process is challenging. The fund is a grant, but requires local match of 20%.
- New grants website: https://www.grantreadyky.org/state-grant-database.

Communications and Public Education (Eileen Miller reporting):

- Meeting on June 11; will focus on creating materials for the WPC
- Eileen is moving to a new position as a basin coordinator for WMB; we are looking for a new head for this subgroup. She will also be DOW education and outreach coordinator, so reach out to her for any of those needs (anything related to water): Eileen.miller@ky.gov.
- Please send any info you have related to the past activities of the communications and public education subgroup (so we can use it for the WPC presentation) to Elizabeth Dowling: Elizabeth.dowling@ky.gov.

Corrosion Control Treatment (Brad Montgomery reporting):

- Met about a week ago and made a draft of a flyer and presentation for the WPC.
- Will be shifting focus to plan for another workshop in the fall or winter of 2026.
- Will plan to meet with the DOW CCT Technical Assistance team for an update about what they're finding and to see what water system needs are for the next workshop
- Would also like to work with CCT TA group to see what guidance materials are needed.
- Will consider doing a poll or survey of utilities to find out their needs.

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

- Did not meet this past quarter
- Will review past presentations and subgroup materials to pull together information for the WPC flyer and presentation.
- DOW has created a draft of school and childcare tap sampling requirements guidance for subgroup to review.
- Looking at ways to reorganize to get more stakeholder participation.
- Louisville WC has drafts of Find and Fix and Distribution System Site Assessment guidance they can share soon.
- DOW will be getting started on creating a new eForm to receive data from water systems re: school/childcare sample data

Comments on RegWatch posting of draft 401 KAR 8:300

DOW must update 401 KAR 8:300 so we can have primacy over the LCRI. There is the addition of Section 2 which prohibits lead or galvanized requiring replacement service lines from being reconnected to a distribution system or a premise once disconnected.

Comments:

- Clarify language so people not familiar with LCRI will understand it more easily
- Concern about limiting temporary disconnections (e.g., to replace a curb stop or a valve) – could a water system not reconnect the service line in that incidence? This proposed regulation language doesn't allow for that
- Service line ownership – what should a system do if they don't retain ownership of or rights to replace a private service line
- Suggest adding the following definitions and clarifications: abandoned and/or permanently disconnected service line, service line (does it include fire suppression and irrigation lines?)
- Northern Kentucky Water District (NKWD) has made a detailed draft of comments; if anyone would like a copy of those for review, contact Tom Edge at NKWD, tedge@nkywater.org.

Lisa Jones is the primary contact for 401 KAR 8:300 and its filing with the Legislative Research Commission. Reach out at Lisa.C.Jones@ky.gov with questions and comments. The official public comment period has not yet started; however, comments may be sent to Lisa starting now. If sending comments, also cc Elizabeth.dowling@ky.gov and sarah.marshall@ky.gov.

Note: KRS 13A generally prohibits making EEC state regulations that are more stringent than federal regulations; this will limit how this regulation can be worded.

DWSRF Update (Russell Neal from KIA, reporting):

- From the total amount of IIJA Lead Allocation cap grants awarded to KY, there is still $33 million available for lead projects that hasn't been awarded yet.
    - KIA has applied for an extension of the timeline to spend this money, up to an additional 7 years
- KIA is still waiting to receive the money awarded for the 2025 cap grant, and expects the 2026 cap grant to be awarded about 6 months from now
- There were 7 lead projects invited for the most recent year of DWSRF funding: 3 SL Inventory projects and 4 SL Replacement projects
- EPA is putting pressure on states to be more timely in using the funds awarded

    - EPA has started tracking drawdown timeline of assistance agreements (AA), in addition to the issuance of the AA itself. Slower drawdowns could impact the amount of funding a state could receive in the future.
- New **EPA memo** issued in fall, 2025:
    - Galvanized pipes are eligible for replacement if they are classified as "galvanized requiring replacement (GRR)" according to the LCRR and LCRI definitions of GRR (this varies from years past when the DWSRF program had a slightly different definition of 'GRR'). SL Replacement project cap grants from prior years are being updated to match the new definition/eligibility
    - Timely and expeditious replacement of SLs: Each SL must be replaced within 3 months of initiating replacement (some flexibility for extenuating circumstances).
    - Integrated components: starting with this year, water mains, water meters, connectors, backflow preventors and other components can now be paid for if they are a part of an LSL replacement project (in addition to the LSL / GRR replacement itself). There are specific circumstances that must be met related to the fact that the components must be specifically integrated with the LSL / GRR being replaced.
    - EPA SRF_IIJA Q and A Table (updated with info from this memo)
- If questions, reach out to Russell: RussellS.Neal@ky.gov.
- KWUAC meeting on June 26 is specifically about funding, with presentations by funding experts. Everyone is encouraged to attend. 10:00-12:00 ET, hybrid format (at 300 Sower and online), with 'Coffee with a Regulator' beforehand at 9:00.

Compliance update (Elizabeth Dowling):

- Remember the deadline is July 1 to turn in the certification document related to letters sent in 2025 to consumers with lead, GRR, or unknown SLs. DOW is still missing 43 certification documents.
    - Utilities that have eliminated all GRR, lead, or unknown SLs from the initial SL inventory should still turn in the form, but fill out the section stating they weren't required to send any consumer letters because they've changed the whole inventory to non-lead.
- DOW is working with EPA on a guidance document for systems to use to determine when they must do tap sampling in 2028, and what protocol.
- Schools/childcare tap sampling guidance is nearly complete; working with the school sampling subgroup for final feedback.
- There are guidance documents on DOW website now for homeowners to do tap sampling with the new protocol: one for Tier 1-2 sites, and one for Tier 3-5 sites.

- Remember to visit the DOW DW Compliance webpage for the most updated guidance and information; it is updated regularly. www.tinyurl.com/DrinkingWaterCompliance
- There was a request for DOW to create a guidance document for water systems that still have Unknown SLs on the inventory on 11/1/27 – lists all the other things they will be required to do.
- Reach out to Elizabeth Dowling (Elizabeth.dowling@ky.gov) or Andy Dezarn (andy.dezarn@ky.gov) with questions about all things LCRR/LCRI.

Next meetings:

- September 9, 2026, 11:00
- November 10, 2026, 11:00

Attached to meeting minutes:

- Link to Voluntary Lead Testing in Schools and Childcares program web page.