



ePipeline

OHA–Drinking Water Services

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Opportunity to Comment on Best Practices for Community Engagement Around Water Projects

In partnership with a multi-agency team, OHA–DWS has been working collaboratively with communities across Oregon to create a best practices resource for engaging communities when developing water projects. If agencies provide support for the development of community engagement plans, then Best Practices for Community Engagement must be followed. The agencies charged with developing these best practices recognize that each water project differs in scale and scope. As such, community engagement will also vary and not all best practices may apply to each water project.

Comments on the best practices guidance are being accepted now through August 1, 2024. To read the draft document and find out how to share comments and who to contact, go to the last item on the [Oregon Water Resources Department's Funding Opportunities web page](#): *Public Comment Period Now Open: Best Practices in Community Engagement Around Water Projects*.

Operator Certification Update

Do you know whether your water system's *direct responsible charge* (DRC) data are current?

OAR 333-061-0225 states in part, "Water suppliers responsible for community and non-transient non-community water systems must at all times employ, contract with, or otherwise utilize an operator to be in direct responsible charge (DRC) of every distribution system and water treatment plant." Further, "A water supplier subject to this rule must report to the Authority, the name(s) of the operator(s) that has been designated to be in direct responsible charge of the distribution system and water treatment plant as applicable, and must notify the Authority within 30 days of any change of operator."

Water systems should review their DRC data on a regular basis through [data online](#), and when necessary, submit corrections to OHA–DWS. Corrections can be made by submitting the DRC designation [form](#) to dws.opcert@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Service Line Inventory

All Community and Non-Transient Non-Community public water systems must conduct an inventory of all service lines, on both the water system side and the homeowner side of the meter, and submit the results to OHA–DWS by **October 16, 2024**.

Technical Assistance is available from OHA staff and also from three vendors contracted with OHA to assist water systems in completing and submitting the service line inventory. This support includes two technical assistance providers who can provide remote and in-person guidance for the survey process and an online data portal to facilitate information management and data submittal.

When documenting inventory data, water systems must use either the inventory spreadsheet created by OHA for that purpose or the online data portal service. Vendor contact information, the OHA inventory spreadsheet, contact information for the technical assistance providers, training and a Frequently Asked Questions document about the inventory can be found on the dedicated [OHA LCRR Service Line Inventory Requirements](#) web page.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program

Oregon's [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#) provides low-cost loans to community and nonprofit non-community public water systems for planning, design, and construction of drinking water infrastructure improvements. In addition to low-cost financing and favorable repayment terms, all projects receive part of the loan as principal forgiveness.

Program Updates – Beginning in 2025, infrastructure project Letters of Interest (LOI) must be submitted by February 15, 2025. See Drinking Water Source Protection Funding web page below for details about its annual LOI submission deadline date.

Funding Programs and How to Apply – For more information about each funding program available and how to apply, visit:

- [Infrastructure Funding](#). This includes project funding through Oregon’s “base” DWSRF and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) General Supplemental programs. Annual LOI submission deadline: February 15.
- [BIL Emerging Contaminants and Lead Service Line Replacement Funding](#). Annual submission deadline: February 15.
- [Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects Funding \(SIPP\)](#). Twice a year application submission deadline: September 15, 2024, then February 15 and August 15 of each year.
- [Drinking Water Source Protection Funding](#)

Business Oregon’s [Regional Development Officers](#) can assist eligible public water systems with the best funding options in their area.

Questions? Feel free to reach out to OHA-Drinking Water Services at dws.srf@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Congratulations to Outstanding Performers!

Public water systems achieve Outstanding Performer status when they have no significant deficiencies identified and no unresolved violations, as evaluated during their routine water system surveys. Those that meet the Outstanding Performer criteria have their survey frequency reduced from every three years to every five years.

Below is a list of water systems that have met the established criteria for outstanding performance during the period of April 11, 2024, through July 2, 2024. (Some survey results from that period may still be in the data entry process, so the list may be incomplete.) Drinking Water Services congratulates the operators of these systems for jobs well done!

Go [here](#) to find out how to qualify as an Outstanding Performer.

PWS Name	County Served
CHENOWITH PUD	Wasco
CRESCENT WTR SUPPLY & IMPR DIST	Klamath
JUNCTION CITY WATER UTILITIES	Lane
NORTH CLACKAMAS COUNTY WC	Clackamas
RIETH WATER DISTRICT	Umatilla
SHOUN CROSSROADS	Crook
SOUTHVIEW IMPROVEMENT DIST	Lane
STORLIE WATER COMPANY	Deschutes
TERREBONNE DOMESTIC WATER DISTRICT	Deschutes
WESTRIDGE WATER DISTRICT	Lane

Training Opportunities

Find information about free trainings, webinars and CEUs on the Operator Certification Training Opportunities web page at www.healthoregon.org/dwtraining.

You have received this message because you are signed up for the Pipeline Newsletter group of the Drinking Water Services email list.

Access past issues of the newsletter on the DWS Pipeline web page:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/OPERATIONS/Pages/pipeline.aspx>

Contact Drinking Water Services
info.drinkingwater@odhsoha.oregon.gov or 971-673-0405

See the [Drinking Water web page](#) for updated staff phone numbers and email addresses

You can view or update your subscriptions, password or email address at any time on your [User Profile Page](#). All you will need are your email address and your password (if you have selected one).

This service is provided to you at no charge by the [Oregon Health Authority](#) and the [Oregon Department of Human Services](#).

If you have any questions about this service, [please visit the govDelivery user support website](#).