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OHA–Drinking Water Services

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- [Operator Certification News](#)
- [Update Required for Emergency Response Plans and Risk Resilience Assessments](#)
- [2024 Cross Connection Annual Summary Report](#)
- [Certification Renewals 2025](#)
- [Source Water Protection News](#)
- [Service Line Inventories and Consumer Confidence Reports](#)
- [Plan Review Reminders About Major Modifications](#)
- [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program](#)
- [Asset Management Assistance Available](#)

Operator Certification News

Tester, Specialist, Distribution and Treatment certifications are wrapping up for people with last names beginning with A–K. If you have not yet submitted your renewal form, please be aware that your certifications lapsed on December 31, 2024, and renewals submitted after January 31, 2025, will incur a \$50 late fee.

Backflow testers with lapsed certifications may not perform any testing, and drinking water operators with lapsed certifications may not make operational decisions or be designated as Direct Responsible Charge (DRC). Certified operators, testers, and specialists who fail to renew their certification(s) for one year following the expiration date of the certification must reapply for certification.

If you've already submitted your renewal paperwork, you can check your status by reviewing the online [certification list](#). Once there, type your last name into the search bar. If you are not on the list, your paperwork hasn't been received or hasn't been processed yet. If it has been over two weeks since you submitted your paperwork, please contact the program:

Tester and Specialist: cross.connection@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Distribution and Treatment: dws.opcert@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Update Required for Emergency Response Plans and Risk Resilience Assessments

Both DWS and EPA require Community water systems serving more than 3,300 people to update their emergency response plans (ERPs) and risk and resilience assessments (RRAs) every five years. Those systems must certify to EPA that their updates have been completed. DWS does not require a certification but will review the documents during the next water system survey. For technical assistance and resources, contact DWS' Emergency Response and Preparedness Coordinator, Chantal Wikstrom, at Chantal.t.wikstrom@oha.oregon.gov or 971-666-8512.

Go [here](#) to certify to the EPA.

Population Served	RRA Certification Deadline	ERP Certification Deadline
More than 100,000	March 31, 2025	September 30, 2025
50,000 – 99,999	December 31, 2025	June 30, 2026
3,301 – 49,999	June 30, 2026	December 31, 2026
3,300 or fewer	Must be updated every 5 years, no certification required	

2024 Cross Connection Annual Summary Report

The 2024 Cross Connection Annual Summary Report (ASR) is **due by March 31, 2025**. The report is required for all Community water systems. A reminder postcard was mailed to all those systems during the first week of January. There are options for completing the ASR:

Use the [SmartSheet form](#)

Fill out the [PDF document](#) and email or mail it to the office.

The 2024 report is currently available on the [DWS website](#).

Certification Renewals 2025

If your last name begins with L–Z and you are a certified distribution operator, treatment operator, cross connection specialist, or backflow assembly tester, then your certification(s) will expire at the end of this year (December 31, 2025). In October 2025, renewal notices will be mailed to the address DWS has on file for you. If that renewal will be your first, you are not required to submit CEUs or recertification courses to renew. If that renewal will *not* be your first, you are required to submit course completion certificates or CEUs. But you don't have to wait until October to sign up for courses — you can take them at any point during 2025.

Testers and Specialists: You can also use a recent recertification course from 2024 for the requirement if it wasn't used for your previous renewal.

Distribution and Treatment Operators: You can also use CEUs earned in 2024 for the requirement if they weren't used for your previous renewal.

Source Water Protection News

Updated web page: The [Drinking Water Source Protection web page](#) has a new look! We've updated much of the information, added a Hot Topics & News section, and organized much of the information into expandable "accordion" sections. Check it out [here!](#)

Award: The source water protection team is proud to offer the new Drinking Water Source Protection Award. Public water systems that have implemented measures to protect their sources may apply for the award. Details are provided toward the bottom of the [new web page](#).

Drinking Water Source Protection Grants and Loans: 2025 applications are typically accepted from late January through late March. When application materials are ready, links to them will be available in the Hot Topics & News column on the [Source Protection web page](#).

Service Line Inventories and Consumer Confidence Reports

The Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) requires Community water systems to include in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) a statement that the service line inventory has been completed and is accessible. The CCR must include instructions on how to access the inventory — for example, a phone number a customer can call to request the inventory or a way to access it.

If the system has reported no lead, no galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), and no unknown service lines on the inventory, then the system may instead provide a statement in the CCR that no lead service lines or GRRs were identified, along with the description of methods used to make the determination. Methods used may include a review of available records, site inspections, etc. Find more information, including service line technical assistance contact information, on the [DWS Lead and Copper Rule Revisions web page](#).

To date, DWS has received 1,165 service line inventories out of 1,275 required from Community and Non-Transient Non-Community water systems. Of the 1,165 service line inventories, there are 0 lead lines, 31,707 unknown lines, and 1,207,103 non-lead lines. Go [here](#) to view the service line summary.

Plan Review Reminders About Major Modifications

Constructing something new? Be sure your plans are approved first! Plan review approval through DWS is required before construction begins on major additions or major modifications to public water system. Go [here](#) to learn more.

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 webpage below for details about its annual LOI submission deadline date.

Prior to finalizing and adopting an updated Disadvantaged Community (DAC) definition, Oregon's DWSRF Program conducted a community engagement Open House on Tuesday, October 29 followed by a 30-day public comment period.

With no requests for one-on-one engagement and no submissions of public comment, and after consideration of questions posed and input received from the Open House, Oregon's DWSRF program will adopt the proposed revised DAC Definition as presented in the report.

Details about the DAC Definition report and the Open House can be found in the DAC section of the [Project Ranking and Disadvantaged Status web page](#).

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: 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.

Asset Management Assistance Available

It's a new year — and a good time to start thinking about developing or improving your asset management plan. DWS provides lots of valuable information on the [Asset Management web page](#). The [Circuit Rider Program](#) provides free assistance for asset management development, as well as many other areas important to public water systems, to non-federally-owned public water systems serving 10,000 or fewer.

You have received this message because you are signed up for the Pipeline Newsletter group and/or the state revolving fund 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 Contacts web page](#) for updated 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](#).