



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

Environmental Services

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NWS Summary of the August 2020 Derecho, AWIA – R&RA and ER Plans

From the National Weather Service, 5/25/2021

The August 2020 derecho was the costliest severe thunderstorm event in U.S. history. This [article](#) is an interesting retrospective on what happened that day across Iowa. Water systems prepare for these catastrophic events as part of their risk and resiliency assessments, and emergency response planning efforts, to ensure that safe water remains available. Just some of the areas that are required include redundant power, multiple sources, available staffing, knowledge of emergency operations, and coordination with local, county, and state emergency management staff.

On this [website](#), EPA has several fact sheets and documents available to assist water systems with these planning efforts. The America's Water and Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) requires systems serving 3,301 or more people to conduct risk and resiliency assessments and develop emergency response plans.

- For systems serving 3,301 – 50,000 people, the system's risk and resiliency assessment certification is due to EPA by June 30th, and the emergency response plan certification is due to EPA by December 31, 2021.
- For systems serving 50,001 – 100,000 people, the system's emergency response plan certification is due to EPA by June 30, 2021.

For all systems serving at least 3,301 people, the risk and resiliency assessments and the emergency response plans must be reviewed and updated as needed at least every five years going forward, and the system must provide the relevant certifications to EPA.

Reminders to Public Water Systems

There are a few activities that need to happen yet this month. This is just a general reminder. For any specific questions, contact the environmental specialist listed in your operation permit:

- **CCR:** The Consumer Confidence Report (also called a Water Quality Report) for the calendar year 2020 must be distributed to your consumers, including a copy sent to DNR, by July 1st. The certification on how the report was distributed is due to the DNR by October 1st. If you didn't receive your data letter or would like a MS Word version, email ccr@dnr.iowa.gov.
- **LCR:** If you are on a six-month monitoring frequency for Lead and Copper, the sampling must be conducted by June 30th for the January 1 – June 30th. If you are on reduced monitoring, either annual or triennial frequency, the samples must be collected between June 1 and September 30. The **Consumer Notice** must be sent to every site that was sampled, no matter what your sampling frequency. A certification of the distribution including one copy of the Consumer Notice must be sent to DNR. Both the distribution and the certification must be done within 30 days of the receipt of the last analytical result by the water system from the laboratory. The Consumer Notice and certification forms are available on the DNR's PWS [Forms website](#), at the bottom under "Other Forms and Guidance." The Lead notice is required. However, since lead and copper are analyzed from the same site, a notice that includes copper is also available. There are separate forms for CWS and NTNC.
- **DBP:** Check your operation permit now if you are uncertain when your disinfection byproduct monitoring for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acid samples are due. Many systems sample once a year in the specific assigned month of July, or August, or September, which is listed in the operation permit. For those systems on annual frequency, a reminder letter is also sent by DNR the first of the month in which sampling is required. Check your permit, see if you have sampling coming up, ensure you have the sampling bottles on hand, and make sure the samples are collected. If the period is missed, it's a monitoring violation for each analyte group, and it cannot be rectified until the next year at the same time. We've had more systems miss this sampling than should (14 in 2020), so check your permit and avoid two monitoring violations.
- **Emergency Response Plan Certification** (for systems serving 50,001 – 100,000 persons) is due to EPA by June 30th. See [EPA's website](#) if you have questions. The email address to ask questions is dwresilience@epa.gov.
- **Risk and Resiliency Assessment Certification** (for systems serving 3,301 – 50,000 persons) is due to EPA by June 30th. See [EPA's website](#) if you have questions. The email address to ask questions is dwresilience@epa.gov.

Cybersecurity Breach Attempt at Small PWS in Kansas

From Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment, provided by EPA Region 7 on June 7, 2021

From Mary Mindrup, Chief of the Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch – Office of Water in EPA's Region 7 "... again I want to stress the importance of cybersecurity preparedness even for small systems. Below is a security alert issued by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

A cybersecurity breach was attempted on June 2, 2021, at a small public water supply system in Kansas. Please take the appropriate steps to ensure your utility is implementing cybersecurity best practices. The links below provide information from EPA that may be helpful in protecting your utility assets and preventing a cybersecurity attack.

- [Cybersecurity Brief](#) (.pdf, 4 pages)
- [Incident Action Checklist](#) (.pdf, 6 pages)
- [EPA Cybersecurity Best Practices Webpage](#)"

New York State Water Supply Program Basic Cybersecurity Checklist

In related news, EPA is considering including cybersecurity discussions during sanitary surveys. The ransomware attacks on other utility sectors, recent cyber breach attempts at water systems, and the prevalent use of SCADA systems in water systems make this a timely topic.

This is a 4-page [checklist](#) (.pdf, 6 pages total) developed by the New York water supply program as a basic checklist.

Nancy Hall Retires from SHL

Nancy Hall retired on Friday, June 4th, after 44 years serving Iowans at the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa in Coralville. Nancy has worked in microbiology her entire career, and has helped many a water operator understand the importance of sampling properly.

She provided training seminars on how to collect coliform samples to water operators, was instrumental in the *Cryptosporidium* sampling protocols and analysis for the Iowa systems (and others nationwide) that were required to comply with the LT2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, has been a joint committee chair and reviewer of methods in the water and wastewater bible, the "Standards for the Examination of Water and Wastewater," and has been a resource for environmental labs accredited in Iowa.

Her expertise in the subject of environmental microbiology makes her outstanding in her field. Her ability to take the complex topics and make them relatable, no matter her audience, and always with a smile, made her a true asset to Iowa during her long career. Nancy will be very busy with her plans to spend time at the family lake cabin, golfing, keeping her pup out of trouble, and enjoying time with her husband, son, and extended family. Those of you who worked with or know Nancy are welcome to provide her a note via her work email at nancy-hall@uiowa.edu. Her email will remain active – at least for awhile.

Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

To find continuing education opportunities, please view the "Training Calendar" at programs.iowadnr.gov/opcertweb/ Training events where Iowa DNR staff will make

presentations are listed below with the presentation name in the description. Also included are training events provided by EPA or a federal agency where Iowa CEU are granted, or events sponsored by Iowa DNR. See the listing on the appropriate date on the Training Calendar for registration instructions. Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.

- July 19-20, 2021, Ankeny Annual Water Conference, Ankeny. "Iowa DNR Update". To register, contact Kim Peterson at 515-669-1528 or Kim@KeyElementsConsulting.com.