



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

Environmental Services

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Iowa Department of Natural Resources releases summary of PFAS sampling

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The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has released a summary of PFAS testing of public water supplies from October 2021 to December 2022.

Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are chemicals used in water-resistant, stain-resistant, and heat-resistant products such as carpets, clothing, fire-fighting foams, non-stick pans, and food packaging. Ingestion of these chemicals may increase cancer risk, affect the ability to become pregnant and interfere with pancreatic, thyroid and liver function.

The DNR began sampling public water systems in October 2021 using a tiered system prioritizing locations in close proximity to potential locations of PFAS storage or use and surface water or groundwater sources at higher risk of being contaminated.

The 116 drinking water supplies tested represent approximately 46% of Iowa's population.

Water samples included both treated finished, or treated, water and raw/untreated water from wells and surface water bodies used for drinking water. Samples were analyzed for 25 different PFAS compounds, four of which currently have health advisory (HA) levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency: PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and HFPO DA (also known as Gen X Chemicals). Although one or more PFAS compounds were found in 52 finished water samples, just 15 (12%) of the finished water samples reported PFAS concentrations above the current health advisory levels.

If a PFAS chemical with a health advisory is found at a community water supply in either treated or untreated samples, the DNR will revise operation permits to the public water supply. To date, 20 water supply operations permits were revised to require quarterly monitoring.

This summary report was written prior to EPA's recent announcement of [proposed drinking water standards](#) for PFAS chemicals. Once standards become effective, possibly by the end of 2023, water supplies that exceed the standards in finished water will be required to develop and execute treatment plans. In the meantime, many communities have already adjusted their operations to reduce or remove PFAS.

The DNR will continue to sample PFAS in raw and treated water at public water supplies over the next few years. The Environmental Protection Agency will also require testing of finished water supplies as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule #5, which includes communities with 3,300 or more people and 18 smaller communities, between 2023-25.

The complete summary and results can be found at iowadnr.gov.

FY 2023 Intended Use Plan Q4 Update Approved

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) approved the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plans (IUP) fourth quarter update for fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). The Commission took the action on March 22, 2023 during their meeting.

This update incorporates Annex A to the Clean Water IUP and Annex A to the Drinking Water IUP which describe the intended uses of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) General Supplemental Funds. Attachment 1- Project Priority List of the CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs include projects approved for both base SRF and BIL General Supplemental Funds.

[Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)

For more information on BIL, please visit our [BIL Funding Opportunities](#) webpage. BIL questions can be directed to water-infrastructure@dnr.iowa.gov.

EPA announces a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would strengthen the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule

On March 28, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would strengthen the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule, making annual drinking water quality reports with important public health information more accessible to residents and businesses across the country. A Consumer Confidence Report, sometimes called an "Annual Drinking Water Quality Report," summarizes information about the local drinking water for the previous year. EPA's proposal would support public education by more clearly communicating important information in water quality reports and improving access to the reports.

"It's crucial that the public has access to the most relevant information about the drinking water coming out of their taps," said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox. "The Consumer Confidence Report is the primary way local water systems communicate with the people they serve, and EPA's proposed rule would improve the information communities receive, in addition to making it more accessible."

When finalized, EPA's proposal would:

- Improve the readability, clarity, and of water quality reports
- Enhance risk communication
- Encourage modern electronic delivery options
- Clarify information regarding lead levels and efforts to reduce lead in drinking water
- Provide translation for customers with limited English proficiency
- Require reports be issued twice a year (for systems that serve 10,000 or more people)

Additionally, EPA's proposal would require states to submit compliance monitoring data to EPA. While states already collect compliance monitoring data, current EPA regulations limit the data available to the EPA. When final, this action will help EPA identify trends both geographically and demographically, which will improve transparency and accountability, and amplify best practices that maximize direct benefits in communities.

This proposed rule marks a key milestone in revising the Consumer Confidence Report Rule as required by America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). EPA is seeking comment on this proposal for 45 days. Learn [more about EPA's CCR Rule Revisions](#) and [read EPA's fact sheet that provides more detail on the proposed requirements](#)

CISA Announces Ransomware Vulnerability Warning (RVWP) Pilot

CISA.gov

March 13, 2023

The U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) announced a new pilot program to help critical infrastructure entities protect their information systems from ransomware attacks. Organizations across all sectors and of all sizes are too frequently impacted by damaging ransomware incidents. Many of these incidents are perpetrated by ransomware threat actors using known vulnerabilities. By urgently fixing these vulnerabilities, organizations can significantly reduce their likelihood of experiencing a ransomware event. In addition, organizations should implement other security controls as described on stopransomware.gov.

However, most organizations may be unaware that a vulnerability used by ransomware threat actors is present on their network. Through the Ransomware Vulnerability Warning Pilot (RVWP), which started on January 30, 2023, CISA is undertaking a new effort to warn critical infrastructure entities that their systems have exposed vulnerabilities that may be exploited by ransomware threat actors

As part of RVWP, CISA leverages existing authorities and technology to proactively identify information systems that contain security vulnerabilities commonly associated with ransomware attacks. Once CISA identifies these affected systems, our regional cybersecurity personnel notify system owners of their security vulnerabilities, thus enabling timely mitigation before damaging intrusions occur.

Interested in learning more about CISA and how they can assist protecting against a cybersecurity threat? Visit their website at <https://www.cisa.gov/> or contact the [Local Regional CISA Office](#).

Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

Online and virtual training opportunities are being created and offered through community colleges, state industry associations, national industry associations, EPA, and other state industry partners. All operators should continue to monitor their emails and the Training Calendar on the [Iowa DNR Operator Certification Database](#). Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.

Please contact Laurie Sharp at (515) 725-0284 with any questions concerning operator certification training