



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

Environmental Services

- [Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements \(LCRI\) Published on 12/6/2023](#)
 - [EPA Updates Lead Service Line Webpages](#)
 - [Cybersecurity Alert for Unitronics Programmable Logic Controllers](#)
 - [Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities](#)
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Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) Published on 12/6/2023

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for lead and copper under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Key provisions in the proposal include:

- **Achieving 100% Lead Pipe Replacement within 10 years.** When lead service lines are present, they represent the greatest source of lead exposure in drinking water. The proposed LCRI would require the vast majority of water systems to replace lead services lines within 10 years.
- **Locating Legacy Lead Pipes.** Knowing where lead pipes are is critical to replacing them efficiently and equitably. Water systems are currently required to provide an initial inventory of their lead service lines by October 16, 2024. Under the proposed LCRI, all water systems would be required to regularly update their inventories, create a publicly available service line replacement plan, and identify the materials of all service lines of unknown material.
- **Improving Tap Sampling.** The proposed LCRI would make key changes to the protocol that water systems must use for tap sampling informed by best practices already being deployed at the local and state level, like in Michigan. Water systems would be required to collect first liter and fifth liter samples at sites with lead service lines and use the higher of the two values when determining compliance with the rule.
- **Lowering the Lead Action Level.** EPA is proposing to lower the lead action level from 15 µg/L to 10 µg/L. When a water system's lead sampling exceeds the action level, the system would be required to inform the public and take action to reduce lead exposure while concurrently working to

replace all lead pipes. For example, the system would install or adjust corrosion control treatment to reduce lead that leaches into drinking water.

- **Strengthening Protections to Reduce Exposure.** Water systems with multiple lead action level exceedances would be required to conduct additional outreach to consumers and make filters certified to reduce lead available to all consumers. The filters must be certified to reduce lead.

You can read the proposed rule [here](#) .

You may send comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OW–2022–0801, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov/> (our preferred method). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* EPA Docket Center, WJC West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004. The Docket Center's hours of operations are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal Holidays).

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket ID No. for this rulemaking. Comments received may be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov/>, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on sending comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the “Public Participation” heading of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

For more information, please visit:

Federal Register: [National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper: Improvements \(LCRI\)](#)

EPA's Ground Water and Drinking Water: [Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements](#)

Iowa DNR: [Lead Service Line Inventories](#)

EPA Updates Lead Service Line Webpages

New EPA Lead Service Line webpages have been updated and are now live. You can find information on lead service line inventories, engaging with the community,

and planning for and conducting replacements. Information can be found at the new links below:

1. Lead Service Lines home page - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-service-lines>
 2. Getting Started - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/getting-started-lead-service-line-identification-and-replacement>
 3. Planning and Developing an Inventory - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/planning-and-developing-service-line-inventory>
 4. Engaging with the Community - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/engaging-community-lead-service-lines>
 5. Planning and Conducting Replacements - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/planning-and-conducting-lead-service-line-replacement>
 6. Identifying Funding for LSLR - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/identifying-funding-sources-lead-service-line-replacement>
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Cybersecurity Alert for Unitronics Programmable Logic Controllers

[Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency](#) (CISA) has released a [high-level alert](#) regarding exploitation of Unitronics Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) at Water and Wastewater Systems.

The cyber threat actors likely accessed the affected device with a Human Machine Interface (HMI) by exploiting cybersecurity weaknesses, including poor password security and exposure to the internet.

To secure WWS facilities against this threat, CISA urges organizations to:

- Change all default passwords on PLCs and HMIs and use a strong password.
- Require multifactor authentication for all remote access to the OT network, including from the IT network and external networks.
- Disconnect the PLC from the open internet.
- Implement a Firewall/VPN in front of the PLC to control network access to the remote PLC.
- Use an allowlist of IPs for access.
- Back up the logic and configurations on any Unitronics PLCs to enable fast recovery.
- If possible, utilize a TCP port that is different than the default port TCP 20256.

- Update PLC/HMI to the latest version provided by Unitronics.

U.S. EPA is hosted a free webinar on December 6, 2023 with important updates on the recent hacking of Unitronics Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) at US Water and Wastewater Systems. Registration reached maximum capacity, but a recording of the webinar will be shared and posted on U.S. EPA's [Cybersecurity for the Water Sector website](#). This webinar recording featured speakers from U.S. EPA, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who provided mitigation actions and cybersecurity best practices utilities can implement to protect against this threat.

Resources & Tools:

- CISA: [Water and Wastewater Cybersecurity](#)
 - EPA: [Cybersecurity for the Water Sector](#)
 - WaterISAC: [Resource Center](#)
 - American Water Works Association: [Cybersecurity and Guidance](#)
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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.