

## OFFICE UPDATE: NEW PEOPLE, NEW ORGANIZATION

We have many new staff members at the Office of Drinking Water (ODW); while some are new to ODW, several staff are appointed to different positions and have new roles and duties. Our [Key Contacts webpage](#) contains a high-level overview of our office and how it's organized. For a more in-depth look, view our [updated organization chart](#). You can find more information and links to headquarters and regional office staff on our [Staff and Offices webpage](#).

## NEW RULES IN THE NEW YEAR—PFAS MONITORING AND ANALYSIS

The State Board of Health recently revised the Group A drinking water rules to require water systems to monitor for select per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) using specific analytical methods. The new rule establishes state action levels (SALs) for five PFAS compounds.

For general information please visit our [PFAS webpage](#).

### State monitoring requirements for PFAS

- ◆ Group-A Community and non-transient non-community (NTNC) water systems will be required to monitor for PFAS beginning January 2023 through December 2025. We will list each water system's Water Quality Monitoring Schedule PFAS requirement starting in 2023. [PFAS Monitoring and Follow-Up Actions 331-668](#) outlines the revised rule's monitoring requirements.
- ◆ Systems must collect samples at the distribution system entry point. The samples must be analyzed by EPA Method 537.1 or 533 by a Washington State lab accredited for these analytes.
- ◆ Transient non-community (TNCs) systems may be required to monitor if their source of supply is near a known PFAS contaminated site. We will notify affected TNCs when more information is known.

### Free PFAS Analysis Offered

- ◆ Our free PFAS sample program for Community and NTNC systems continues through early 2022. Results count toward state-required monitoring that we would otherwise schedule in 2023-2025.
- ◆ Water systems not currently signed up to take part in this sampling program can still sign up by emailing us. Please include your water system name and ID, contact person (including name, phone and email), and shipping address in the email to [odw.wqcompliance@doh.wa.gov](mailto:odw.wqcompliance@doh.wa.gov).
- ◆ We will require systems with detections to collect follow-up samples and follow rule requirements.
- ◆ We have limited funding. We may rank systems based on risk if volunteers go above available funding.

### State Action Levels

The SALs to the right show the maximum level in tap water considered safe for long-term daily ingestion, including sensitive groups.

### Exceeding a State Action Level (SAL) for PFAS

- ◆ Systems with an initial PFAS sample result greater than the SAL will need to collect a confirmation sample. If both samples' average results exceed the SAL, or if the system doesn't collect a

Specific PFAS Contaminant	SAL (parts per trillion)
PFOA	10
PFOS	15
PFNA	9
PFHxS	65
PFBS	345

confirmation sample, they must notify their customers. We are developing public notification templates. Regional office contacts for monitoring requirements.

- ◆ [Eastern Region](#); [Stan Hoffman](#) 509-329-2132.
- ◆ [Northwest Region](#); [Steve Hulsman](#) 253-395-6777.
- ◆ [Southwest Region](#); [Sophia Petro](#) 360-236-3046.

### Funding for PFAS Mitigation

- ◆ The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will make additional funding available in grants and loans. Contact our [DWSRF program](#) for PFAS treatment, new source, or another preferred option for dealing with PFAS contamination.

## DWSRF—FUNDING AND APPLICATION CYCLES AND STORYMAP

Thank you to all 2021 construction loan applicants. We are reviewing loan applications and are verifying completeness and eligibility criteria. We will post updates on the [DWSRF webpage](#).

Preconstruction loan applications are accepted year-round. Eligible projects are funded on a first-come basis until funding is exhausted. Guidelines, fact sheets, application worksheets, and webinar presentations are available in the preconstruction loan section of our [DWSRF webpage](#).

Learn more about how we plan to use available funds for 2022 by reading our [Intended Use Plan](#). We work with the departments of Ecology, Commerce, and the Public Works Board to coordinate funding efforts through using the System Improvement Team (SYNC). [Learn more on our DWSRF webpage](#).

We're also advertising our successful DWSRF projects in a new, more engaging way—through a [StoryMap](#). This is a data-driven way to talk about a project and provides a map tour and synopsis of successful DWSRF projects around the state. Each point on the map links to a description and photo, with a link to more details. We hope this new way to communicate our successes inspires other drinking water systems to participate in our program and gives them new ideas for solving challenges they may face. [Visit the DWSRF StoryMap!](#)

## DRINKING WATER WEEK NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Celebrate drinking water during National Drinking Water Week, May 1-7 this year, by nominating an outstanding waterworks professional or water system that does a terrific job meeting challenges, going above and beyond, or who continuously strives for excellence in providing safe and reliable drinking water.

Anyone can nominate someone for a National Drinking Water Week award! Just [fill out this nomination form](#). Nominations close February 18, 2022. Learn more about the award categories on our [Drinking Water Week webpage](#). Last year, we gave out seven Lifetime Achievement awards to those retiring from the drinking water industry, six Commitment to Excellence awards, two Grace Under Pressure awards, one Friend of Drinking Water award, and one Operator of the Year award. Read about the winners and a short synopsis of their achievements in our [Past Winners](#) publication.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 TOP PERFORMERS!

We expect water systems to meet clean drinking water standards for surface water treatment. Turbidity optimization is direct filtration of surface water to remove particulates and microbes from surface water sources such as lakes and rivers. Customers of these systems can trust that the water coming out of their taps is reliably clean and safe.

We monitor 56 active treatment plants and rank the systems according to turbidity optimization performance (TOP). Our monitoring data for 2020 shows that Washington State's conventional and direct filtration surface water treatment plants continuously perform above national regulatory standards. We awarded four twenty-year plaques this year, as well as bronze, silver, gold, and platinum certificates for three, five, ten, and fifteen years, respectively.

See the winners and read more about turbidity optimization on our [Rapid Rate Filtration Plants webpage](#).

[Sign up for future issues of our newsletter!](#)