OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

Oregon Drinking Water Services Regulatory and Program Update

PNWS Conference

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Presentation Overview

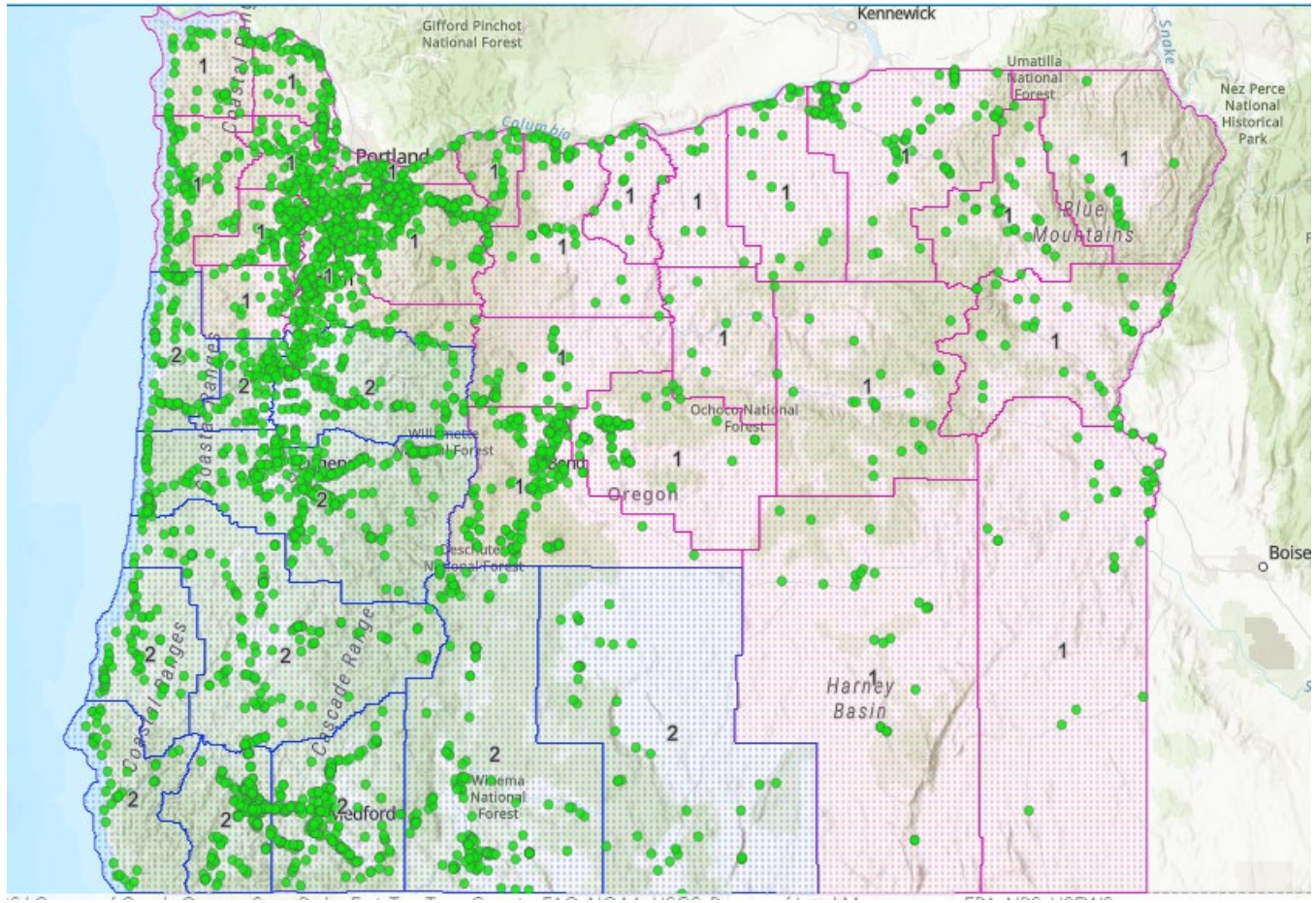
- Program overview
- Regulatory update
  - Federal status
  - Lead and copper
  - CCR
  - PFAS
  - CCL6
- Program update
  - Rule adoption schedule
  - Funding resources
  - Miscellaneous program updates



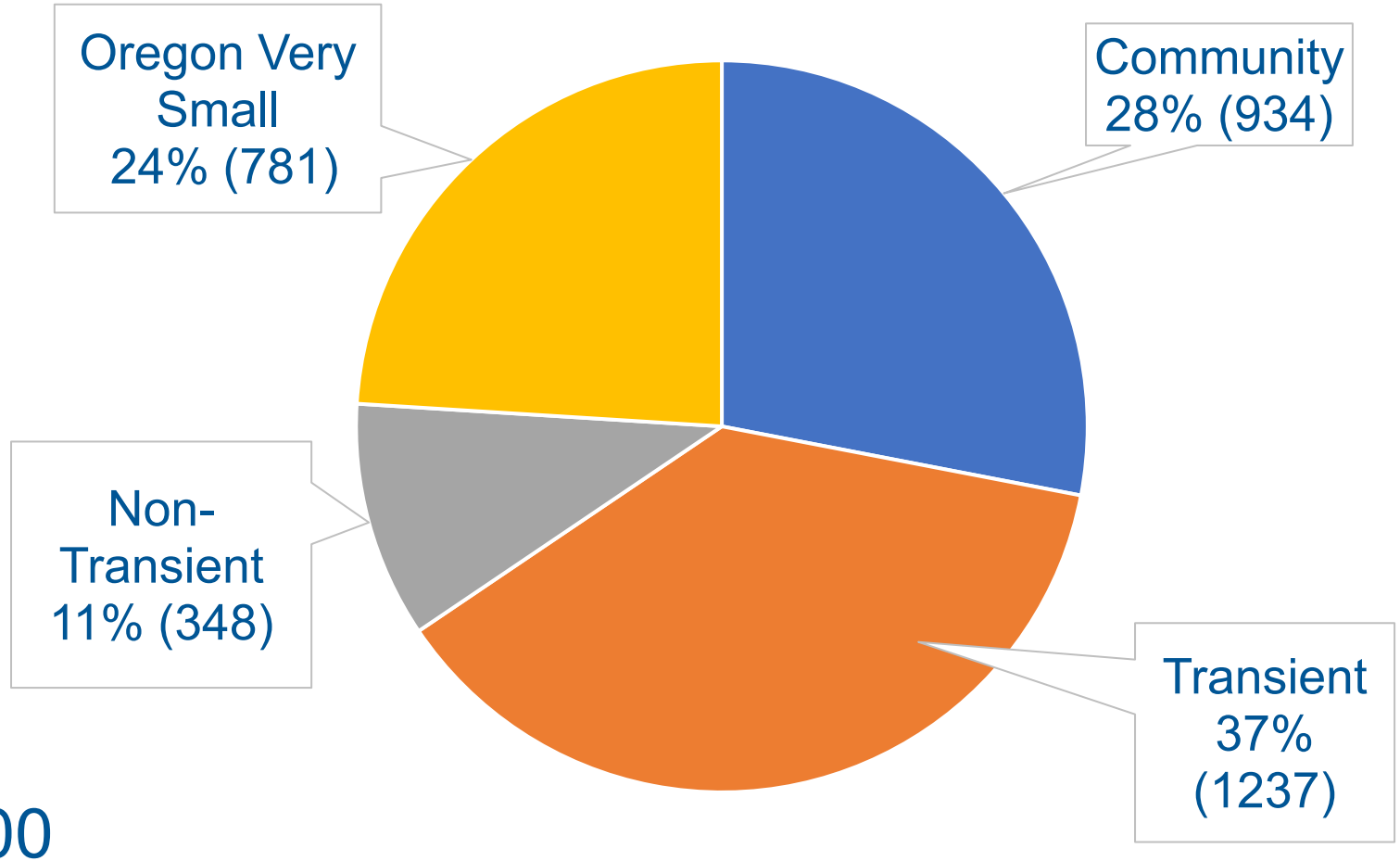
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Oregon public water systems and program

- 2,500 SDWA Public Water Systems
- 800 Oregon Very Small PWSs - <25 people or 4-14 connections
- 90% serve < 500 people
- 44 staff
- Partners: local public health authorities, Dept of Environmental Quality, Dept of Agriculture, Infrastructure Finance Authority



Public water systems by classification

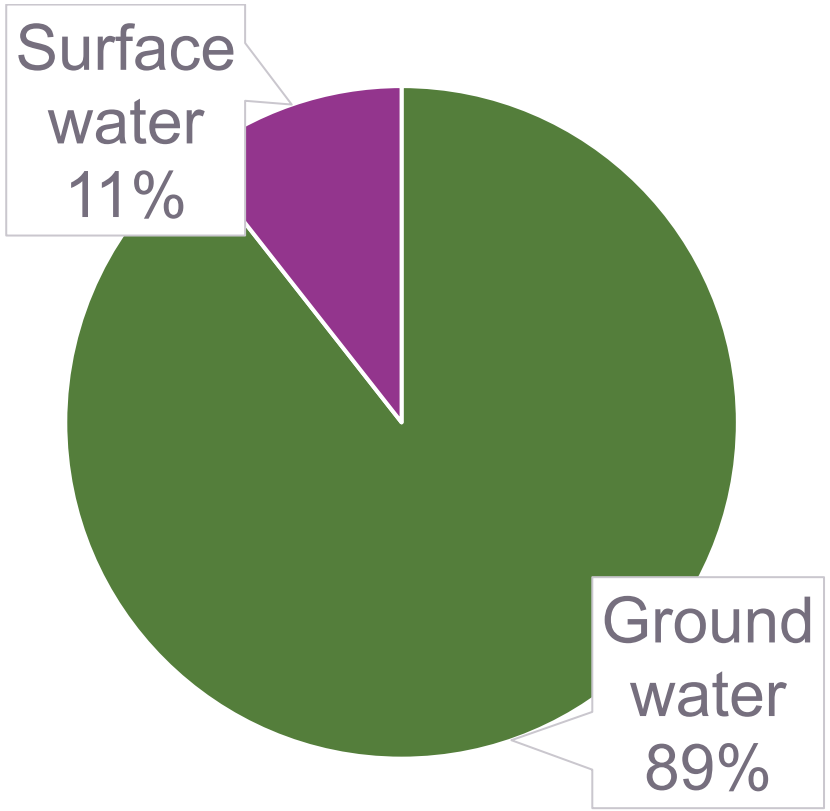


Total = 3,300

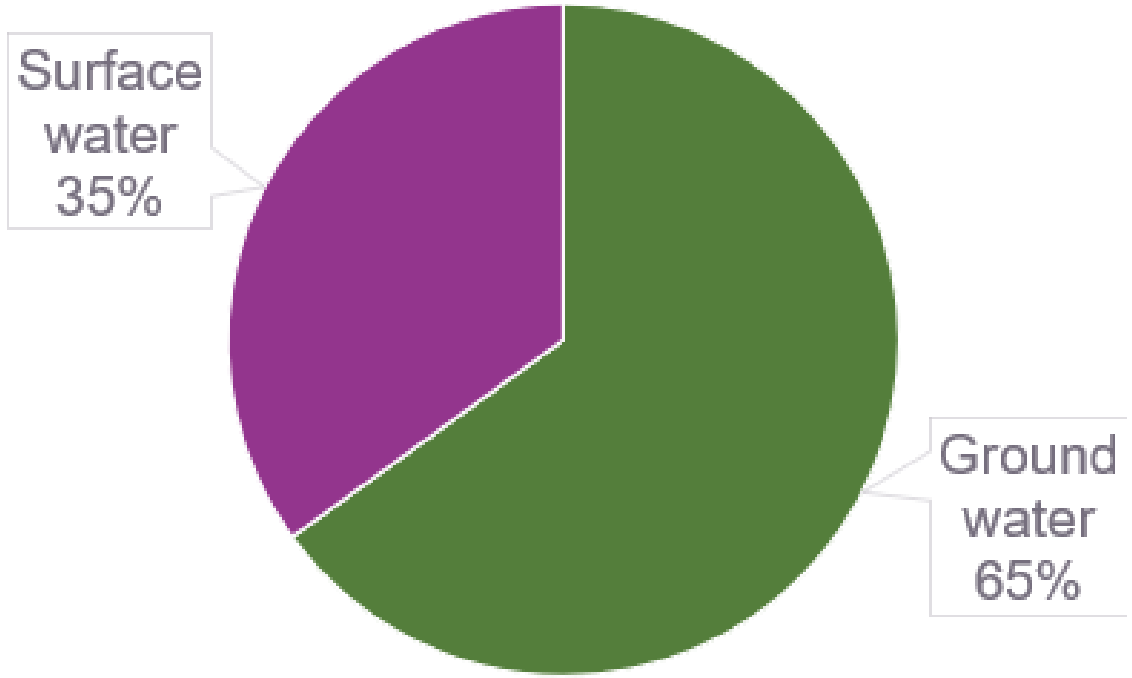
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Public water systems

By source type



By source population



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Federal Regulatory Landscape

- CCR: finalized
- LCRI: finalized
- PFAS – waiting on second proposed rule
- Draft CCL6: April 2026
- Perchlorate: proposal Jan 2026, final May 2027
- Water system restructuring assessment rule – proposed May 2024
- Disinfection by-products: 6-year review, proposed rule by July 2027, final by Sept 2028
- Chromium final determination: August 2027



Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) – Service lines

- Oregon adopted service line inventory requirements. EPA to do formal enforcement if not submitted
- 98% of systems submitted their service line inventory (all but 31)
- 98% of all service lines in Oregon are non-lead
- Zero lead service lines!
- 94 systems have unknowns
- One has GRRs due to unknowns upstream of galvanized



Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) – Service Line inventories

- "Baseline" inventories due November 1, 2027
  - Add addresses for all service lines
  - Include materials of connectors (up to 3 feet) if known
- Validation of non-lead lines:
  - Oregon only allowed evidence-based methods
  - Oregon's statistical method is equivalent to the LCRI validation method
  - Systems can receive a waiver for the LCRI validation with documentation of appropriate methods
- Replacement plans due November 1, 2027 (with process of determining unknowns)



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LCRI – Action Level and Corrosion control

- New Action Level = 10 ppb
  - 43 systems in OR were over 10 ppb in latest round
- Effective with first round of testing after November 2027
- If exceed new AL, must “re-optimize” previously determined Optimized corrosion control treatment (OCCT).
- If an individual tap > 10 ppb, a Distribution system and site assessment is required.
  - Sample WQPs nearby, follow up sample, evaluate, submit recommendation to DWS



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LCRI - notifications



- Public notice required within **24 hours** of AL exceedance!
  - From time DWS notifies PWS of the exceedance
- If GRR or unknown lines could be disturbed (construction), must notify affected customers
  - If lines are cut into, must provide pitcher filter or POU device
- Updated public education
  - Printed or electronic, updated language, additional verbiage if GRR or unknown lines.
- Must offer customer-requested sampling if exceed AL or served by GRR or unknown line
- Consumer notice of tap results in 3 business days
- Updated CCR language

LCRI school and childcare facility testing

- PWSs must develop list of all schools and childcare facilities by November 1, 2027
  - Includes public, private schools in buildings primarily for educational use.
  - Updated every 5 years
- Oregon's program is more stringent
- Oregon DWS is working with school and child care agencies to share location and compliance information
- State can issue written waiver for testing requirements for one or more PWSs



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Oregon school and childcare facility testing

- Rules adopted in 2018
- All K-12 schools and childcare facilities must sample each tap used for drinking or food preparation every 6 years.
- Schools – must certify completion for funding
- Childcare facilities – must test to get license
  - Waived if certify that only bottled water is used and accessible.



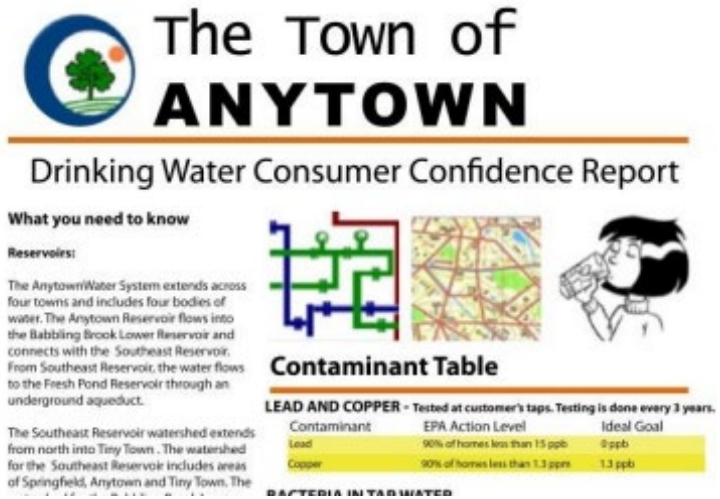
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Consumer confidence reports

- Required for all Community Water Systems (CWSs).
- Summarizes information about local drinking water, source of water, and summary of detected contaminants for previous calendar year.
- Describes any violations received and explains additional health information.
- CWSs must deliver a physical copy of CCR or notify bill-paying customers of CCR availability by mail or electronic delivery.

CCR latest revisions

- Improve the readability, clarity, and understandability of WQ 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


The Town of ANYTOWN

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

What you need to know

Reservoirs:

The AnytownWater System extends across four towns and includes four bodies of water. The Anytown Reservoir flows into the Babbling Brook Lower Reservoir and connects with the Southeast Reservoir. From Southeast Reservoir, the water flows to the Fresh Pond Reservoir through an underground aqueduct.

The Southeast Reservoir watershed extends from north into Tiny Town . The watershed for the Southeast Reservoir includes areas of Springfield, Anytown and Tiny Town. The

Contaminant Table

LEAD AND COPPER - Tested at customer's taps. Testing is done every 3 years.

Contaminant	EPA Action Level	Ideal Goal
Lead	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb
Copper	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppb

BACTERIA IN TAP WATER

CCR Revisions, continued

- Adds a summary to highlight key information, such as occurrence of water quality violations or an action level exceedance (ALE).
- Include appropriate contact information for consumers to request translation assistance.
- Replaces “contaminant data table(s)” with a “contaminant data section” to allow flexibility in formatting contaminant data.

2023 Sampling Results							
Substance	Year	EPA's Standards				Violation	Possible Sources
		MCL	MCLG	Min	Max		
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	10	0	ND	3.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	0.06	0.13	No	Discharge from drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (ppb)	2022	100	100	1.00	2.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	1.78	5.18	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
	(Running Annual Average = 3.69)						
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	2023	<5%	0%	ND	ND	Yes *	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

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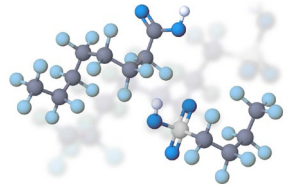
Delivery

- CWSs serving 10,000 people or more would need to provide a CCR twice each year (AWIA).
  - Continue to deliver first report by July 1st 2027 summarizing information about drinking water quality for previous year.
  - Deliver a second report by December 31st identical to first report if there are no changes.
  - The second report is to include a 6-month update, if applicable, based on data collected between January 1st and June 30th of current calendar year, to accompany original report if an ALE, violation, or UCMR detection occurs.
- CWSs serving fewer than 10,000 people would continue to provide CCRs once per year.

More on CCR revisions

- Oregon adopted many components starting in 2026
- Lead information
  - How to access service line inventory, or state that all are non-lead
  - Steps to take to prevent lead from entering drinking water
  - Description of corrosion control efforts
- Posting Online
  - Requires systems serving 50,000 or more to post its current year's CCR to a publicly accessible site on the internet.
- Delivery Certification
  - Reduces timeline to certify from three months to no later than 10 days after date the system is required to distribute CCR to its customers.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)



- A group of man-made chemicals that persist in the environment for long periods of time - often referred to as “forever chemicals”
- Used for decades in industry and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, and stain resistant furniture
- Historically a component of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a highly effective firefighting product intended for fighting high-hazard flammable liquid fires







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Rule Overview

- EPA released final drinking water regulation on **April 10, 2024** for 6 PFAS chemicals**:**
  - **Individual MCLs** for PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA (GenX)
  - **Hazard Index MCL for mixture** of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and PFBS
  - Comply by 2029

- EPA has announced plans to propose a revised PFAS rule
- Oregon plans to adopt only the second rule

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Anticipated changes in new rule:

- **Maintain** the MCLs for PFOA and PFOS of 4.0 ppt
- **Rescind** the regulations and **reconsider** the regulatory determinations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and the Hazard Index mixture of these three plus PFBS.
  - In Oregon, any system > MCL for PFAS also was > MCL for PFOA or PFOS
- Extend compliance date to 2031 (and establish a federal exemption process for possibly going beyond 2031)
- ***No change to monitoring requirements/timelines***

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PFAS Regulatory Levels (MCLs)

Chemical	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
PFOA	0	4.0 ppt
PFOS	0	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixture of two or more: PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	Hazard Index of 1	Hazard Index of 1

- Adverse health effects: increased risk of certain cancers, liver damage, compromised immunity, developmental and reproductive effects.

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Initial Monitoring Requirements for PFAS

All* **CWS** & **NTNC** water systems must complete initial monitoring at all entry points (EPs) to the distribution system and report the results to OHA (or submit previously collected monitoring data) by **April 26, 2027**.

- SW (all populations): **4 consecutive quarters** of samples per EP within a 12-month period with samples collected 2 to 4 months apart.
- GW >10,000: **4 consecutive quarters** of samples per EP within a 12-month period with samples collected 2 to 4 months apart.
- GW ≤10,000: **2 consecutive samples** per EP within a 12-month period with samples collected 5 to 7 months apart.

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PFAS sampling project in Oregon

- Oregon is paying to have one PFAS (all 6) sample taken at each system serving 3,300 or less people.
- To be completed by June 2026
- Detection rate so far: 17%
- Over MCL: half of all detections, or ~8%
- Rule applies to 1200 systems ➔ ~ 100 systems may need to treat
  - Requests for funding will likely outpace availability
  - Offset of IIJA-EC funds
- Systems are responsible for the remainder of initial monitoring

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Contaminant Candidate List 6 (CCL6) and HHB-Rx

- Draft published April 2026
- 75 individual chemicals
  - Pharmaceuticals
  - Microplastics
  - PFAS
  - Disinfection By-products
  - Pathogens
- Priorities research
- UCMR6
- Regulatory determination

- Human Health Benchmarks – Pharmaceuticals (HHB-RX)
  - 374 pharmaceuticals
  - Includes oral contraceptives and drugs that induce abortion
  - Can be used to determine if further investigation is needed
  - Controversial - Senator Wyden's letter to Lee Zeldin

Manganese

- EPA has established Health Advisory Levels:
  - 0.3 mg/L over 10 or more days for infants
  - 0.3 mg/L lifetime exposure for general population
  - 1 mg/L one-day exposure for general population

- Historic data shows some high levels of manganese in PWS wells
  - If treating or blending, sample to verify
  - Letters being sent for follow up

- If you think you have high Manganese, Sample!



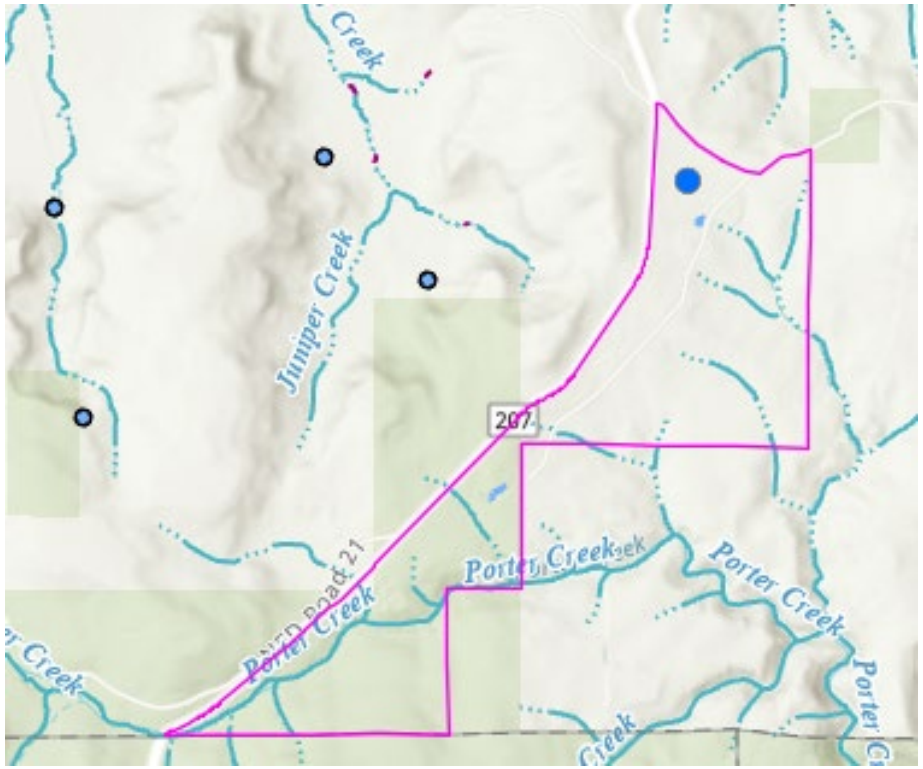
Program funding outlook

- State Revolving Fund and set-asides
  - Steady decrease due to congressionally-directed spending
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) FY22-FY26
  - Up to 3 years to spend set-asides
  - Up to 5 years to spend for projects
- Infrastructure needs survey to include lead service lines
  - Oregon's percentage likely to decrease
- Primacy grant – likely to stay same
- State General Fund – chance of decrease
- Fees – no changes planned



Service area boundaries

- DWS hopes to service area boundaries for all systems
- Can be anything from a GIS shape file to a sketch
- Will ask for updates with each inspection
  - Portal for systems to upload themselves
  - Used to determine disadvantaged status, during emergencies, schools and childcare facilities, etc
  - Not publicly available



Cybersecurity

- PWSs using operational technology should take steps to increase cybersecurity. At minimum:
  - Multifactor authentication
  - Update software
  - Use strong passwords
  - Phishing awareness
- Report cybersecurity breaches
- Cybersecurity is being included in Emergency Response Plan requirements

CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY



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Rule revisions

- 2025: Revised list of significant deficiencies
  - Pathways to contamination and
  - Inability to verify adequate treatment.
  - Will begin issuing violations for uncorrected deficiencies soon
- 2026: Oregon Dept. of Education plans to revise their Healthy and Safe Schools rules that includes some references to lead testing in schools
  - Schools to report test results rather simply certify it was done
- 2027: LCRI
  - Adopt September 2027
  - Apply for Primacy
  - Effective date November 1, 2027
- Oregon does not adopt by reference

Legislative activity

- Water Professionals Week first week of October
  - Recognize and celebrate the often-hidden work to provide safe drinking water!



Emergency preparedness

- Identify risks and vulnerabilities most likely to impact communities
- Emergency response plan – update every 5 years
- Procedures to improve resilience
  - Physical infrastructure and cybersecurity
  - Higher risk contaminant sources in watersheds
  - Access to auxiliary power and alternate water sources
- Maintain good communication with customers
  - Multiple languages, reach vulnerable populations



USACE's deep drawdown operation

- Court injunction for safe passage of endangered fish species
  - Beginning in 2023
  - Middle fork of Santiam River – Green Peter reservoir
  - Middle fork Willamette River – Lookout Point reservoir
- Preparation before drawdown operation:
  - Document lessons learned
  - Complete risk matrix for halt criteria
  - Emergency Response Communication Plan
  - Close agency coordination
- Biological Opinion, Detroit reservoir
  - Phased drawdown starting 2026



Portland filtration plant

- Watershed meets exemption to filtration
- Received variance for crypto treatment 2012
- Revoked 2017
- Compliance schedule to construct filtration 2017-2027
- Extended to September 2029
- $2.6 Billion



Upstream approach

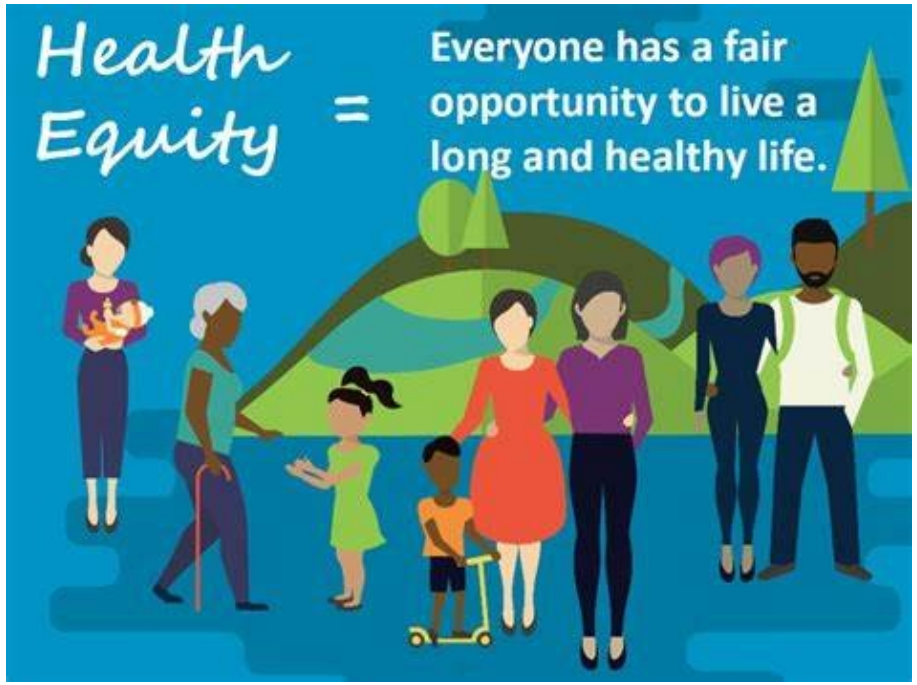
- Capacity assessment
  - Identify disadvantaged PWSs (Median household income, poverty rate, unemployment rate)
  - Note other factors regarding technical, managerial, and financial capacity
  - Targeted outreach to those who need it most (circuit rider, assistance w funding applications)
- Source water protection
  - Identify potential contaminant sources in protection area
  - Target outreach to implement strategies to reduce risk
  - Incorporate high risks into Emergency response planning



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Health Equity

- Drinking Water Services is contributing to OHA goal of eliminating health inequity by 2030:
  - Proactive outreach
  - Technical and financial assistance
  - Encouraging consolidation/regionalization
  - Public notice templates in different languages (in progress)
  - Collaborate with Oral Health program on fluoridation



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Questions??

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Public Health Division

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