



Report on Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council Activities April 2020

Council Update

An online meeting of the SDWAC was held on April 1, 2020. The Council welcomes Sheryl Thompson as its newest member representing the public at large through 2022. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2020. A summary of some of the more pertinent topics is presented in this report.

All SDWAC meetings are open to the public. Future meeting dates of the SDWAC are published on our current Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) web site at: https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3675_76638-490466--,00.html.

COVID-19 and the New Flushing Guidance

One of the most essential tools in combating the spread of the COVID-19 virus is regular handwashing. For that reason, Governor Whitmer issued an Executive Order banning water shut offs during this health crisis. Restoring service to customers who have had their water shut off, as well as to those businesses and other facilities that have experienced little or no water usage during the resulting economic downturn, could cause a spike in lead levels once water is restored if proper flushing procedures are not followed. In addition, long periods of low water use or stagnation may deteriorate plumbing and possibly elevate lead levels for long periods. EGLE has prepared informational flyers that describe the actions homeowners should follow when flushing home plumbing and appliances following service restoration. The guidance can be found at the following hyperlink: https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3675_3691-524017--,00.html

Grant Opportunities

A number of grants were recently created through Supplemental Appropriations arising out of last year's budget. More information will be coming out later this month with an expected May 1 release date. Here is a brief summary of the programs:

- Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM). A total of \$35 million is available for Distribution System Material Inventory (DSMI) and Asset Management. Some equipment purchases will be eligible. Max of \$2 million per applicant and communities with lead action level exceedances, high percentage of lead service lines and high percentage of younger populations will be prioritized.
- Contamination and Consolidation (C2). A total of \$25 million will be available to address PFAS or other emerging contaminants. Intended for treatment systems or new wells or consolidation of service providers (connecting affected users to another provider). Community water supplies with PFAS levels greater than the proposed MCL or with violations from other contaminants will receive priority.
- DWRP Affordability Grant. A total of \$35 million will be available through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund Loan program for communities with less than 30,000 customers to pay for the upfront planning and design costs necessary to apply for a DWRP loan. Communities with smaller populations, higher unemployment rates, lower average incomes will be prioritized.
- Affordability Planning. A total of \$7.5 million will be available. More information will be available in the fall.

Please note that these programs are still being developed so final guidelines and requirements may vary from those outlined above. Contact your EGLE representative for more information. **NOTE: *Since drafting this, all discretionary spending has been placed on hold. We hope this is a temporary condition. Please monitor SDWAC site for updates.***

Ongoing Projects

Public Education and Outreach

A funding source has been identified by EGLE to assist the SDWAC to develop resources for a public awareness campaign.

Upcoming Survey of Community Water Supply Councils (CWSC)

The SDWAC will be issuing a survey to the CWSC to help us determine their most pressing needs and help us with developing public education and outreach materials.

Reviewing existing information and resources

There is a wide range of existing documents, flyers, pamphlets and web sources on the topic of lead in drinking water that have been developed by many agencies and technical groups. The SDWAC intends to compile a centralized list referencing some of the more relevant resources that the CWS Councils and general public can access.

Future Webinars

We intend to hold two (2) more informational webinars on topics to be determined. The webinars are tentatively scheduled for June 9 and October 20.

Meeting with the Community Water Supply Councils

The SDWAC is holding one of its regularly scheduled meetings on August 5. We would like to hold it at a location that can accommodate a number of representatives from the CWSCs in order to provide a venue for personal dialog. One of the questions in our survey referenced above will be to solicit interest in attending this meeting.

Action Level Exceedance Template

We are developing a concise set of recommended steps a community can take to educate the public in the event of an Action Level Exceedance.

Flushing Guidelines and COVID-19

We want to understand the impact the crisis is having on the implementation of the LCR requirements. Please reach out to the Council to share your experiences.

Recent and Upcoming Key State Lead and Copper Rule Milestone Deadlines

Preliminary Distribution Systems Material Inventory (DSMI) due to EGLE	January 2020
Complete standard sampling pool	January 2020
Lead service line replacements initiated	January 2021
Lead action level goes from 15 ppb to 12 ppb	January 2025
Complete DSMI due to EGLE	January 2025

Go to www.michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe and click on Drinking Water to find data from the preliminary DSMI as well as other information.

Questions and Feedback for the SDWAC

The SDWAC can be reached through the email address EGLE-DWMAD-DWCouncil@michigan.gov

Updated information about the SWDAC can be found at the following web sites:

Mi Lead Safe: <https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe/0,9490,7-392-92796---,00.html>

EGLE web site: https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3675_76638-490466--,00.html