



EPA's Drinking Water Initiatives

*Protecting Connecticut's Drinking Water to Advance
Environmental Justice*

EPA Region 1 Regional Administrator Dr. David Cash

CWWA/CTAWWA Fall Conference 2023

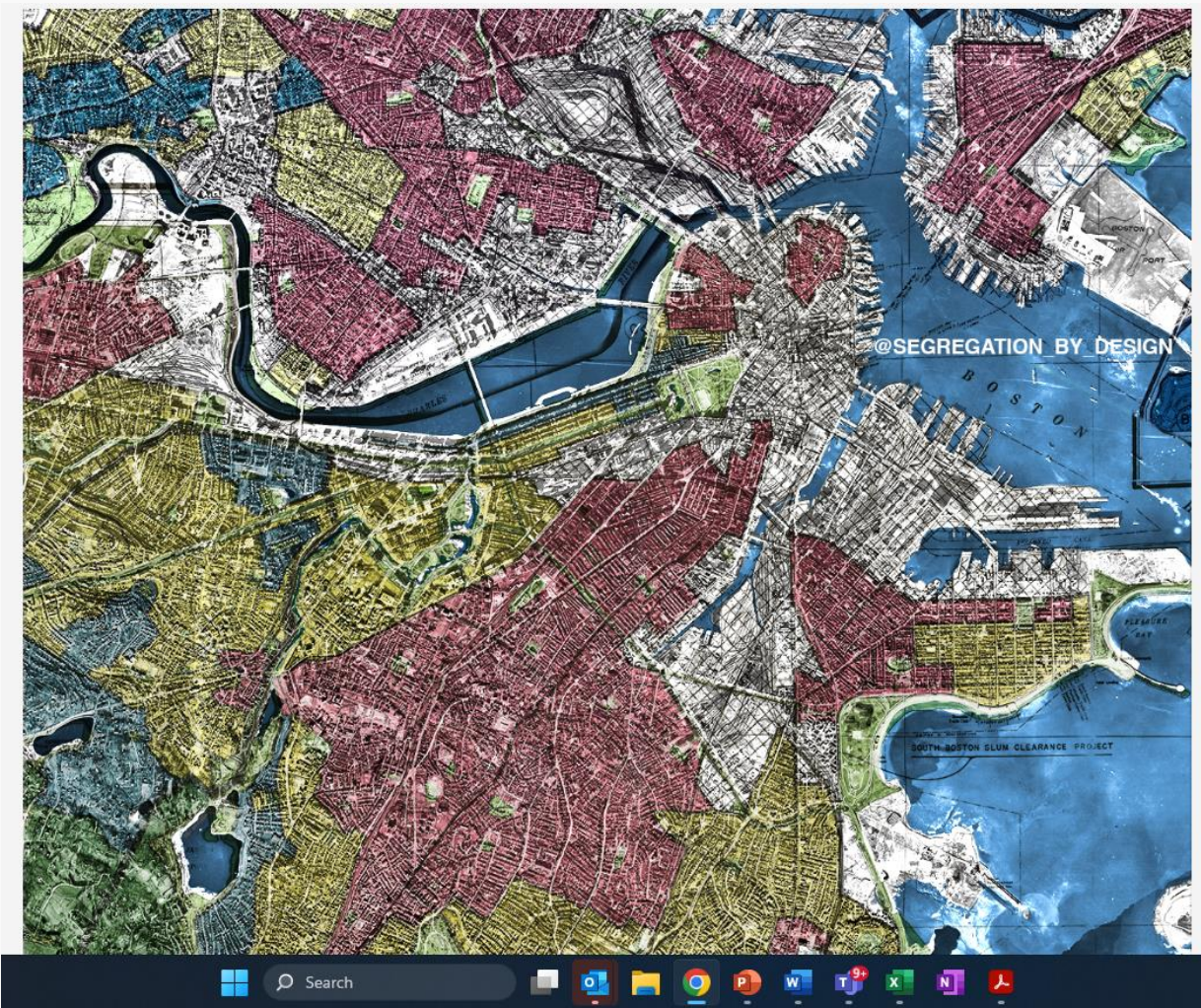
October 26, 2023



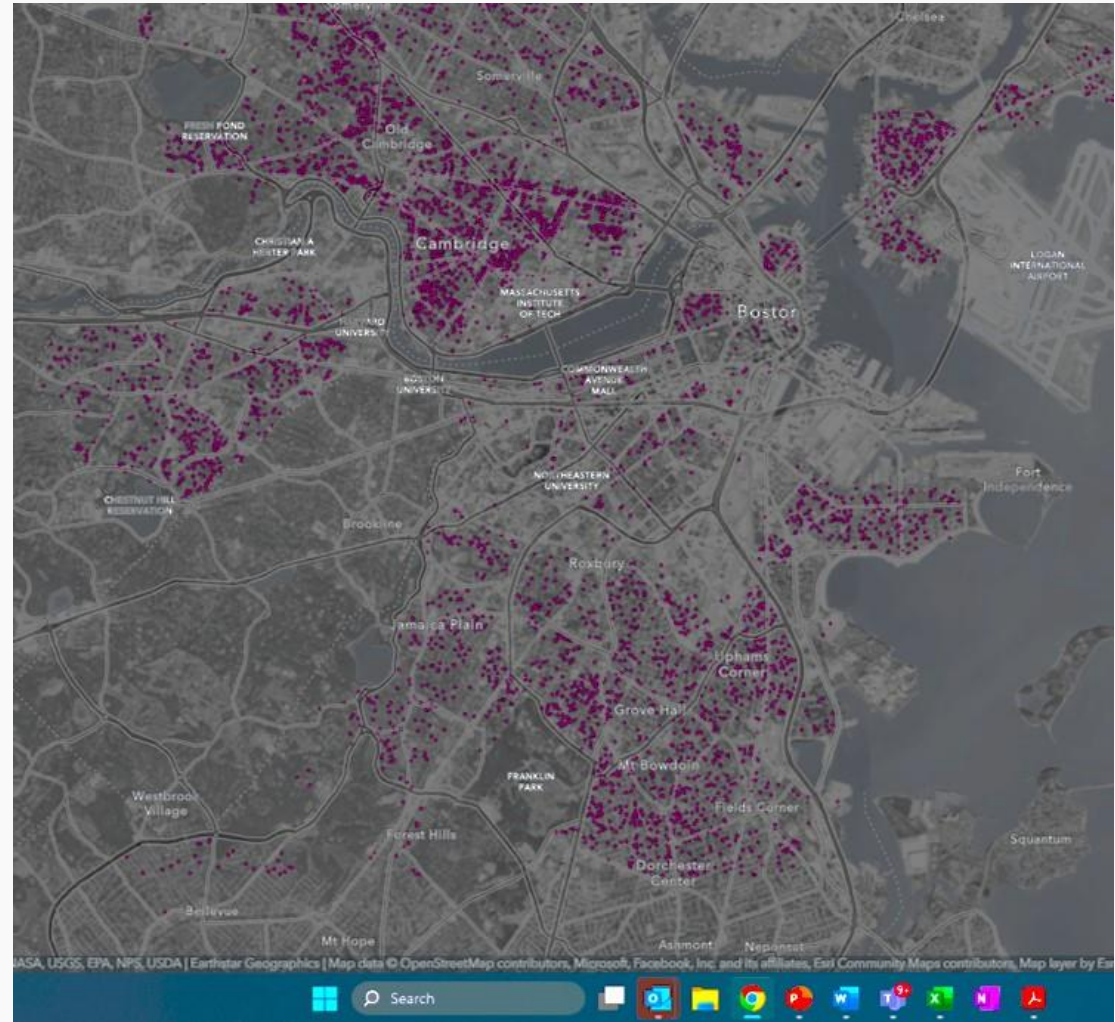
Mission and Values

- Protecting human health and the environment
- Follow the law
- Follow the science
- Transparency
- Advance justice and equity

Boston Redline map circa 1930s



Boston Lead Service Line map circa 2022





Mission and Values Made Concrete

- Developing regulations
- Enforcing regulations
- Undertaking scientific research
- Investment in infrastructure and communities
- Justice40



PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

**INVESTING IN
AMERICA**



CT Drinking Water SRF Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- FY 22 grants received: **\$61M**
 - Base - \$7M
 - BIL Supplemental - \$18M
 - BIL **Lead Service Line Replacement** - \$28.4M
 - BIL Emerging Contaminant - \$7.6M

- FY 23 grants received: **\$73.6M**
 - Base - \$5M
 - BIL Supplemental - \$21M
 - BIL **Lead Service Line Replacement** - \$40M
 - BIL Emerging Contaminant - \$7.6M



CT Disadvantaged Community Assistance Program (DCAP)

- EPA DWSRF grants subsidize loans to DCAP communities (e.g., through principal forgiveness).
- Communities qualify for DCAP by either being on CT Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) distressed municipality list or having a median household income (MHI) less than the state's MHI.



5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5)

- Monitoring data will help EPA make determinations about future regulations and other actions to protect public health under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Sampling for 30 chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025:
 - 29 PFAS
 - Lithium
- Required to participate:
 - All public water systems serving greater than 10,000 people
 - All public water systems serving between 3,300 and 10,000 people (cost assistance by EPA)
 - Representative sample of systems serving fewer than 3,300 people (randomly selected, cost assistance by EPA)



UCMR 5 in Connecticut

- Public posting of the UCMR 5 data in the EPA National Contaminant Occurrence Database.
 - 1st public posting occurred in Aug. 2023.
 - 2nd public posting will occur in Oct. 2023.
- 63 public water systems in Connecticut are required to participate under UCMR 5.
- 25 public water systems in Connecticut sampled under UCMR 5 as of Oct. 4.
 - 15 public water systems had detections of PFAS above minimum reporting level.
 - 3 public water systems had detections of lithium above MRL.



EPA's proposed PFAS drinking water regulation

Proposing health-based Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for 6 PFAS:

Compound	Proposed MCLG	Proposed MCL (Enforceable Levels)
PFOA	0	4.0 ppt*
PFOS	0	4.0 ppt*
PFHxS	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index
PFNA		
PFBS		
HFPO-DA (GenX Chemicals)		
*ppt = parts per trillion (also expressed as ng/L)		



EPA's proposed PFAS drinking water regulation

- If implemented, **tens of thousands of serious illnesses or deaths will be prevented.**
- Proposed regulation includes:
 - Monitoring for 6 PFAS.
 - Violation if running annual average exceeding MCL.
 - Notifying the public of PFAS levels.
 - Reducing PFAS levels if they exceed proposed standards.
- **Final PFAS drinking water regulation expected December 2023.**



Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities grant

- BIL provides **\$5B nationally** to PWS impacted by PFAS and other emerging contaminants in **small or disadvantaged communities**.
- The grant program's annual appropriation is **\$1B each fiscal year** from FY 2022 – FY 2026.
- EPA encourages using these funds to prioritize PFAS and other emerging contaminants, including those listed in UCMR 5.
- Connecticut's combined allotment for FY 2022 and 2023 is **\$19M for grants**.



Lead and Copper Rule (and Revisions)

- **It's National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week!**
- **The first step to get the lead out is to find the lead:**
 - Utilities had Oct. 24 deadline to conduct inventories of public and private lead service lines (LSLs)
- Public engagement and acceptance will be critical for lead service line replacements (LSLR):
 - EPA R1 developed Protect Your Tap ([epa.gov/pyt](https://www.epa.gov/pyt)) to empower homeowners to check for lead pipes.
- LSLR plans are underway:
 - **Disadvantaged communities are prioritized for LSLR funding subsidies.**



Regulatory changes ahead in Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

- 24-hour notification for a lead action level exceedance.
- Sampling protocol changes for sample volumes and LSL sampling sites.
- Emphasis on removing both the public and private lead lines at the same time.
- Additional changes expected for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvement.
 - **Draft expected in December 2023.**



EPA Water Technical Assistance (Water TA)

All communities
need access to
safe, clean
reliable water.

- However, **many communities** face challenges providing and managing water resource.
- **BIL** provides **\$50B** in new funding for water infrastructure.
- **WaterTA** can support communities to develop application for water infrastructure funding.

The result: more communities with applications for federal funding, quality water infrastructure and reliable water services.



Water TA in New England

- New England Finance Network established at the University of Southern Maine;
 - **Contractors available to plan, engage, preliminary design, study, help apply for SRF loans.**
- More than 10 national contractors also ready to assist.
- CT DPH selected as one of four state agencies for EPA's Lead Accelerator Pilot Program to help state utilities find and fix lead problems.
- To request TA from regional or national TA contractors, visit **epa.gov/waterTA** for request form.



Water sector climate challenges are increasing in New England

- Flooding of water sources and infrastructure.
- Short-term (1-3 months) drought.
- Increased water demand.
- Water quality problems = greater risk of waterborne diseases.
- Risk of saltwater intrusion.

Warwick, RI WWTP, 2010 floods



Bristol, CT WTP, floods Sept. 2011



Ludlow, VT WWTP, floods July 2023



Water sector cybersecurity and resiliency

EPA funding, workshops, tools and training for utilities

- **Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program (AWIA):**
 - Now **\$19M** total available to improve the climate resilience of our nation's drinking water systems, applications due **Nov. 6th**.
- **FedFunds tool**
- **EPA State Revolving Loan Funds (SRFs)**
- **EPA's Hazard Mitigation Guide for water sector**
- **EPA's Climate Resilient Water Utilities** tools and technical assistance
- **EPA cyber assessment tool & free cyber assessments**



Communicating about Water in New England



← Post



U.S. EPA
@EPA



This is how you celebrate Clean Water Act success!

It's the final countdown to [#CleanWater50](#) and we made a stop at (or should we say in?! 🚤) the Boston Harbor in [@EPAregion1](#).



4:57 PM · Oct 17, 2022



New Water Line, Durham Meadows Superfund site (Durham, CT)



White House Announcement
of the Lead Service Line
Accelerator Program, Jan.
2023



Lead Service Line Replacement (Fall River, MA)



Thank you!