

Final-Form Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water Revised Consumer Confidence Report Rule

Environmental Quality Board
October 13, 2026



Background

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Revisions

- USEPA published CCR NPDWR* in 1998; Chapter 109 was revised in 2001 to include these provisions
- USEPA published CCR Revisions NPDWR* on May 24, 2024, revising content and delivery requirements
- Information in the CCR includes: the water source(s), availability of source water assessments, contaminants in the treated water, likely sources of detected contaminants when violations occur, and additional educational information about drinking water

Other Revisions

- USEPA published the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) NPDWR* on January 15, 2021, requiring water systems to issue a Tier 1 public notice (PN) for lead exceedances
- Additional minor revisions in the final rulemaking to clarify and ensure monitoring requirements are consistent for bulk water systems, bulk water hauling, vended water systems and retail water facilities

*NPDWR = National Primary Drinking Water Regulations in 40 CFR Part 141



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Purpose

- The information contained in the CCRs can raise consumers' awareness of where their water comes from, help them understand the process by which safe water is delivered to their homes, and educate them about the importance of preventative measures that ensure a safe drinking water supply
- The revisions will improve readability and clarity of information in the CCRs so that consumers can make more informed decisions about their drinking water
- The revisions will ensure timely information is provided to consumers about lead in drinking water
- DEP must adopt standards that are at least as stringent as NPDWR to maintain primacy

CCR Rule Revisions - Overview

Applicability

- All community water systems (CWSs)
- Compliance begins January 1, 2027 (*i.e.*, the report that contains 2026 data)

Content

- Additional details regarding lead and copper results & service line inventories (became effective 2025)
- Revised educational statement and updated health effects language for lead (became effective 2025)
- Information about corrosion control
- Summary paragraph with specific content

Delivery

- Mail or direct delivery to each consumer
- Threshold for posting on a publicly available website lowered from systems serving $\geq 100,000$ persons to $\geq 50,000$
- Bi-annual delivery (by July 1st and Dec 31st) for systems serving $> 10,000$ persons

Public Notification Revisions

- Tier 1 PN must be issued to all consumers within 24 hours of determining that the 90th percentile compliance value for lead exceeds the action level.
 - A copy of the PN must also be submitted to DEP and EPA.
 - PN certification (with a copy of the notice) must be submitted to DEP within 10 days, as required by existing regulations for any Tier 1 PN
 - Failure to report results of total coliform and *E. coli* monitoring and lead and copper reporting violations were added to the list of situations requiring Tier 3 PN



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Other Revisions

- Clarifying the monitoring requirements for bottled, vended, retail and bulk hauling (BVRB) systems using water purchased from a permitted PWS
- Revising the definition of entry point for a bulk water hauler
- Updating the disinfection language for a bulk hauler to retain the requirement to maintain a residual in each truck
- The monitoring requirements for chlorine dioxide and chlorite were revised to be consistent with the federal Stage 1 Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) provisions for BVRBs using chlorine dioxide

CCR Revisions: Costs vs. Benefits

CCR Revisions Costs	
Total annual costs to PA water systems	\$593,869
Annual costs per system	\$318
DEP costs	\$67,768

Nonquantifiable benefits include:

- Ensuring consumers in all communities have accurate, timely, and accessible drinking water data
- Enabling consumers to make educated decisions regarding any potential health risks pertaining to the quality, treatment, and management of their drinking water supply
- Improved public health protection



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Additional Amendments: Costs vs. Benefits

- The Department does not expect notable compliance costs associated with the amendments to incorporate the other provisions for PN and BVRB systems
- The Department expects benefits similar to those for the CCR amendments for the PN because a more informed public is better equipped to make decisions about their water consumption

Rulemaking History

- Proposed rule presented to the Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (PWS-TAC) Board on February 20, 2025
- Proposed rule presented to EQB on September 9, 2025
- Proposed rule published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on December 13, 2025, with a 30-day comment period
 - Comments received from five commentators
- Draft final-form Annex A presented to the PWS-TAC Board on May 7, 2026.

Public Comments

- Commentators were concerned about customers without reliable internet access being able to access the CCR
- Commentators proposed that the 2nd report, required for systems serving greater than 10,000 persons, be met through a supplemental or abbreviated report
- Commentators questioned the reporting of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule data in the CCR
- Commentators questioned the requirement regarding a Tier 1 PN for a lead action level exceedance



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Compliance Strategy

- Updates provided at quarterly and annual industry meetings starting in 2024 and will continue through 2027
- Articles published in DEP's [*Drinking Water News*](#) newsletter
- CCR templates with instructions have been updated and are available on DEP's eLibrary
- A virtual training session is being developed and will be presented to water systems late 2026 through early 2027



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Recommendation

DEP recommends the Board adopt this final-form regulation.

Questions?

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The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).