



Of Interest to the Water Industry

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

- Given the extremely complex regulatory structure of the LCRR, water systems are facing a tremendous burden in understanding its requirements and implementing successful strategies to ensure compliance. We ask that legislators keep this in mind when considering other legislation on lead in drinking water and reach out directly to the Section for input on how any proposed legislation could negatively impact compliance with the LCRR.

Emerging Contaminants: PFAS & 1,4-Dioxane

- Recently, two PFAS, PFOA and PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane were regulated in NY drinking water. Both PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane are highly resistant to degradation and are not removed during conventional water and wastewater treatment processes. Although, PFOA and PFOS are effectively removed by Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters, their replacement compounds (short-chain PFAS) featuring similar toxicity, are not removed as effectively by GAC. In case of 1,4-Dioxane, expensive advanced oxidation processes are required to remove it from waters.

Emerging Contaminants in Wastewater and Biosolids

The majority of Emerging Contaminants enter a Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) via industrial discharges and leave the WRRF in the effluent or the biosolids. One approach for managing these contaminants is to limit discharges from industry through municipal Industrial Pre-treatment Programs (IPP). Michigan has utilized its IPP program to significantly reduce PFAS discharges to its WRRFs, which reduced PFAS discharges to the environment. Maine and other states have limited land application of PFAS laden biosolids as they may pose a threat to groundwater and food supply. As the EPA develops analytical methods to measure PFAS in different media, they are working to establish ELGs and water quality criteria for PFAS (see [PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021—2024](#)). Municipalities face several challenges associated with emerging contaminants that may involve expanding IPP programs, intensifying the level of treatment and implementing alternative biosolids treatment/disposal options.

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

LIHWAP is designed to help people in New York State pay past-due drinking water or wastewater bills. The program is funded by a \$69.8 million federal block grant as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The grant is a one-time payment issued to states in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligibility is based on income, household size, citizenship/immigration status, and amount owed to drinking water and/or wastewater provider(s). LIHWAP benefits are based on the actual amount of drinking water and/or wastewater arrears, up to a maximum of \$2,500 per drinking water or wastewater provider, or \$5,000 if drinking water and wastewater services are combined. Benefits are paid directly to the household's vendor(s). Please see the following website for more information, how to apply, and how to become a vendor: www.otda.ny.gov/programs/lihwap.

Accessing Federal and State Water and Sewer Funding

NYSEFC is a national leader in environmental infrastructure investment. EFC provides financial assistance through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds which will include certain funding from the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. EFC administers various grant programs to assist municipalities with water and sewer infrastructure. EFC is also managing the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) on behalf of the State. This is a nationwide effort to document water quality infrastructure needs and report these needs to Congress. Participation from municipalities is critical to ensure New York continues to receive a high-level of funding for water quality infrastructure projects. For more information, visit EFC's website at www.efc.ny.gov.

Contact Information:

New York Water Environment Association, Inc. | www.nywea.org Contact: Patricia Cerro-Reehil, Executive Director at pcr@nywea.org About New York Water Environment Association, Inc. Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has over 2,500 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. NYWEA is a member association of the Water Environment Federation. NYWEA publishes Clear Waters, a quarterly educational magazine, administers the state wastewater operator training certification program. NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 14 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation.

Contact Information New York Section American Water Works Association | www.nysawwa.org Contact: Jenny Ingrao, Executive Director at jenny@nysawwa.org About the New York Section American Water Works Association Established in 1914, the New York Section American Water Works Association is part of the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world's most important resource. With approximately 50,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy and enhance our quality of life.

New York Rural Water Association | www.nyruralwater.org Contact: Jamie Herman, Chief Executive Officer at herman@nyruralwater.org About the New York Rural Water Association The New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) is a nonprofit incorporated in 1979, and is a state affiliate of the National Rural Water Association. Our mission is to provide our 1500+ water and wastewater utility system members with the expertise and training necessary to meet present and future challenges and to represent our members interests at the local, state and federal levels. NYRWA provides on-site technical assistance and emergency response as well as classroom training for the rural water and wastewater utilities in NYS who provide service to communities with a population of 10,000 or less.