



**Environmental  
Protection  
Agency**

# **DRINKING AND GROUND WATERS UPDATE**

Amy Klei, Chief

Lake Erie Water Plants Workshop

2025 Spring Meeting



# 2025 PRIORITIES

- Focus on core mission
- Adaptively manage programs and people
- Maintain program foundation
  - Maintain primacy, policies, and guidance
  - Develop and revise programs: LCR, PFAS
- Integrate Asset Management and support infrastructure improvements
  - Technical review and support
  - Funding



# RULE UPDATES ONLINE



Stay Compliant

Get Involved

Monitor Pollution

Get Funding

Ohio EPA / Divisions & Offices / Drinking & Ground Waters / Regulations / Welcome / DDAGW's Rule-making Process

Welcome

Early Stakeholder Outreach

Interested Party Review

Proposed Rules

Effective Rules

Policies

Additional Information

## DDAGW's Rule-making Process

The Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) rules were promulgated under [U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act \(SDWA\)](#). Rules for Ohio public drinking water systems are adopted under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) [Section 6109](#), and rules for Underground Injection Control, under [ORC 6111.043](#). Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules administered by DDAGW are located on this page.

Proposing new rules and amendments to existing rules is a regular activity conducted by Ohio EPA in response to laws passed by the General Assembly and federal rule requirements. The Agency is also [required by state law to review its rules at least once every five years](#) to ensure their continued need and relevance. During the Ohio rule-making process, rules are in one of four phases: early stakeholder outreach; draft; proposed; and effective. Electronic versions of rules in each of these various phases may be viewed by clicking on the appropriate tabs on this page.

In addition to adopting rules and laws, DDAGW adopts both policies and guidance documents. The purpose of a policy is to clarify and explain specific aspects of regulations (OAC) and law (ORC) so Ohio EPA and external parties have a common understanding of how environmental regulations are carried out in Ohio. Policies promote consistency and provide savings of both technical and administrative staff resources when dealing with the application of rules. Guidance documents provide information, suggestions and recommendations on possible or acceptable methods that may be used to meet or to achieve compliance with rules.

Electronic versions of [policies and guidance](#) may be viewed by clicking on the appropriate tab. Join a rules [electronic mailing list](#) to stay informed about current rule-making and opportunities to provide comment during the process.



# RULE UPDATES

## EARLY STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH (ESO)

- No rules currently in ESO
- **Coming Soon** – Consumer Confidence Report Rules (3745-96-01 thru -04)
  - Proposed changes to meet new federal rules



# ESO COMPLETED PREPARING FOR INTERESTED PARTY REVIEW (IPR)

## Disadvantaged Community Loans (3745-88-01, -02)

- ESO ended on **2/9/25**
- IPR later this month

## PFAS (New Rules, amending various existing rules)

- Adopting the federal PFAS rule that became effective June 25, 2024
- IPR later this month
  - 30 day abeyance granted on April 8, 2025 of appeal of federal rule by AWWA (discussed again later)
  - Will propose Ohio PFAS rules for IPR after abeyance



# ESO COMPLETED PREPARING FOR INTERESTED PARTY REVIEW (IPR)

- **Lead and Copper Rules (3745-61-80, thru -90)**
  - ESO ended on **3/1/25, IPR coming soon**
  - Proposed changes to meet new federal rules
  - Three new rules include:
    - Baseline Inventory, mandatory 10-yr lead service line replacements, Service Line Replacement Plans, validation requirement, and lead sampling at Schools and Child Care Facilities within a Water System's distribution system
- **Monitoring Requirements(81-23, -24, -26)**
  - ESO ended on **3/12/25, IPR coming soon**



# ESO COMPLETED PREPARING FOR INTERESTED PARTY REVIEW (IPR)

## Plan Approval (OAC 3745-91-02)

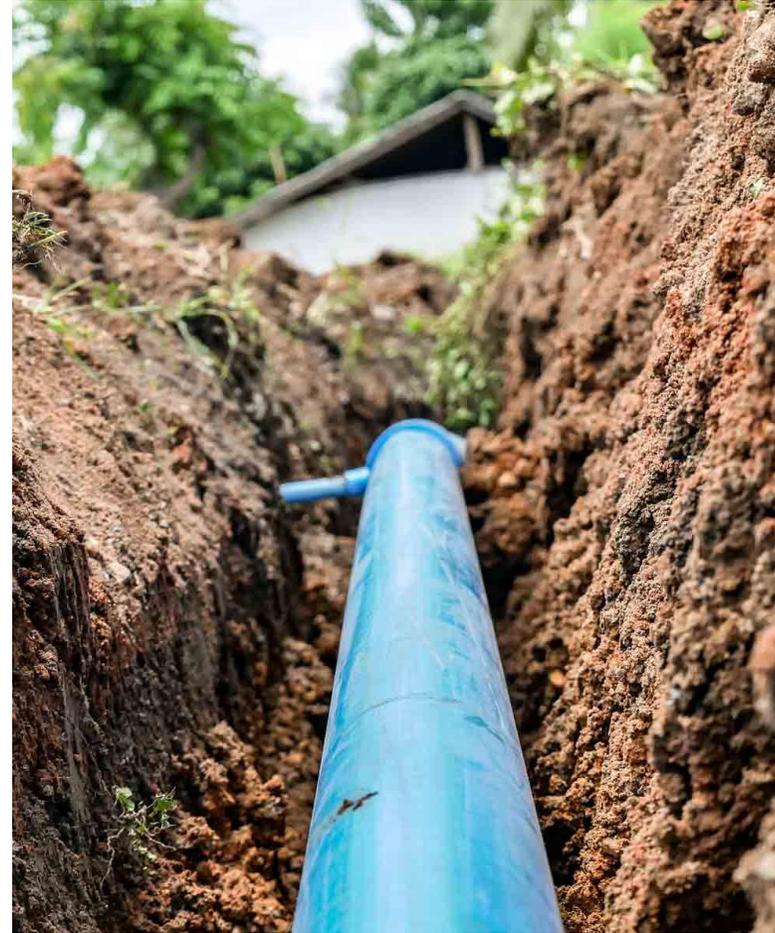
- IPR expected in May
- Proposing an alternative plan review process for expedited review of waterline extension detail plans that meet certain criteria
- Budget Bill contains a provision to allow a reduced fee (ORC 6109.07)



# RULES UPDATE

## INTERESTED PARTY REVIEW (IPR)

- No Rules Currently in IPR



# RULE UPDATES

## COMPLETED IPR, PREPARING TO ORIGINAL FILE

- **Surface Water Monitoring Rules (3745-81)**

IPR comment period closed **3/6/25**, filing soon

- **Records Maintenance (81-33)**

IPR comment period closed on **4/11/25**, reviewing comments,  
preparing for original file

Addressing stringency issues from U.S. EPA



# RULE UPDATES

## ORIGINAL FILE

### **Source Monitoring Requirements (3745-81-65, -66, -71)**

Original filed on **5/5/25**, public hearing on **6/12/25**

Rescind 3745-81-65 since the source monitoring schedule has passed

Move (F) to 3745-81-71, 3745-81-66 and other Minor amendments

### **Operator Certification Rules**

Original filed on **4/10/25**, public hearing on **5/16/25**

Refiled due to administrative error

Five rules had minor changes that were included in the original filed versions, but were dropped in the final published version of the rule (3745-02, 03, 04, 06, 09)

The remaining 13 rules had a typo in the statutory authority section of the rule



# RULE UPDATES

## ORIGINAL FILE

### **Underground Injection Control (3745-34-09, -10, -17, -18, 21)**

Original filed on **4/14/25**, public hearing on **5/16/25**

No Change

### **Underground Injection Control (3745-34-03, -63)**

Original filed on **4/14/25**, Public Hearing on **5/16/25**

Amended to correct statutory authority and remove redundant regulatory restrictions

### **Laboratory Certification (89-01 thru -12 & 81-27, -28)**

Original Filed on **4/2/25**, Public Hearing on **5/9/25**

Proposing no change for OAC 3745-89-02 and 89-11, rescind OAC 3945-89-10, and updating outdated references



# RULE – ORIGINAL AND FINAL FILE

## Asset Management (87-01 thru -05)

- **Final filed 3/26/25, Effective on 4/11/25**
- Removed language related to transient noncommunity water systems
- Updated for clarity and to align with industry standards
- Clarified that asset management-related documentation must be submitted to the agency upon request (within five days)
- Changes the maintenance metric from 'task' to 'time' as an evaluation measure
- Removed the Customer Service metric for community water systems



# 2024 FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

- SRF Statewide Team
  - Over 130 planning, design, and construction loans in 2024
  - Awarded over \$540 million
  - Completed asset management reviews for all loans
- Two Rounds of Drinking Water Mini Grants (SRF Set Asides)
  - PY24 = \$2,490,478
  - PY25 = \$2,798,292
- H2Ohio Distribution Equipment Grants, Phase 2



# PROGRAM YEAR 2025 MINI GRANTS

- Well Abandonment & Source Water Protective Strategies Grant:
  - 23 SWAP grants - Total \$367,383
  - 22 Well Abandonment grants - Total \$353,096
- Emergency Generator Grant:
  - 41 Generator grants - Total \$1,507,899
- Water Audit and Water Loss Control Program Grant:
  - 30 Water Audit grants - Total \$569,914

## Legend

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| ● Protective Strategies | ● Generator    |
| ● Well Abandonment      | ● Water Audits |



# WSRLA FUNDING CYCLE

## WSRLA – State Fiscal Year



- Nominations period closed March 21
- Principal forgiveness awards contingent upon federal capitalization grants.
- Federal capitalization grants rely upon the federal budget
- Loan funds will be available regardless of the federal budget



# ROUGH ESTIMATES OF OHIO'S PORTION OF IIJA FUNDS FOR THE SRF PROGRAMS

Year	CWSRF Supplemental Grant	CWSRF Emerging Contaminants	DWSRF Supplemental Grant	DWSRF Emerging Contaminants	DWSRF Lead Service Lines	Estimated Total
FFY 2022	\$102 M	\$5 M	\$45 M	\$19 M	\$71 M	\$242 M
FFY 2023	\$117 M	\$12 M	\$47 M	\$17 M	\$166 M	\$359 M
FFY 2024	\$128 M	\$12 M	\$52 M	\$17 M	\$184 M	\$393 M
FFY 2025	\$138 M	\$12 M	\$56 M	\$17 M	\$184 M?	\$407 M
FFY 2026	\$138 M	\$12 M	\$56 M	\$17 M	\$184 M	\$407 M
<b>Total*</b>	<b>\$623 M</b>	<b>\$53 M</b>	<b>\$256 M</b>	<b>\$87 M</b>	<b>\$789 M</b>	<b>\$1.808 B</b>

Proportion of Total that can be awarded as PF	\$305 M	\$53 M	\$125 M	\$87 M	\$387 M	\$957 M
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# U.S. EPA WATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (WATERTA)



## Get the Lead Out (GLO)

- U.S. EPA HQ (through contractor support) plans to assist up to 200 underserved and disadvantaged communities.
- Provides communities access to water infrastructure funding and eliminates potential barriers to lead pipe removal.
- Currently working in two clusters in Ohio with more than 10 water systems. (North: Fostoria, Galion, Niles, [Sandusky](#), Warren) (South: Mid-Ohio, Eaton, Urbana, Wyoming, Zanesville, Sidney)



USEPA GLO

## Tackling Emerging Contaminants (TEC)

- U.S. EPA HQ (through contractor support) plans to assist underserved and disadvantaged communities.
- Provides technical assistance to small or disadvantaged communities to assess and address drinking water contamination from emerging contaminants (PFAS).
- Just kicking off in Ohio, system selection April 2025.



USEPA TEC

Communities are encouraged to submit TA requests through the [HQ Water TA web form](#)



# SERVICE LINE INVENTORY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SLIA)

- Over \$30 million available for this program
- RFP Completed in May 2024
  - Two vendors selected
  - 140 applications received
- Round 1 - September 2024
  - Prioritized systems with pop <3,000
  - 74 systems selected
  - \$6,860,185 (Not to exceed)
- Round 2 - March 26, 2025
  - Prioritized systems with pop between 3-13K
  - 35 systems selected
  - \$23,197,32p (Not to exceed)

*Service-Line Verification Pot-Holing Demonstration  
RCAP Field Day, 06-11-2024*



# DDAGW PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

- Working with AWWA Technology Committee and OSU on two design standards (to eliminate the need for demonstration studies in some cases):
  - Low-Pressure Membranes – policy coming out soon for comment
  - Ozone and Biologically Active Filters – Document from OSU being reviewed and transitioned to Ohio EPA policy
- Review Efficiencies
  - General Plan template for small PWS
  - Project Summary Sheets for various treatments
  - Proposing rules for streamlined plan review

Year	Total Plans Statewide
2018	524
2019	583
2020	919
2021	1098
2022	1126
2023	1200
2024	~1000
2025 (as of 2/27)	>200



# LEAD AND COPPER RULE TIMELINE

- **Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)**

Effective December 2021, Compliance October 16, 2024

Inventories, Service Line Material Notifications, Tier 1 PN for Lead ALE

- **Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)**

Effective October 30, 2024, Compliance November 1, 2027

- Complete LSLR within 10 years of compliance date
- Lead action level decreased to 10 ppb
- 1st/5th liter sampling at LSL sites
- School/childcare facility sampling

- **Ohio's Lead and Copper Rule**

ESO (Early Stakeholder Outreach) process over

Currently in the rule-writing process

Plans to finalize by early next year, with compliance date to match the LCRI



# HOLD ON A SECOND...

- USEPA asked for 2 months to review federal LCRI rules and appeal from AWWA.
- Granted on 5/2/25...abeyance until July 1, 2025.
- Ohio EPA will continue to draft rules for Interested Party Review in case no changes or timelines change.

United States Court of Appeals  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

No. 24-1376

September Term, 2024

EPA-89FR86418

Filed On: May 2, 2025 [2114114]

American Water Works Association,

Petitioner

v.

Environmental Protection Agency and Lee  
M. Zeldin, in his official capacity as  
Administrator, United States Environmental  
Protection Agency,

Respondents

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of the unopposed motion to continue abeyance, it is

**ORDERED** that this case remain in abeyance pending further order of the court.  
The parties are directed to file motions to govern future proceedings in this case by July  
1, 2025.

**FOR THE COURT:**  
Clifton B. Cislak, Clerk

BY: /s/  
Catherine J. Lavender  
Deputy Clerk



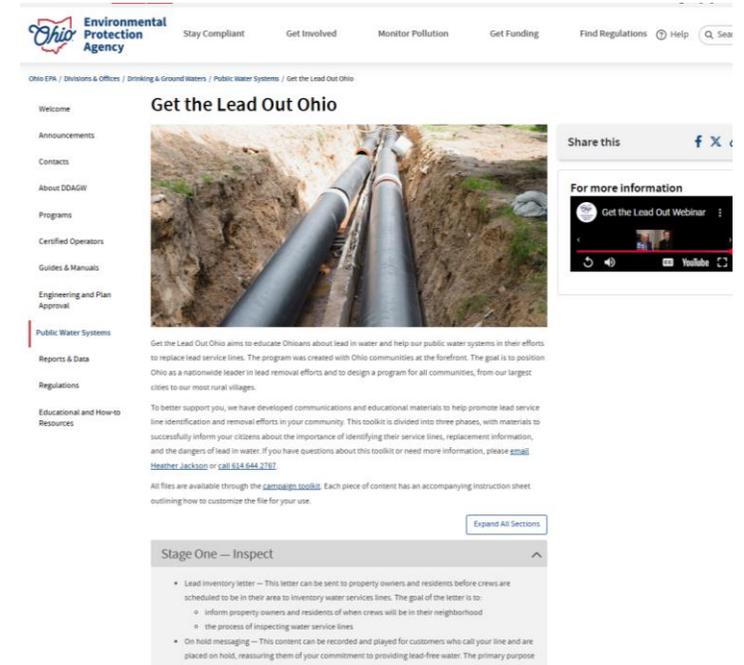
# LCRI – NEXT STEPS

- Update the initial service line inventory, due **January 30, 2026**
- Prep for the baseline service line inventory, due **Nov 1, 2027**
- Service line replacement plan (*template/guidance coming soon!*) is due by **November 1, 2027**
- Prep for new testing requirements, especially childcare/schools testing



# GET THE LEAD OUT OHIO

- Local Engagement/Campaign Toolkit – now available online: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/drinking-and-ground-waters/public-water-systems/get-the-lead-out>
- Stage 1-Inspect, Stage 2-Treat, Stage 3-Replace
- Letter templates, on hold messaging, robocall scripts, social media posts, infographics, FAQ, website copy, press release, power point templates, media story ideas, media best practices



**GET THE  
LEAD OUT**  
Safe Water. Healthy Communities.



## GET THE LEAD OUT

DO YOUR PART FOR A HEALTHY OHIO

Lead in water can affect everyone.

A GUIDE TO LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS

Kids, pets, pregnant women and adults can be affected by lead exposure.

Get the lead out. Learn more.

CALL YOUR LOCAL WATER UTILITY TO SCHEDULE AN INSPECTION OR TO GET INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF OHIO.

### STAGE 2 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

	CONTENT	IMAGE
1	<p>FB: We're working hard for you, monitoring and treating water for harmful contaminants. But sometimes, water service lines containing lead can corrode, causing lead to get in your water. Reduce your loved ones' exposure to lead by replacing water service lines and using certified filters. [Call 123-456-7890 or visit link to learn more.]<sup>2</sup> #gettheleadoutohio #safewaterwins</p> <p>IG: We're working hard for you, monitoring and treating water for harmful contaminants. But sometimes, water service lines containing lead can corrode, causing lead to get in your water. Reduce your loved ones' exposure to lead by replacing water service lines and using certified filters. [Call 123-456-7890 or visit link in bio to learn more.]<sup>2</sup> #gettheleadoutohio #safewaterwins</p> <p>X: If you know your water service line contains lead, reduce your loved ones' exposure by replacing water service lines and using certified filters. Unsure if your water service line contains lead? [Call 123-456-7890 or visit link in bio to learn more.]<sup>2</sup></p>	

## EL AGUA SEGURA GANA

PROTEJA LA SALUD DE SU FAMILIA. TOMA MEDIDAS PARA REDUCIR LA EXPOSICIÓN AL PLOMO EN SU AGUA.

WATER

AMILY'S HEALTHY HOME USE LEAD WATER.

Run your water

If you think you have lead or galvanized pipes, run water for 3-5 minutes before drinking it, cooking or preparing foods.

FOR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE: [website]<sup>2</sup> | [phone number]<sup>2</sup>

Reemplace las líneas de servicio de agua de plomo o galvanizadas.

Comuníquese con su proveedor de agua local para averiguar si tiene líneas de servicio de agua galvanizadas o de plomo.

Deje correr el agua.

Si cree que tiene tuberías de plomo o galvanizadas, deje correr el agua durante unos 3 a 5 minutos antes de beberla, cocinar o preparar alimentos.

Utilice un filtro de agua certificado.

Sólo los filtros etiquetados con el Certificado Estándar NSF/ANSI 53 y 42 eliminan el plomo del agua.

Hervir NO funciona

Hevir no elimina el plomo.

**LLÁMENOS O VISITE NUESTRO SITIO WEB PARA APRENDER MÁS MANERAS DE ELIMINAR EL PLOMO DEL AGUA.**

Información facilitada por [PWS name]<sup>2</sup> | [website]<sup>2</sup> | [phone number]<sup>2</sup>

# OHIO EPA PFAS PRIORITIES

## Rules Development: Interested Party Review (IPR)

- Drafting IPR package

## Regulation Preparedness: Developing Resources

- Working on fact sheets, website, and preparing webinars
- Focus: initial monitoring (first phase)
- Will also be working on resources for beyond initial monitoring
  - Ongoing compliance monitoring, compliance determination, etc.

## Water System Preparedness: Treatment and Source Water Solutions

- Alternative source water: new source or regionalization
- Treatment: investigate options, design, and install
- Targeted technical assistance and funding



# FEDERAL REGULATION TIMELINE

Within 3 Years: complete and report initial monitoring or get previous data approved

## AT 3 YEARS (APR 26, 2027)

- Initial monitoring results must be included in CCRs
- Start ongoing compliance monitoring
- Include monitoring results in CCRs
- Start issuing public notification for monitoring and testing violations

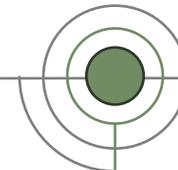
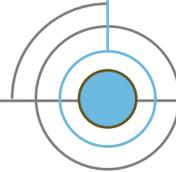


**Rule is  
Published  
April 26, 2024**



**60 DAYS**

- Meet analytical reqs



**AT 5 YEARS (APR 26, 2029)**

- Comply with PFAS MCLs
- Provide public notification for MCLs violations



# FEDERAL REGULATION TIMELINE

- USEPA asked for a motion to continue abeyance of appeal by AWWA against the PFAS Rule for an additional 30 days. Not apposed by AWWA. This was granted on April 8, 2025.
- Unclear at this moment what, if any, changes would be proposed by USEPA. General focus seems to be on the science to determine the MCLs and the cost/timing of compliance with the rules as proposed.
- Ohio is waiting to see if any changes are going to be proposed before issuing proposed state rule language (next slide!)



# OHIO PFAS REGULATION TIMELINE

## Interested Party Review (next 30 days)

- *Draft Rules*
- 30 Day Rule Review Typical
- Ohio considers comments, produces comment response document
- Make adjustment to rules

## Final Rules (before 2027)

- Adopted
- Effective Date Established (2027)

## Early Stakeholder Outreach

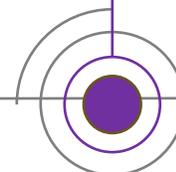
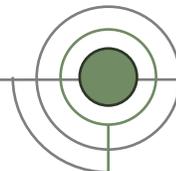
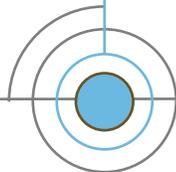
- 8/20/24 – 9/20/24
- What is Ohio's intent?

## Propose Rules to JCARR

- "Proposed" rules
- 65-day JCARR jurisdiction
- Comment period
- Public Hearing



**Federal Rule  
is Published  
April 26, 2024**



**State Rule  
is Effective  
April 2027**



# UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE (UCMR)

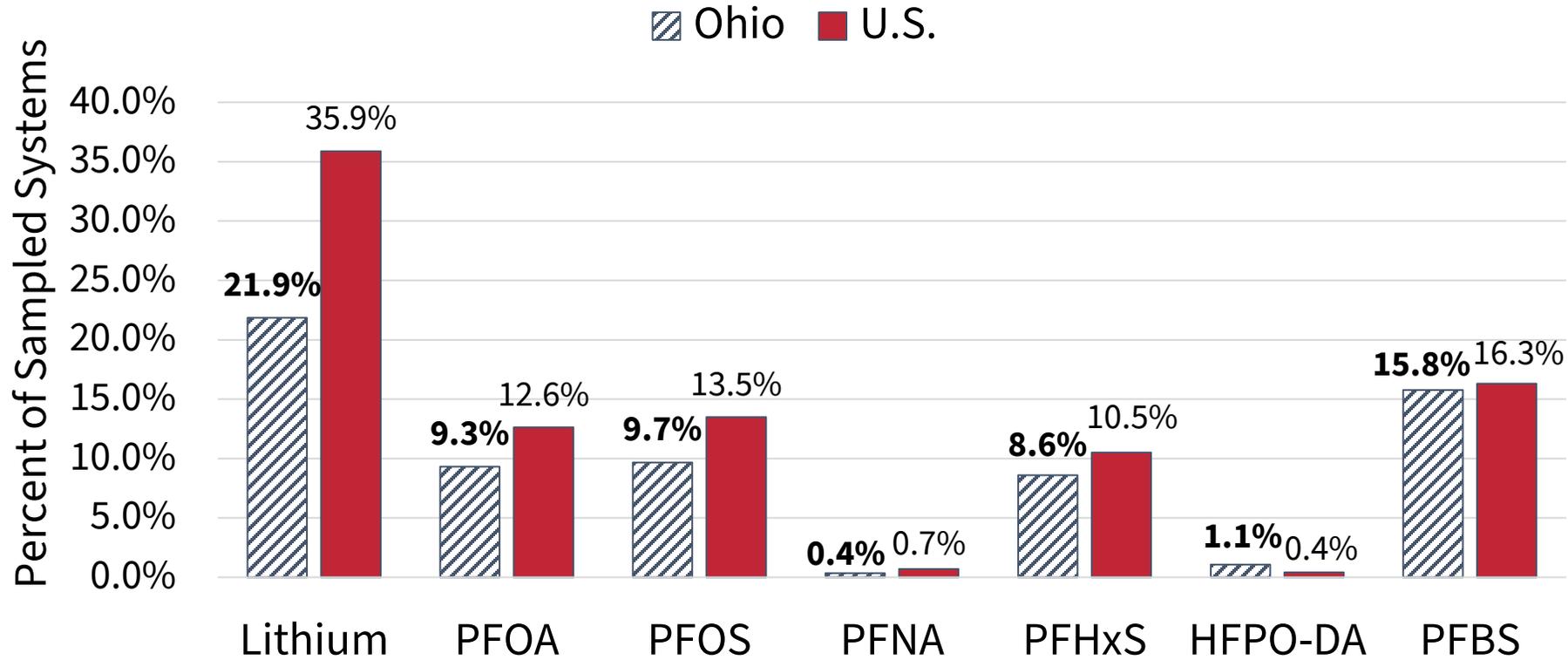
- **Goal:** collect occurrence data for unregulated contaminants that may require regulation
- Contaminants: Lithium & 29 PFAS
- Sampling occurs between 2023 and 2025
- PWS Participation:

PWS Count, National	PWS Count, Ohio
10,311	338



# UCMR 5 SUMMARY: BY DETECTS

PWSs with Detections (> MRL)



## Notes

- Data: ≤ Jan 16, 2025
- MRLs (ppt):
  - Li: 9,000
  - PFOA: 4
  - PFOS: 4
  - PFNA: 4
  - PFHxS: 3
  - HFPO-DA: 5
  - PFBS: 4



Represents ~71% of Ohio data and ~66% of U.S. data to be collected

# Study of PFAS in Ohio's Large Rivers

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are emerging contaminants of concern

Sampled:

- 149 sites in 29 large rivers
- Water, fish tissue, and macroinvertebrates
- 40 PFAS compounds

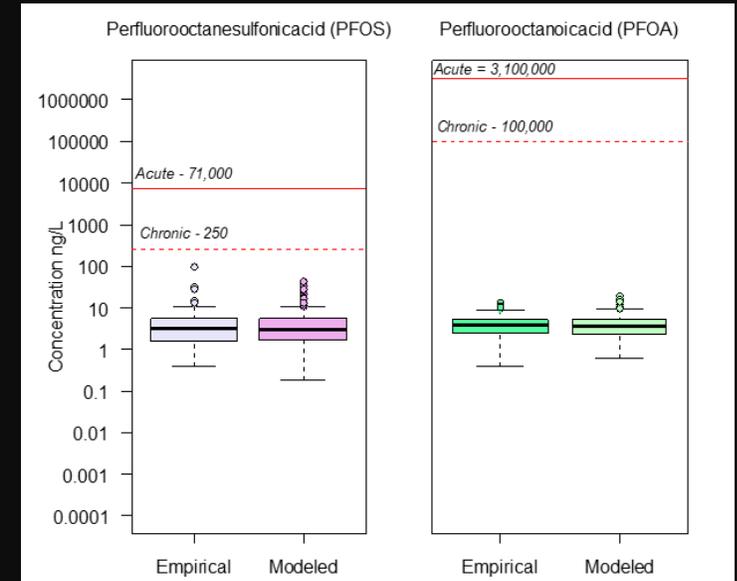
Findings:

- Almost all samples below USEPA criteria
- 9 compounds found at most sites but at low levels
- Results are similar neighboring states' data



Site Map

Results paired with USEPA Criteria



# CYBER SECURITY ASSESSMENTS

- Working with the Ohio Cyber Reserve to provide free assessments to both Water and Wastewater facilities
- Based on the Cyber Survey from last summer, we have identified candidates for assistance
  - Prioritized systems based on answers to the questions and size
- In January, the Ohio Cyber Reserve started contacting systems to offer assistance
  - Still working on the initial batch of 10 PWS and 10 WWTPs
  - Expecting to move on to next 20 systems soon



# CYBERSECURITY GRANTS FOR WATER SYSTEMS

- Proposed in Governor DeWine's Executive Budget for 2026-2027
- \$2M in FY 2026 and \$6M in FY 2027
- Ohio EPA would issue RFP for 3<sup>rd</sup> party to manage the program
  - Public drinking water and wastewater utilities to address vulnerabilities identified in cybersecurity assessments
  - Support services to reduce exposures to public-facing internet, remote controllers, remote terminal units, inventory OT/IT assets, develop and exercise cybersecurity incident response and recovery plans, backup OT/IT systems, training, and other actions



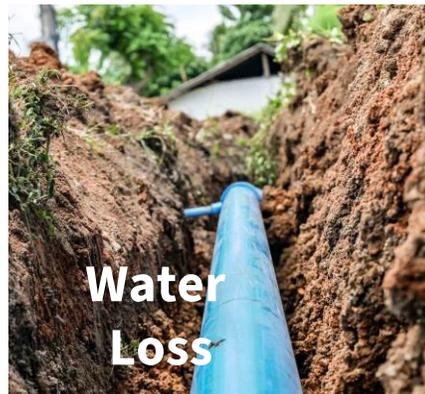
# CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT ROAD SHOW TRAININGS

- CO/CDO 2/18/25
  - SWDO 2/25/25
  - SEDO 3/4/25
  - NWDO 3/11/25
  - NEDO 3/18/25
- 
- Operators received two credit hours for the training
  - Over 300 PWSs represented for all trainings!



# 2025 SANITARY SURVEYS

- Ohio EPA prioritizing distribution system evaluations
  - Evaluating systems Storage Tank Condition and Inspection consistent with AWWA's D-100 Standard of every five years
  - Water Loss goal is <15%
  - Systems are expected to have valve exercise and flushing programs



# EMERGING ISSUES

- Fluoride – State legislation proposed
- Federal oversight of state programs
- Federal rule progress/uncertainty
- Funding



# Thank You

**Division of Drinking  
and Ground Waters**

**Amy J. Klei**

Chief

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[epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/)

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