



February 15, 2023

EMERGING CONTAMINANT PROJECTS REQUEST (VOLUNTARY)

ALL COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT NON-COMMUNITY NON-TRANSIENT PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

In the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL), EPA provided funding to address emerging contaminants in drinking water. The funding will be provided through the State Revolving Fund program and consists of 100% loan forgiveness.

Emerging contaminants are chemicals or materials characterized by a perceived, potential, or real threat to human health or the environment or by a lack of published health standards. A contaminant also may be "emerging" because of the discovery of a new source or a new pathway to humans. Emerging Contaminants can be found in pharmaceuticals, fragrances, fire retardants, detergents, insecticides, and industrial chemicals. Examples of emerging contaminants are PFOA, PFOS and Manganese. A full list of emerging contaminants are located on EPA's Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/ccl>).

The State of Montana could receive up to \$7.5 million in funding for addressing emerging contaminants. In order to receive the funding, The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking projects related to emerging contaminants, specifically related to PFAS/PFOS and Manganese. DEQ will accept projects related to other contaminants found on EPA's CCL as well. These projects can include:

- Costs associated with the construction of a new treatment facility or upgrade to an existing treatment facility that addresses emerging contaminants.
- Development of a new source (i.e., new/replacement well or intake for a public water system) that addresses an emerging contaminant issue.
- Consolidation with another water system that does not have emerging contaminants present or has removal capability.
- Costs for planning and design and associated pre-project costs.
- Infrastructure related to pilot testing for treatment alternatives.
- Creation of a new community water system to address unsafe drinking water provided by

individual (i.e., privately-owned) wells or surface water sources.

If you think you may need funding to address emerging contaminants, DEQ is requesting community and nonprofit non-community non-transient water systems to complete the attached project priority survey form. Funding will be available via loan forgiveness. If interested, please submit the survey form by April 21, 2023 to emergingcont@mt.gov. This is a voluntary request. Water systems are not required to complete the form if they don't have a need for funding at this time. There will be additional opportunities to seek funding in the future as well. The survey form template can be found at <https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-rules>

The submitted survey forms will be used to create a project priority list in order to request funding from EPA. The projects don't have to be "shovel ready" or approved. The project scopes and costs can be conservative estimates and do not lock water system into a particular scope or timeframe.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Greg Montgomery with DEQ Public Water Supply at (406) 444-5312 and Gregory.montgomery@mt.gov