

From: StClair, Kyle (he/him/his) <StClair.Kyle@epa.gov> on behalf of EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Unit <R8DWU@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 9:10 AM
To: EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Unit
Subject: Status of Rail Union Negotiations and potential chemical shortages

Dear Water System Representatives,

U.S rail carriers and unions reached a tentative agreement on 9/15/22 subject to ratification by members of the 12 rail unions. Four rail unions failed to ratify the agreement but agreed to the status quo until 12/9/22. Should one or more of these unions fail to ratify the agreement by 12/9/22 disruptions in rail service will impact the transportation of water and wastewater treatment chemicals. In anticipation of a potential transportation disruption as soon as 12/5/22, the rail lines could issue embargoes on the transport of hazardous material by 11/28/22.

Recommended action for utilities to prepare for a disruption of their chemical supply include:

- 1) Reviewing EPA's resiliency guidelines found here,
- 2) Utilities should take immediate inventory of their chlorine supply and other essential chemicals and coordinate with suppliers regarding pending deliveries.
- 3) Contacting their primary chemical supplier to discuss the impacts and timelines on deliveries,
- 4) Contacting an alternate chemical supplier to discuss the possibility of them providing support should their primary supplier not be able to due to the rail service disruption. They can use the chemical suppliers and manufacturers locator tool to identify alternate suppliers in their area.
- 5) They can also utilize the assistance of the Wyoming Water and Wastewater Response Networks (WARN) if they are a WARN member. See more about Water Wastewater Agency Response Network

For more information check EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/tentative-railroad-agreement-current-status-and-potential-impact-supply-chain>

Please respond to this email if you do experience supply chain issues that affect operations of your water system.

Thanks,
Kyle St. Clair
Wyoming Liaison and Sanitary Survey Tech Review Lead
Water Division (WD) Drinking Water Section A
U.S. EPA Region 8 – Mail Code 8WD-SDA
303.312.6791