



Western States SERC-TERC Meeting January 28 - 29, 2020

**Sicy Jacob, EPA HQ
Office of Emergency Management**



**Amendments to EPCRA
under
America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA)
October 23, 2018**

Purpose of EPCRA...

- Encourage and support emergency planning efforts at the state, tribal and local levels;
- Provide local governments and first responders with information concerning potential chemical hazards present in their community;
- Prepare **and** protect the community from chemical accidents; and
- Provide the public with information on chemical risks in their community and information on what to do if a chemical accident occurs.

1986 EPCRA Legislation

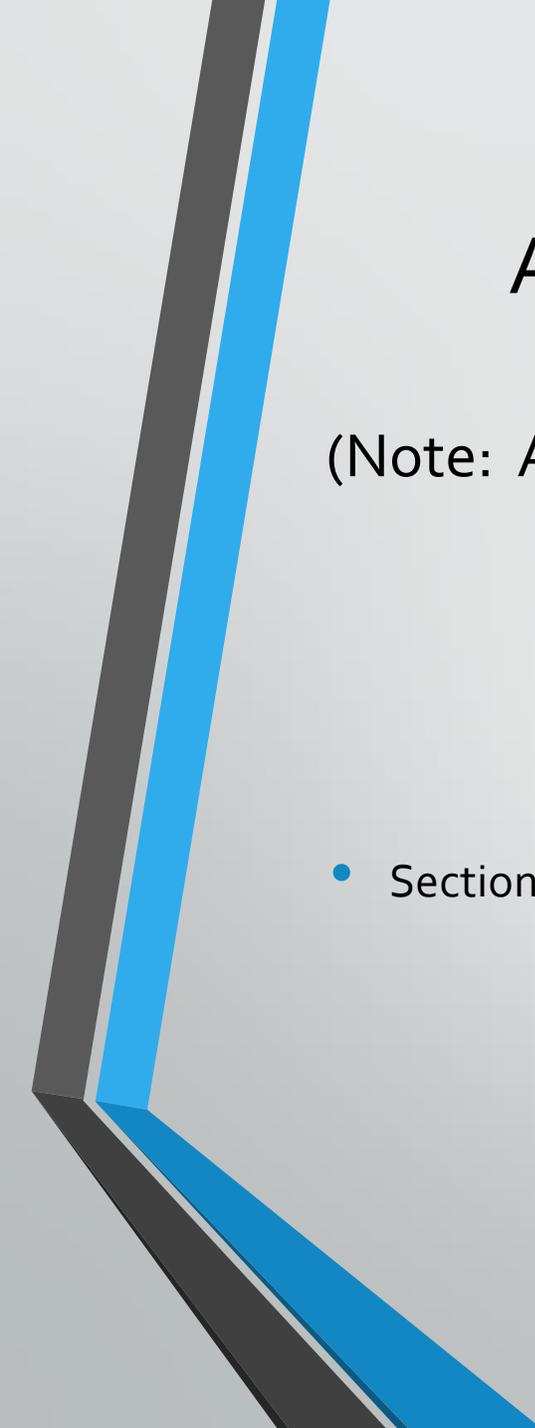
SERC and LEPC Responsibilities (Section 301)

SERC

- Designate local emergency planning districts
- Appoint Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for each district
- Supervise activities of the LEPCs
- Review local emergency response plans
- Manage information received from the regulated community (hazardous chemical inventory and accidental release information)
- Establish procedures for receiving and processing public requests for information collected under EPCRA

LEPC

- Develop local emergency response plan
- Submit the plan to the SERC for review and approval
- Appoint a chairperson for the LEPC
- Establish rules on how the LEPC should function
 - public notification of committee activities
 - public meetings to discuss emergency plan
 - distribution of emergency plan
- Establish procedures for receiving and processing public requests for information collected under EPCRA
 - designate an official to serve as coordinator



Legislative Amendments to EPCRA: America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) – Section 2018

(Note: Amendments went into effect immediately upon signing the law)

- Section 304 – Emergency Release Notification
- Section 312 – Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reporting (“Tier II”)

Amendments to EPCRA Section 304

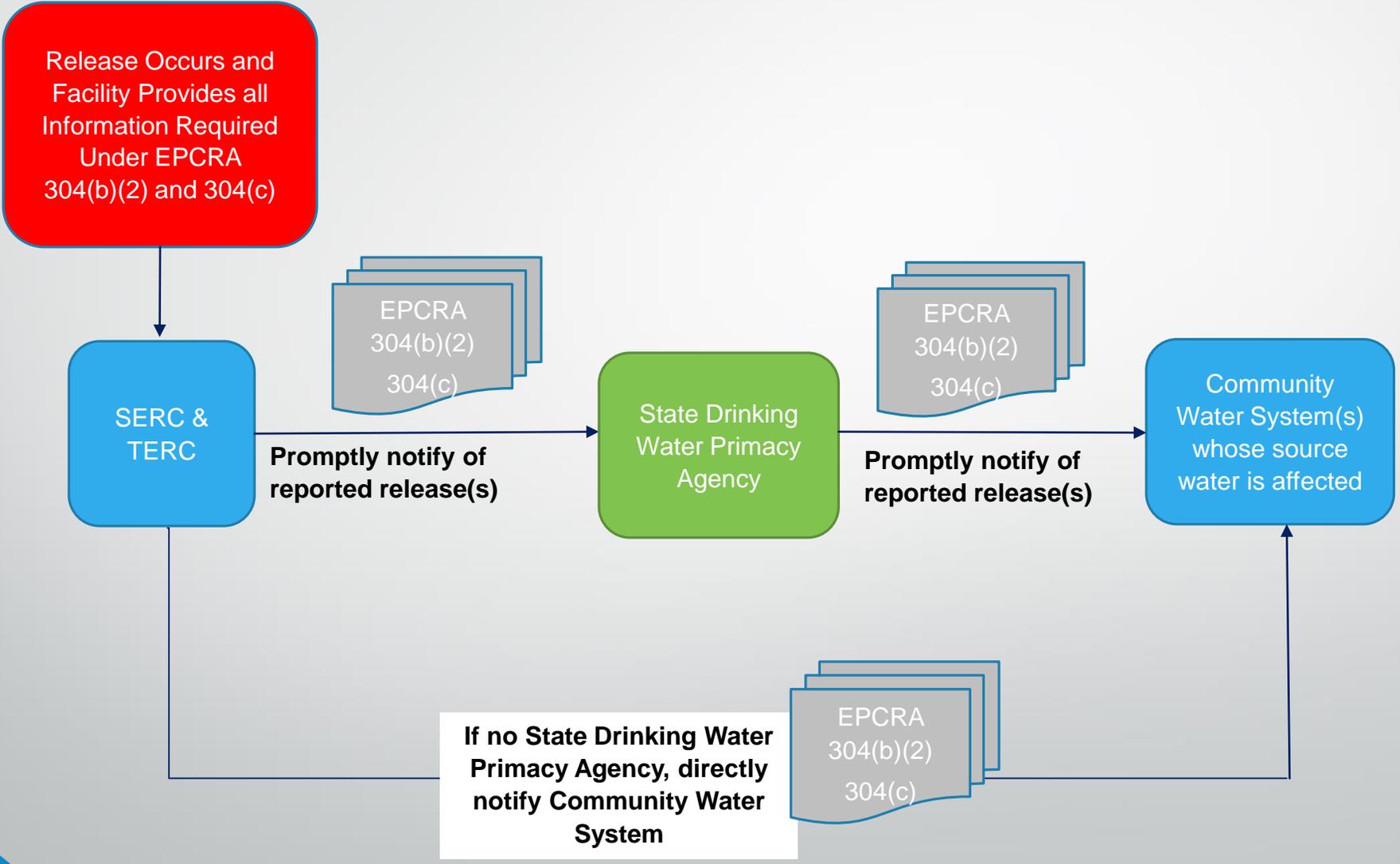
Section 304: Added a new paragraph, (e) "Addressing Source Water used for Drinking Water"

(1) State Drinking Water Agency Notification

- Requires SERCs to promptly notify the State Drinking Water Agency of any releases and provide all the information collected under EPCRA Section 304(b) and (c) – initial telephone notification and follow-up written report.

(2) Community Water System – Direct Notification

- If there is no State Drinking Water Agency, then SERCs must promptly notify the affected community water system(s) and provide all the information collected under Section 304(b) and (c) – initial telephone notification and follow-up written report.





Transportation-Related Releases and AWIA Amendments to Section 304???

- 1986 EPCRA Legislation – 911 or operator

AWIA Amendments to EPCRA Section 312

Section 312, added paragraph (4) to sub-section “(e) – Availability of Tier II Information”

“(4) Availability to Community Water Systems”

Upon request to the SERC or LEPC, community water systems may have access to the Tier II information for their source water area.

Resources – AWIA Amendments

- AWIA Section 2018 – Amendments to EPCRA Sections 304 and 312
- AWIA Factsheet: A guide for SERCs, TERCs, and LEPCs
- AWIA Frequently Asked Questions
- List of State Drinking Water Primacy Agencies
- State Drinking Water Information Systems

<https://www.epa.gov/epcra/amendments-epcra-americas-water-infrastructure-act>

AWIA Workshops (Planned)

- Region 1: March 10, 2020 – Boston, MA
- Region 3: April (1st or 2nd week) – Baltimore, MD

Other Resources

- EPCRA On-line Training: [“Understanding EPCRA and How to Protect Communities from Chemical Accidents: A Training for States, Tribes, LEPCs, and Local Planners and Responders”](#)
- FAQs
- Factsheets
- Guidance documents
- Federal Register Notices

EPCRA On-Line Training

“Understanding EPCRA and How to Protect Communities from Chemical Accidents: A Training for States, Tribes, LEPCs, and Local Planners and Responders”

- Requirements of EPCRA and its implementing regulations
- Guidance to SERCs, TERCs, LEPCs, TEPCs to implement the program
- Four modules and 18 lessons (EPCRA Sections 301-312, including CERCLA Section 103 and how it relates to Section 304)
- Resources module - List of Guidance documents for LEPCs and TEPCs
- Features include: Simulation/Animation, Interactive exercises/charts, knowledge checks, link to certain resources (EPA/OEM website; Federal Register/CFR (GPO website))
- ADA Section 508 compliant

Training can be accessed at: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/epcra-training-states-tribes-lepcs-local-planners-and-responders-non-section-313>

Questions ??

Sicy Jacob

Office of Emergency Management

(202) 564-8019

jacob.sicy@epa.gov