

Drinking Water Advisory Group

December 11, 2013

Satellite Management Agency (SMA) Program Review

Discussion overview

- Introduce SMA program review.
- Share recent stakeholder event outcomes:
 - SMA workshop (November 2013)
 - Washington Public Utility District Association conference (December 2013)
- Obtain Drinking Water Advisory Group feedback.
- Share next steps and anticipated timeframes.

Program intent and authority

- Professional management and/or ownership of small systems.
 - Limited operator certification requirements at time of SMA legislation.
- 1991 statute established SMAs - RCW 70.116.134.
 - SMA Rule - Chapter 246-295 WAC
- 1995 amendments strengthened SMA requirement - RCW 70.119.060.
 - Group A Rule - WAC 246-290-035

Why are we reviewing the program?

- Public health value of SMAs.
- Identify opportunities for improvement to capitalize on value:
 - Whether original intent has been accomplished.
 - How needs and landscape have changed since 1991.
 - What changes would meet today's needs?

Our review process

- Internal workgroup will assess data, seek stakeholder input, determine program needs, and make recommendations.
- We may form external focus group to explore ideas with stakeholders.

Stakeholder feedback

- **SMA workshop**—takeaways:
 - SMAs need incentives to take on troubled systems.
 - Better access to funding and application efficiency.
 - Compliance and enforcement leniency.
 - Difference between *contract* SMAs and *ownership* SMAs.
 - Incentives must be different.
 - Need to clearly define roles and responsibilities.
 - Importance of SMA contracts with water systems.
 - Lack of Department of Health enforcement of SMA requirement.
 - Need our department to engage with system boards and governing bodies to support SMAs.
 - Difference between contract operators and SMAs.
 - SMAs provide higher level of service.
 - Need for our department to hold certified operators accountable.

- **WPUDA conference**—suggested improvements:
 - Better access to funding and application efficiency.
 - Improve coordination of SMA Plan and Water System Plan submittals.
 - Reduce regulatory costs (fees).

Advisory Group's feedback

- Your perspective?

Next steps

- Summarize and share stakeholder feedback (January 2014).
- Internal team to evaluate collective input and data (early spring 2014).
- Circle back with stakeholders (late spring 2014).
- Make final recommendations (early summer 2014).

Where do I find more information?

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