

2011 Drinking Water Needs Assessment

Briefing Paper



February 2011

Why is DOH doing a needs assessment?

The purpose of the 2011 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment is to document the 20-year capital investment needs of public water systems that are eligible to receive Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) monies.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses the results of the survey to allocate DWSRF funds to the states (see back page for how we use DWSRF funds). **Your participation is critical to the success of the survey and Washington State's future DWSRF funding.**

Which systems will be asked to participate?

Your system is one of 58 Washington public water systems EPA has selected to participate. EPA asked us to survey all systems serving 100,000 or more people, and a sampling of systems serving 3,300 to 100,000 people.

What is a "need?"

A "need" is either a new or a major rehabilitation of capital infrastructure. It is required now or within the next 20 years to continue providing safe drinking water to current consumers.

Future growth (anticipated or speculative) isn't considered a "need." However, projects necessary for existing customers can be sized for reasonably anticipated growth.

EPA's 2007 survey showed the following types of need:

Transmission and Distribution	\$200.8 B	60%
Treatment	\$75.1 B	22%
Storage	\$36.9 B	11%
Source	\$19.8 B	6%
Other	\$2.3 B	1%
Total 2007 Need	334.8 B	100%

Washington's share of the 2007 national need was 2.55 percent. This percentage, or sharing factor, is applied to the annual federal DWSRF allotment to determine Washington's share. The 2011 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment will establish an updated sharing factor, which determines how much money we receive for the next four years.

Only \$52 billion, or 16 percent of the total national need from 2007, was used to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act regulation.

How does Washington use DWSRF monies?

Washington State was allocated \$34,760,000 from EPA to fund capital infrastructure project and non-construction projects for state fiscal year 2010 (7/1/09 – 6/30/10).

Washington used the annual federal allotment to:

- \$63.7 million (87 percent) for capital infrastructure loans to eligible public water systems.
- \$9.7 million (13 percent) to fund “set-aside” activities.

When does the survey begin?

The survey will begin in early 2011 after EPA obtains federal approval. It will take a year for us to complete the survey.

What is DOH’s responsibility?

We are responsible for completing the survey and providing system-specific data to EPA. Our goal is to minimize the impact on each public water system.

What is your utility’s responsibility?

- Identify a contact person.
- Help identify needs and eligible 20-year capital projects.
- Provide documentation to justify eligible projects and costs.
- Review the completed survey prior to our submittal to EPA.

For more information:

Long-time DOH employee Bill Liechty is joining us from retirement to complete this important project. If you have questions about the needs assessment, you can reach him by phone at:

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