

What's New in The Drinking Water SRF Program?

The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund operates on program years, which run from July through June. The 2015 Program Year, which covers the period from July 2014 through June 2015, brings some significant changes that you should be aware of.

First, to be eligible for Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) funds in Program Year 2015, all nomination forms must be submitted via email by March 1, 2014. Paper copies and faxes will no longer be accepted.

Second, an Ohio EPA-approved general plan addressing the proposed project must be submitted with the nomination for construction loans for new, replaced, rehabilitated, upgraded or expanded water treatment plants and their components.

The general plan, which must be approved prior to detail design work, must ensure consistency with all Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and address the substance of the proposed project. Applicants are responsible for consistency between approved general plans and detailed design at the time of application and construction in accordance with the approved detailed plans.

Construction must be in accordance with all terms of the WSRLA assistance agreement. Although the approved general plan may not contain all the planning requirements necessary for a WSLRA loan award, applicants must meet the additional requirements.

The general plan must include the following:

Introduction and Purpose

Discuss why the project is needed and provide documentation of need. The types of projects eligible for funding through the WSRLA are discussed in Appendix D of the Drinking Water Assistance Fund Draft Management and Intended Use Plan. Types of specific projects ineligible for funding are discussed in Appendix C of the Drinking Water Assistance Fund Draft Management and Intended Use Plan.

Existing Situation

- Describe the raw water sources, capacities and water quality data.
- Discuss all existing drinking water problems in the study and/or service area (this includes treatment, distribution and issues associated with the plant).
- Describe the existing service area and current population to be served.

- Provide the existing water demand. Water demands should be broken down into residential, commercial and industrial categories.
- Provide an engineering description of the existing facilities.

Future Conditions

- Describe other projects anticipated over the next 20 years.
- Provide the projected, average and peak water demands based on population trends. Water demands should be broken down by residential, commercial and industrial. Projections should be for at least 20 years in five-year increments.
- Describe the projected service area and the projected population to be served.

Alternatives

Describe the project alternatives considered and the rationale for the selected alternative; this description should include the technical, managerial, financial, operational and local decision-making rationale for the selected approach. A regionalization alternative must be part of the analysis. A cost analysis must include any required construction, operation, maintenance and ongoing disposal costs.

Selected Alternative

- Provide an engineering description of the facilities to be constructed, including a basic layout (schematic and site plan), sizing of treatment units and a desired approved capacity of the treatment facilities. The methodology for determining approved capacities for treatment facilities can be found in the Approved Capacity Planning and Design Criteria for Establishing Approved Capacity for: 1) Surface Water And Ground Water Supply Sources, 2) Drinking Water Treatment Plants (WTPs), and 3) Source/WTP Systems (Approved Capacity).
- Provide a description of all existing and proposed raw water sources and their desired approved capacity. The methodology for determining approved capacities for raw water sources can be found in the Approved Capacity document.
- The engineering description must include proposed use of existing facilities (if applicable), treatment and disposal to be installed, including the construction phases (if overall project is to be completed in steps).
- Describe how this project will address current compliance issues, if applicable.
- All proposed facilities must be sized for current needs with a moderate allowance for future growth, generally in the range of 10%.

Preliminary Estimate

Provide a preliminary estimate of the proposed project's cost and the associated impact on local user rates.

Public Participation

Provide information regarding public participation for the project, to date, such as minutes from council meetings, public meetings or newspaper articles.

Environmental Issues

Describe the project area's major resources (e.g., streams, wetlands, woodlots, historic structures, etc.), the likely impacts, if any, of project implementation on these resources, and other agencies that may already have been contacted to help address these resource issues.

Funding

Describe all anticipated sources of funding for the project.

Compliance schedule

For systems presently out of compliance for drinking water requirements, submit a detailed compliance schedule with applicable milestone dates for the significant events that are necessary to attain compliance.

If you have questions, please contact Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters' loans unit at (614) 644-2752.