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## **Ohio EPA Increases Efforts to Improve Public Water System Compliance**

A new Ohio EPA report on Ohio's drinking water systems demonstrates significant progress over the last three years to help systems improve their technical, managerial and financial capabilities and provide drinking water in a consistent, reliable and cost-effective manner.

The triennial [Capability Assurance Strategy](#) covering July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011 is a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. It documents Ohio EPA's efforts to ensure public water systems are operating effectively. In Ohio, 90 percent of residents receive water to use for bathing, cooking and drinking from about 4,900 licensed public water systems.

- Ohio EPA issued reminder notifications before the end of the monitoring period to encourage systems to complete monitoring and stay in compliance. During 2011, over 6,280 reminder notices were sent and 98 percent of the systems then completed monitoring.
- Ohio EPA has six electronic communication services which help to keep program users up to date.
- Ohio EPA conducted outreach to water systems with violations and invited them to use Ohio EPA's low-interest loan program to gain compliance. Loans issued to more than 12 drinking water systems helped them come into compliance.
- The Agency offered free training sessions, workshops, webcasts and small water system training. Approximately 450 small water systems received training each year during the triennium on topics such as security and emergency preparedness, preventative maintenance and water loss prevention.

The report identifies challenges that include:

- operating water systems to prevent public health threats;
- dealing with increasing operational costs; and
- learning to comply with many new regulations or finance improvements needed to meet new requirements.

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