May 10, 2019

Mayors, County Commissioners, Regional Authority Officials, Consulting Engineers, and Interested Citizens

Re: Drinking Water Assistance Fund (DWAF) Program
DRAFT PY 2020 Program Management Plan (PMP)

Dear Interested Party:

I am pleased to announce that the Draft DWAF PMP for Program Year (PY) 2020 is available for your review. You may obtain a copy from our website at: http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx.

Ohio’s DWAF program is very robust and has, in recent years, funded all eligible projects. Ohio EPA plans to maintain that level of fund availability. This draft PMP includes the following notable features:

- Ohio EPA will make below-market interest rate funds available to over $424 million worth of drinking water projects.
- Based on current estimates of the federal capitalization grant, Ohio EPA plans to make available up to $15.2 million in principal forgiveness to eligible projects. Disadvantaged communities, regionalization and human health projects will be prioritized.
- Ohio EPA will offer targeted funds for emergency connection between public drinking water systems.
- Ohio EPA will offer targeted funds for total lead service line replacement.
- Ohio EPA will offer targeted funds for conversion from gaseous to liquid chlorine disinfection.

A public notice announcing the 30-day comment period is being issued today. We have scheduled two public meetings to answer questions and receive your comments on Tuesday, June 11, 2019; one meeting will be at 10:00 AM, and the other will be at 1:30 PM. Both public meetings will be located at Ohio EPA’s Central Office at 50 West Town Street, Suite 700 in downtown Columbus.
If you prefer to submit written comments, you may mail them to Ohio EPA-DEFA, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, OH 43216-1049, or send them by email to defamail@epa.ohio.gov. All comments on the Draft PMP must be received by Ohio EPA no later than close of business on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

Once the 30-day comment period is concluded, we will evaluate the submitted comments, and possibly make further adjustments to the PMP where appropriate.

I thank you for your interest in this effort and look forward to your input.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Stevenson
Director