



EPA Water Priorities

Ann Codrington, Director
Drinking Water Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Key Priorities

- Small Drinking Water Systems and Sustainability
- Source Water Protection
- Hydraulic Fracturing



Small Drinking Water System Sustainability

- Safe, reliable and sustainable drinking water service is the foundation of a healthy community.

Challenges:

- Aging infrastructure.
- Water availability and declining source water quality.
- Retirement of large percentage of water sector workforce.
- Declining state and federal resources to assist small systems.
- Complying with regulatory requirements.



Small Drinking Water System Sustainability: Challenges

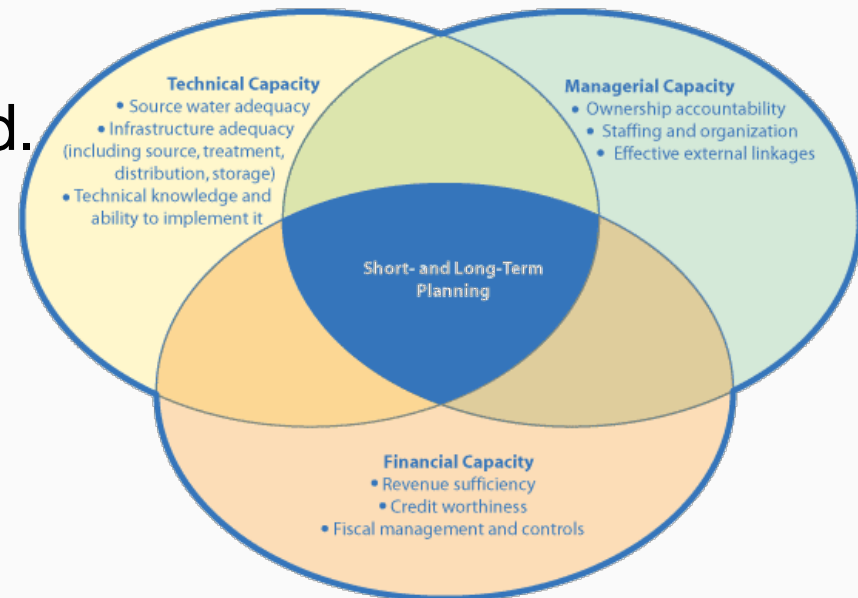
Regulations:

- Current rule implementation is challenging for some small systems.
- New rules will add to challenges:
 - Long-term Revisions of the Lead and Copper Rule
 - Revised Total Coliform Rule
 - Carcinogenic VOCs
- We are working on training and implementation of the upcoming Revised Total Coliform Rule



Small Drinking Water System Sustainability: Addressing the Challenges

- Ensuring knowledgeable workforce.
- Planning and managing assets; restructure/partner where needed.
- Matching revenues with level of service.
- Managing resources – source water, water loss, electricity, chemicals.
- Educating customers and decision makers.





Small Drinking Water System Sustainability: Addressing the Challenges

Agency Priority Goal:

- EPA developed a priority goal focused on strengthening the technical, managerial and financial capacity of small systems to reliably provide safe drinking water.
- This is one of 5 Agency goals in the 2013 President's Budget.
- EPA is working with states to improve small drinking water system capability through the Optimization Program and the Capacity Development Program.



Small Drinking Water System Sustainability: Addressing the Challenges

- **Asset Management :**
 - Conducting asset management webinar training.
 - State-EPA Asset Management Workgroup.
- **Check Up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS):**
 - CUPSS self-paced training modules available.
 - Latest version has ability to upload an asset inventory spreadsheet.
 - Developing a series of CUPSS case studies.



Sustainability: Addressing the Challenges (cont'd)

- **Energy Use Assessment Tool:**
 - Downloadable tool that allows a utility to conduct a utility bill and equipment analysis to assess baseline energy use and costs.
 - Currently developing a version for Windows 2010.
 - Second webinar to promote the tool at the end of this year.
- **Sustainability Handbook**
 - Steps utilities can take to enhance their planning processes.
 - Enhance long-term technical, financial, and managerial capacity.



Sustainability: Addressing the Challenges (cont'd)

Water System Partnerships:

- Leverages shared system resources and technical expertise.
 - Gains economies of scale.
 - Ensures that rural communities have quality water and wastewater services.
 - Supports economic opportunities.
-
- Included in the USDA-EPA MOA
 - Collaborated on three webinars in a four-part series promoting the range of water system partnerships.



Sustainability: Addressing the Challenges (cont'd)

Congress appropriated \$15M and directed EPA to competitively award funds for training and technical assistance.

- NRWA (\$6.9M) & Texas Engineering Extension Service (\$2.9M) – for training and technical assistance for small public water systems to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- New Mexico Environmental Finance Center (\$2.5M) – to help small systems improve their financial and managerial capabilities.
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership (\$2M) – for training and technical assistance for small publicly-owned wastewater and decentralized systems, and private well owners.
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership (\$500K) - for training and technical assistance to tribally-owned/operated public water systems located in EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9.



Federal Partnerships

- Federal Partnerships offer the opportunity to leverage resources and find creative solutions.
- Technical Assistance providers have a valuable role in these partnerships.
 - Rural Water hosted sustainability workshops - Michigan Rural Water and Georgia Rural Water (November).
 - Rural Water hosted Career Showcase to promote careers in the rural water sector workforce.
 - Veterans Affairs representatives attend national conferences.
 - Rural Water & Veterans Affairs conducted a joint webinar in Summer 2012.



Source Water Protection

Partnership with National FFA to develop Source Water Protection Curriculum

- 20 lessons for the next generation of agricultural leaders
- Tied to National Science Education Standards for Grades 9-12
- Lessons cover broad array of topics:
 - drinking water protection
 - roles of government and land use decision makers
 - watershed protection,
 - agricultural conservation practices,
 - source water stewardship
- Online at *ffa.org/drinking water*



Source Water Protection (cont'd)

- New tool for targeted inspections and enforcement for source water protection (update of the Online Tracking Information System)
- Identifies whether a facility scheduled for inspection is located in a Source Water Protection Area (this update applies to 2.6 million facilities in the nation)
 - Allows EPA, state, and local governments (registered agencies) to focus inspections & enforcement on facilities that are potential threats to drinking water sources



Source Water Protection (cont'd)

Source Water Collaborative

- **Online Tips for Partnering with State Conservationists Draft Toolkit Online at:**
testing.sourcewatercollaborative.org/swp-usda
- **Goals:**
 - Promote source water protection through agriculture conservation practices
 - Facilitate collaboration between source water and USDA, focus on NRCS State Conservationists & FSA
- **Contents:** Simple steps for identifying common ground, opportunities, and key contacts and ideas for working with USDA at the state level
- **Upcoming supplement:** Tips for working with conservation districts



Source Water Protection: Online

STEP 1

UNDERSTAND HOW KEY USDA PROGRAMS CAN HELP PROTECT SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

Source water protection results when key state and local leaders collaborate to encourage land use practices that protect water quality — for agriculture this means conservation practices and systems. USDA has a suite of voluntary programs implemented at the state and local level that provide cost-share funding and land rental payments to willing farmers and protect soil and water quality.

This online guide is intended to provide background information and some simple steps to help connect source water stakeholders and USDA leadership at the state and local levels, to encourage a collaborative approach to protecting water quality and our sources of drinking water.

- 1 Step 1: Understand How Key USDA Programs Can Help Protect Sources of Drinking Water
- 2 Step 2: Define What Your Source Water Program Can Offer
- 3 Step 3: Take Action
- 4 Step 4: Find Resources
- 5 Step 5: Coordinate with Other Partners
- 6 Step 6: Communicate Your Success

Launch date: Fall 2012 available at www.sourcewatercollaborative.org





LEARN ABOUT OTHERS' SUCCESS

Success Stories

These case studies demonstrate key steps in partnering source water protection USDA programs:

- [Indiana \(Wellhead protection\)](#)
- [Iowa \(Little River Lake\)](#)
- [New Hampshire/Maine \(Salmon Falls Watershed\)](#)
- [Minnesota](#)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [Pennsylvania \(Maiden Creek Watershed\)](#)



Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative Honored with 2012 U.S. Water Prize



Hydraulic Fracturing

- Exploration is taking place in new and different geographic and geologic settings
- Geologic formations may contain metals, radionuclides, salts, or other constituents that may be mobilized and impact water quality
- Water used for hydraulic fracturing can come from public water sources, or directly from ground or surface waters
- Natural gas is critical as is the need to ensure future drinking water sources



Hydraulic Fracturing (cont'd)

Key Water Activities

- Draft Guidance on Diesel Fuels Hydraulic Fracturing under the Safe Drinking Water Act
- Effluent Limitation Guidelines under the Clean Water Act
- EPA Study of Hydraulic Fracturing and potential impacts to Drinking Water



Hydraulic Fracturing (cont'd)

- EPA is developing guidance for permitting hydraulic fracturing operations that use diesel fuels
- Guidance provides recommendations to help strengthen existing environmental regulations and clarify EPA's role in the permitting process
- We are addressing the thousands of public comments received during the public comment period and working to finalize the guidance to provide the greatest level of public health and environmental protection



EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study

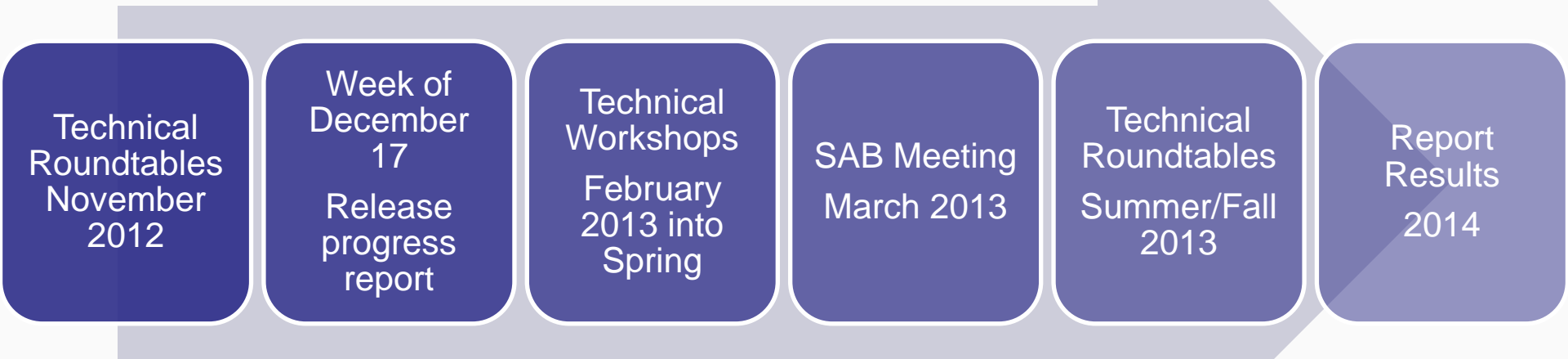
Status Report of Study: Due later this year

Stakeholder Engagement: We are working to ensure stakeholder involvement

- Ensure that there is ongoing access to a broad range of expertise and data outside the Agency
- Improve public understanding of the goals and design of the study
- Obtain timely and constructive feedback on projects undertaken as part of the study
- Submit research results for timely peer review



HF Study Stakeholder Engagement Timeline



Peer review ongoing





Thank You!
Ann Codrington
codrington.ann@epa.gov

