

January 12, 2009

## DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUNDS

We are pleased to announce several opportunities for drinking water funding. Construction applications may be submitted year round. However, applications received after the due date stated below will be considered for funding in following cycle. As described below, funding is made possible by our Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program. We anticipate having at least \$10 million. Also the enclosed attachment describes our Water Supply Assistance Grant Fund Program. Our **FY 2010** DWSRF Intended Use Plan will be developed using your input on these issues.

- (1) **1452(k) Source Water Protection Initiatives** - (5 pages) Must be postmarked by **March 27, 2009.**  
This provision allows VDH to loan money for activities to protect important drinking water resources. Loan funds are available to: (1) community and non-profit noncommunity waterworks to acquire land/conservation easements and (2) to community waterworks, only, to establish local, voluntary incentive-based protection measures.
- (2) **Construction Funds** – (9 pages) Must be postmarked by **March 27, 2009.**  
Private and public owners of community waterworks and nonprofit noncommunity waterworks are eligible to apply for construction funds. VDH makes selections based on criteria described in the [Program Design Manual](#), such as existing public health problems, noncompliance, affordability, regionalization, the availability of matching funds, etc. Readiness to proceed with construction is a key element. A Preliminary Engineering Report must be submitted if required by VDH. An instruction packet and Construction Project Schedule are included.
- (3) **Set-Aside Suggestion Forms** – (2 pages) Must be postmarked by **March 27, 2009.**  
Anyone has the opportunity to suggest new or continuing set-aside (nonconstruction) activities. Set-aside funds help VDH assist waterworks owners to prepare for future drinking water challenges and assure the sustainability of safe drinking water.
- (4) **Planning & Design Grants** – (9 pages) Must be postmarked by **August 28, 2009.**  
Private and public owners of community waterworks are eligible to apply for these grant funds. Grants can be up to \$30,000 per project for small, financially stressed, community waterworks serving fewer than 3,300 persons. Eligible projects may include preliminary engineering planning, design of plans and specifications, performance of source water quality and quantity studies, drilling test wells to determine source feasibility, or other similar technical assistance projects. These funds could assist the waterworks owner in future submittals for construction funds.

The VDH's [Program Design Manual](#) describes the features of the above opportunities for funding. After receiving the aforementioned public input, VDH will develop a draft Intended Use Plan for public review and comment. When developed in August, the draft Intended Use Plan will describe specific details for use of the funds. A public meeting is planned for October and written comments will be accepted before we submit a final version to the USEPA for approval.

You may request the applications, set-aside suggestion form, Program Design Manual and information from and forward any comments to **Steve Pellei, P.E., FCAP Director**, by writing, calling, or faxing at the above address. The materials are also accessible on our web site <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinkingwater/financial>.

January 12, 2008

## WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING

The 1999 General Assembly created the Water Supply Assistance Grant Fund (WSAGF) in Section 32.1-171.2 of the *Code of Virginia*. The purpose of the WSAG is to make grant funds available to localities and owners of waterworks to assist in the provision of drinking water.

Funds are available by submitting an application postmarked on or before the dates indicated for the following:

### **(1) Planning Grants – Application must be postmarked by August 28, 2009.**

Of available funding, **\$60,000 or 16.67%** will be used for planning needs. Your application cannot exceed this amount.

In ranking of applications, preference is given to those that address problems of small, community waterworks with multi-jurisdictional support. The applicant submits the current VDH planning application to VDH. To promote coordination of funding and streamline the process for applicants, grants are prioritized in accordance with rating criteria of the current DWSRF Program. For WSAGF funding purposes only, up to fifty (50) extra points are added to the DWSRF rating criteria relative to the Stress Index rank.

Eligible activities may include (but not be limited to): Capacity building activities addressing regionalization or consolidation, performance of source water quality and quantity studies, drilling test wells to determine source feasibility, income surveys, preliminary engineering planning, design and preparation of plans and specifications, or other similar technical assistance projects.

### **(2) Surface Water Development or Improvement Grants – Application must be postmarked by March 27, 2009.**

Of available funding, **\$200,000 or 55.55%** will be used for community waterworks surface source water development or improvement activities. Your application cannot exceed this amount.

The applicant submits the current VDH construction application to VDH. In ranking of applications, preference is given to those that address problems of small, community waterworks with multi-jurisdictional support.

Eligible activities may include: land purchase, options to purchase land, general site development costs, and dam upgrade and construction.

### **(3) Small Project Construction Grants – Application must be postmarked by March 27, 2009.**

Of available funding, **\$100,000 or 27.78%** will be used for small project construction that is defined as a project whose total project cost does not exceed \$50,000. Eligible activities may include (but not be limited to): upgrade or construction of well or spring sources, waterlines, storage tanks, and treatment.

The applicant submits the current VDH construction application to VDH. To promote coordination of funding and streamline the process for applicants, grants are prioritized in accordance with rating criteria of the current DWSRF Program. For WSAGF purposes only, up to thirty (30) extra points are added to the VDH rating criteria relative to the Stress Index rank. Preference is given to community waterworks. This priority system ensures that all eligible acute or chronic health/SDWA compliance projects are funded before any other eligible project.

The VDH's [WSAGF Program Guidelines](#) describes the features of the above opportunities for funding.

You may request the applications or Program Guidelines from us by writing, calling, or faxing at the above address. The applications are also accessible on our web site <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinkingwater/financial>.