



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MAIL CODE 401-02B

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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Commissioner

September 23, 2019

NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND INTENDED USE PLAN

Dear Interested Party:

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has prepared the following document for the administration of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019/State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:

Proposed Amendments to the Final Federal Fiscal Year 2019/ State Fiscal Year 2020 Intended Use Plan

The Intended Use Plan (IUP) must be developed by the Department, undergo a public participation process and be approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the Department to be awarded its capitalization grants used to finance water infrastructure projects.

In March 2019, the Department finalized the Drinking Water (DW) IUP for FFY2019, along with the DW IUP for FFY2018 and the Clean Water (CW) IUP for FFY2018, after a public comment period. The FFY2019 CWSRF IUP was proposed and finalized in a separate document. The Final documents are posted on the Department's web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cwpl.htm> .

The March 2019 DW IUP included changes to fund projects based on project rank (vs. readiness-to-proceed), to ensure the highest priority (those impacting public health) projects would be funded with the available funds. The Department stated in the March 2019 DW IUP that for those projects that received an authorization to advertise after July 31, 2018, the Department will be determining financing availability and loan terms in priority ranked order in the Spring 2020 based on available funds.

However, uncertainty regarding funding and delays until Spring 2020 have posed challenges to drinking water systems that need these funds to move forward to address priority public health projects including MCL violations and Lead Action Level Exceedances (ALEs). Therefore, the

NJDEP is amending the FFY2019 DW IUP to establish timelines that will allow projects in the fundable range to move forward prior to Spring 2020. In addition, since the demand for drinking water funds for FFY2019 has been much higher than anticipated and exceeds the current amount of available funds, the Department is proposing to add a funding cap of \$25 million per applicant per year for publicly-owned water systems to ensure that the limited funds are distributed among multiple high priority projects. The project cap will not apply to projects over \$25 million that received an Authorization to Advertise for any portion of their project by September 1, 2019.

A hearing on the Proposed FFY2019 DWSRF IUP will be held at the offices of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, 401 E. State Street, Trenton, New Jersey, in the 1st Floor Public Hearing Room, on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. The hearing will commence at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. or the end of testimony (whichever is sooner). Presentations may be made orally or in writing; if written testimony is prepared, the oral presentation should be limited to a summary of the text. The period for submitting written comments on the proposal will close on October 8, 2019 (all comments must be received by that date). All comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period will be considered prior to finalizing the revised timelines in the FFY2019 DWSRF IUP.

Written comments on the **DWSRF IUP** should be sent to the following address:

Mail Code 401-04Q
Patricia L. Gardner, Director
Division of Water Supply and Geoscience
PO Box 420
401 East State Street, 4th Floor, West Wing
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

Or

watersupply@dep.nj.gov with “DWSRF Comments” in the subject line

The Proposed Priority System documents are posted on the Department’s web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cwpl.htm> .

If you have any questions regarding the DWSRF IUP, please contact the following Department staff below:

Linda Doughty	Drinking Water SRF Project List and Policies	609-292-5550
Kristin Tedesco	Drinking Water SRF Project List and Policies	609-292-5550

Sincerely,



Patricia Gardner, Director
Division of Water Supply and Geoscience