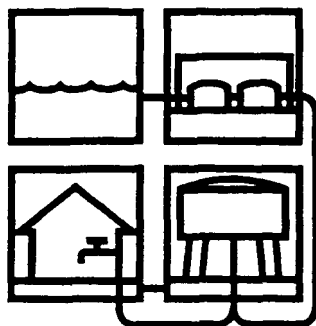




Fact Sheet

1995 SRF Needs Survey For Drinking Water



1995 SRF NEEDS SURVEY FOR DRINKING WATER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preparing to launch its first nationwide survey of drinking water systems' infrastructure investment needs. EPA wants to know how much money drinking water systems nationwide will have to invest in order to comply with current and future federal regulations, replace aging infrastructure, and consolidate with or acquire neighboring systems. Data gathering is expected to begin in November 1994 and end in August 1995. The results will be made public in a Report to Congress slated for release in February 1996. The survey results will be used to allocate State Revolving Fund (SRF) monies to the States. The States will lend the funds to drinking water systems that are making improvements to their infrastructure.

Why Is EPA Conducting This Survey?

Congress is expected to reauthorize the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) later this year. The reauthorized SDWA is likely to contain provisions for an SRF, which will be administered by EPA and the States. The SRF will provide a pool of money for each State to lend, at low interest, for improvements to drinking water systems. State SRF allocations will be based on the survey's results so that allocations to States will be in proportion to the infrastructure investment needs of their drinking water systems.

How Much Money Will Be Available?

Congress already has appropriated \$599 million for SRFs in FY 1994. It plans to appropriate \$700 million in FY 1995 and up to \$1.0 billion annually from FY 1996 to FY 2000. EPA expects the 1995 SRF Needs Survey results will be used to allocate funds beginning in FY 1997. Money will be distributed based on number of water systems and service population in 1994 - 1996.

How Will The Survey Be Conducted?

The Agency will send survey questionnaires to each of the nation's approximately 700 large systems (serving 50,000+ persons) and to some 2,200 randomly selected medium-sized systems (serving 3,301 to 50,000 persons). EPA plans half-day visits to approximately 600 randomly selected small drinking water systems (serving 25 to 3,300 persons each) nationwide to gather data. Systems on Indian lands and systems that serve Alaskan Native Villages also will be included in the project.

Will The States Participate In The Survey?

Yes. The drinking water programs of every State in the nation have agreed to participate. EPA is asking them to provide technical support to systems filling out survey questionnaires. State personnel will be invited to participate in site visits to gather survey information directly from small drinking water systems.

What Information Will The Survey Collect?

Systems will be asked to summarize their current capital improvement needs and their projected capital investment requirements through calendar year 2015. These summaries will include all costs related to compliance with the SDWA. This includes the costs of source maintenance or creation, treatment, storage, transmission, and distribution.

How Will EPA Use The Survey Information?

EPA will analyze the data collected from more than 3,000 drinking water systems across the country to generate nationwide estimates of drinking water investment needs. These estimates, in turn, will be used to apportion SRF funds among the States beginning in FY 1997.

What Is The Survey Schedule?

EPA plans to gather survey data between November 1994 and August 1995. The Agency will publish the survey data and its analysis of the data in a Report to Congress in February 1996.

How Can I Get More Information About The Survey?

For more information about EPA's 1995 SRF Needs Survey, you can call the Survey Help Line at 1-(800) 95-NEEDS [1-(800) 956-3337] or contact:

Clive Davies, Survey Manager
Mail Code: 4604
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
401 M Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20460

You can also contact the nearest regional EPA office as listed here.

1995 SRF Needs Survey Contacts			
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