

State of Vermont
Intended Use Plan for the Drinking Water
State Revolving Fund
Federal Fiscal Year 2010

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1. Introduction

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) established the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The State of Vermont's allotment for the DWSRF is \$13,573,000 for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010. This money can be used for a wide variety of activities, including public water system infrastructure improvements, source water protection, and water system management enhancements.

The SDWA requires that each state prepare an Intended Use Plan (IUP) each fiscal year that details how the DWSRF money will be used. Once the IUP has undergone public comment, it is submitted along with other supporting documents to the regional United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office. These various documents comprise the capitalization grant request for the DWSRF. While a wide variety of state agencies are involved in the process, the Water Supply Division (WSD) of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for preparing and submitting all of these documents. The WSD is also responsible for the implementation of the various policies and procedures that are followed as part of the DWSRF, including the assurances and certifications contained in the capitalization grant request.

This intended use plan is for FFY10 federal funding of \$13,573,000, a state match of \$2,714,600, and available loan repayment and fund interest. Information is also provided on prior years' funds and progress in meeting short- and long-term goals in the biennial report.

2. Short and Long Term Goals

2.1. Short Term Goals and Objectives

1. Secure the State's fifteenth capitalization grant to finance improvements for public water systems.
2. Administer a DWSRF program for projects that have been determined to be the highest priority to address contamination issues that pose the most serious risk to human health.
3. Provide loans to assist eligible public water systems listed in the IUP and priority list for projects to ensure compliance with the SDWA requirements and maintain and/or improve drinking water quality.
4. Provide loans to municipally owned and privately owned non-profit community water systems with populations of fewer than 10,000 people for conducting feasibility studies, preliminary engineering and final designs for water system improvements.
5. Provide loans to municipalities for purchasing land or conservation easements in order to protect public water sources and ensure compliance with drinking water regulations.
6. Promote capacity development by completing infrastructure improvement plans for small community water systems and schools through contracts.
7. Actively promote and pursue funding for all eligible systems, especially systems serving disadvantaged communities and systems with populations of fewer than 10,000 (small systems) that do not have adequate technical, managerial, or financial resources to come into or maintain compliance, and to provide safe drinking water.
8. Ensure that at least 15% of the DWSRF Project Fund Account provides loan assistance to small systems on an annual basis.
9. Continue the Vermont Source Water Protection Program.

10. Provide effective program management and resources to ensure the integrity of the DWSRF.
11. Coordinate DWSRF activities with enforcement activities of the State and EPA.
12. Continue implementation of the statewide strategy to improve capacity for existing public water systems and assure capacity for new public water systems.
13. Use DWSRF set-aside funding to provide the additional resources required to manage the Vermont Drinking Water Program.
14. Continue programs to encourage participation of small water systems in the loan program.
15. Integrate Green Infrastructure funding into the DWSRF Program in accordance with federal guidelines.

2.2. Long Term Goals and Objectives

1. Through effective management, provide a self-sustaining funding program that will assist public water systems in achieving compliance with the SDWA, maintaining the public health objectives of the SDWA, and ensuring the public has safe drinking water.
2. Maintain the fiscal integrity of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and comply with generally accepted government accounting standards to assure continuance of loan funds for future generations.
3. Provide funding assistance to eligible public water systems for eligible projects associated with the improvement and maintenance of water treatment, storage and distribution facilities, and for consolidation or interconnection of water systems to improve service or develop capacity.
4. Use set-asides to improve source water protection and assessment efforts by providing technical and financial assistance.
5. Continue to update, develop, and implement administrative rules and guidance for carrying out the DWSRF program.
6. Continue to update, develop, and implement the capacity development strategy for existing systems.
7. Continue providing operator training by WSD staff and through grants and/or contracts with third party technical assistance providers.

3. Public Participation

The Water Supply Division recognizes that public participation and the persistent cultivation of stakeholder interests is an integral element in the development of an effective program. The public participation component in the development of this IUP is a continuation of previous comprehensive efforts. Public meeting locations are handicapped accessible. The WSD will continue to cultivate and encourage public participation in the development of the IUP. In brief, the procedure for public participation in the development of this IUP included the following notifications and meetings. Copies of the public participation documents are in Section 8.

3.1. Notification of Application Form Availability

Initial notification by postcard (see Section 8.1) to apply for inclusion in the 2010 Projects Priority List (PPL) was sent out in December 2010 to all Vermont public water systems,

consultants, and other stakeholders. The postcard also provided notice for the upcoming public meeting on the IUP, the deadline to file a PPL application, and information on how to access the application form on the Water Supply Division website. The application form and attached instructions state that information provided by applicants will be used to make preliminary determinations on project eligibility; project priority; water system financial, administrative, and technical capacity; and to determine loan lending rates consistent with federal and state legislation. Completed PPL applications were due by January 21, 2011. The public notice also informed applicants that the public meeting would be conducted by the WSD in order to obtain public comment on the PPL and all other elements of the IUP.

On February 4, 2011, applicants, engineering consultants and other interested parties were contacted via email and notified that the draft priority list was available. On February 18, 2011, another email was sent to the same recipients requesting additional information for projects potentially eligible for the Green Project Reserve by completing a short form as well as a business case guidance document (see Section 8.2). Additionally, a priority point breakdown by category of the points awarded to each project was included so applicants and their engineering consultants could review the detailed breakdown for scoring accuracy.

3.2. Direct Contacts

Throughout the year WSD staff made contact with the most needy and high priority water systems to encourage them to apply to be included in the PPL. Contacts were made via on-site visits and by phone. Additionally, water systems are routinely directed to the DWSRF by other WSD staff, such as staff conducting sanitary surveys.

3.3. Public Meeting Notices

In early February 2011, an email notice and draft PPL was sent to all systems that had applied and their consultants. All applicants were asked to look over the information for accuracy in the draft PPL and were encouraged to attend the IUP meeting. The meeting notice was also posted on the WSD website.

3.4. Public Meeting

A public meeting was held March 11, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Waterbury State Office Complex Summit Learning Center, Hazens Notch Conference Room.

3.5. WSD Website Posting

The draft IUP, which included the draft PPL, was posted on the WSD website prior to the public meeting. The Adopted IUP replaces the draft IUP on the Division's website, which follows submittal to EPA and closeout of the public comment period.

4. Financial Matters

4.1. State Match Provisions

Under the provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (Section 1452(e)), each State is required to deposit in the DWSRF an amount equal to at least 20% of the total

amount of the capitalization grant. This amount must be deposited on the date of, or before, receiving federal payments under the capitalization grant agreements. The State of Vermont's Capitalization Grant request for FFY10 is \$13,573,000; therefore, the amount of state match funds required is \$2,714,600. The state match will come from funds appropriated through the Vermont State Capital Appropriations Bill for State Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012.

An additional one-to-one state match is also necessary for the State Program Management Set-aside. This match can be an in-kind match for money spent on PWSS work in FFY93 and FFY10 in excess of the required PWSS match. No more than 50% of the in-kind match can come from the FFY93 money. The State of Vermont has determined that \$838,092 of excess state match was spent on PWSS programs during FFY10. Additionally, \$519,208 of FFY93 state match funds have been previously approved by EPA as eligible to use towards the one-to-one state match for the Program Management Set-aside. The total credited match is therefore \$1,357,000 for the state program management set-aside. The State of Vermont will submit documentation to EPA together with the Program Management Set-Aside workplan on the state match funds based on PWSS FFY93 and state expenditures during FFY10.

4.2. Funding Breakdown

The State of Vermont will have a total of \$16,287,600 in new funds for the FFY10 DWSRF Program. This includes \$13,573,000 in federal funds and \$2,714,600 in state match money. This amount is to be divided between set-aside activities and loans for water system facility improvements. Additionally, revolving fund interest earnings, loan repayments and uncommitted prior year revolving loan funds will be used to fund construction projects on the 2010 PPL, which is currently projected to total \$4,417,795.

4.2.1. Set-asides

The State of Vermont does not intend to take the full amount of set-asides allowed for in the DWSRF Federal Guidance. If all the set-asides were maximized, approximately \$4.21 million of the \$13,573 million would be allocated to them. Instead, the State is proposing to use \$3.597 million for set-aside activities, which is 26.5% of the federal grant and 22.1% of the combined federal grant and state match. This will allow the State to fund a larger number of high priority infrastructure improvement projects. More specific information on the use of the set-asides is provided in Section 6 of this IUP.

4.2.2. Facility Improvement Loans

The State is proposing to spend \$17,108,550 for construction projects. This amount includes \$9,976,155 of new federal funds, 2,714,600 of new state funds, and \$4,417,795 of carryover of prior year funds interest, repayments, and miscellaneous income. The 2010 DWSRF PPL (Section 9) identifies Anticipated Loan Recipients' projects with a total estimated cost of \$17,108,550, which is sufficient to provide loans to the top 22 projects on the list. If more loan funds become available during the course of the year, additional projects will be funded from the Comprehensive List (CL) consistent with existing bypass procedures.

4.3. *Payment Schedule*

EPA requires a payment schedule for planning the obligation of federal funds. A federal payment is defined as an increase to the ceiling in the Automated Standard Application for Payment System (ASAP).

Each payment is for the beginning of each quarter with planned commitments to be made through the end of that quarter. Except for the set-aside payments taken the first quarter, each payment must be obligated within one year of the payment date, in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996.

	Federal Fiscal Year		
Payment No.	Quarter	Date	Amount
1	2011-4	7/1/11 – 9/30/11	\$3,596,845
2	2012-1	10/1/11 – 12/31/11	\$2,000,000
3	2012-2	1/1/12 – 3/31/12	\$3,000,000
4	2012-3	4/1/12 – 6/30/12	\$4,976,155
Total			\$13,573,000

4.4. *DWSRF Disbursement Schedule*

EPA requires an estimated disbursement schedule for planning the outlay of federal funds. Below is the schedule for the new funding of \$13,573,000.

Disbursement Quarter	Amount	Disbursement Quarter	Amount
2QFFY2012	500,000	1QFFY2014	750,000
3QFFY2012	800,000	2QFFY2014	700,000
4QFFY2012	1,000,000	3QFFY2014	600,000
1QFFY2013	2,100,000	4QFFY2014	423,000
2QFFY2013	3,200,000	Total	\$13,573,000
3QFFY2013	2,000,000		
4QFFY2013	1,500,000		

4.5. *Criteria and Method for Distributing Funds for Improvement Projects*

A list of projects requiring loans is maintained by the Water Supply Division and updated annually. This list plus additional information submitted by water systems was used to develop a new PPL consisting of projects requesting loans from FFY10 funds (Section 9) using the project priority system described in Section 5.

Projects with a total cost that does not exceed the estimated funds available for the Priority List during this funding cycle are those projects designated with either a ‘C’, which denotes that a project is continuing from a prior year’s priority list or ‘F’, denoting a new project for which funding is available. These fundable projects are also referred to as “Anticipated Loan Recipients” (ALR). Available funds will be used for the first 22 projects on the list, subject to

Green Project Reserve determinations. Projects that are not ALR will be funded in priority order only if funds become available during the funding cycle through the bypass procedure described in the Priority System section (Section 5.3.7) or with additional loan repayments and fund income received and carryover funds available, if any, resulting from loan closeouts of prior years' projects. Projects that are ready to proceed but are not in the fundable range should notify the WSD in writing prior to the September 30, 2012 deadline. The ALRs are those projects with the highest ranking that comply with the following:

- As required in federal legislation, a minimum of 15% of the capitalization grant funds, or \$2,035,950 must be used for projects serving communities with populations of less than 10,000 persons. Currently, all ALRs in the Adopted PPL serve less than 10,000 people, so this requirement will be met without upsetting the priority ranking.
- As required in Vermont legislation, funds for private water systems cannot exceed 20% of the available funds, or \$3,421,710. There are currently six private water systems that are ALRs, which total \$2,136,250, which is within the 20% limit.
- As required in federal law applicable to the 2010 grant, additional loan subsidy equal to not less than 30% of the grant amount, or \$4,071,900, shall be provided in the form of grants, principal forgiveness or negative interest loans (or any combination of these). The total subsidy for the list of ALRs is intended to be met by providing up to 10% principal forgiveness to all loan recipients, or \$1,710,855, plus an additional \$25,000 in principal forgiveness for the Burke Town School project, plus an aggregated negative interest of \$2,473,480 for disadvantaged community projects, all of which totals \$4,208,335 in loan subsidy. If upon award of all the funds, the aggregate negative interest will be less than the required minimum amount, additional principal forgiveness will be provided to loan recipients to ensure total subsidy of at least \$4,071,900.
- As required in federal law applicable to the 2010 grant, loans totaling at least 20% of the grant amount, or \$2,714,600, shall be awarded to projects qualifying as "Green" to the extent there are sufficient eligible project applications.

State legislation provides specific guidance on loan interest rates and terms. The rates established for different types of loans in accordance with State and Federal requirements are outlined under the Program Description (Section 10). In addition, a preliminary loan rate determination has been made for each of the fundable projects on the List. Additionally, spring 2010 Vermont session law (Act 161 Section 35) authorized up to 50% loan principal forgiveness for projects funded with the 2010 federal grant.

4.6. Disadvantaged System

The State of Vermont recognizes the need to provide additional assistance to certain water systems beyond what the standard DWSRF construction loan program offers. The disadvantaged system program is intended to provide longer loan terms and principal forgiveness to water systems that have relatively low income and relatively high water user costs. Unlike the standard loan program, certain disadvantaged systems are eligible for debt forgiveness as a means of making a water improvement project more affordable.

4.6.1. Community Water System Disadvantaged Program

A community water system is considered disadvantaged when certain conditions are satisfied. First, the municipality in which the water system is located or the users of the water system must

have a median household income (MHI) below the average of the community median household incomes of the state. Second, the water system must have an annual household water user cost greater than 1.0 percent of the median household income after construction of the proposed water supply improvements, or, if the MHI is at or above the state average of community MHIs, the water system must have an annual household water user cost greater than 2.5 percent of the median household income after construction of the proposed water supply improvements. The median household income of the system will either be taken from the most recent federal census data for the municipality or be determined from the area served by the water system based upon the data gathered by an independent contractor hired by the applicant water system. The water system has the option of choosing which method is used to determine the median household income although the Secretary shall make the final determination. The cost of the independent contractor may be included in the total project cost. The user cost of the water system shall take into account the monies needed to cover the project cost, prior drinking water projects, and the estimated annual operation and maintenance costs as determined by the Secretary. Disadvantaged municipally-owned water systems and privately-owned nonprofit community water systems that have an MHI below the state average are eligible to receive assistance in the form of negative interest.

Projects will be ranked using the priority system. Based on preliminary information, estimated subsidies from the Disadvantaged System Program are included on the priority list. Disadvantaged systems are eligible to receive loans up to 30 years in length and receive interest rates of no more than plus three (+3) percent but not less than minus three (-3) percent. The interest rate cannot be less than that necessary to achieve the target annual household user cost of 1.0 percent of the median household income of the municipality in which the water system is located or of the users of the water system. To achieve the target annual household user cost, a mixture of debt forgiveness, standard DWSRF loan rates, and extended loan terms will be offered. First, disadvantaged systems will have the loan extended from 20 to 30 years provided that the funded project elements have a design life of at least the length of the loan term. If this action does not achieve the target annual household user cost, the interest rate will be incrementally reduced from plus three (+3) percent to zero (0) percent for systems that have an MHI at or above the state average to minus three (-3) percent for systems that have an MHI below the state average to achieve the target rate, except for privately-owned nonprofit community systems that serve fewer than 80% year-round residential connections. For these systems, the interest rate cannot go below zero. If a disadvantaged system's user cost still exceeds the target annual household user cost after receiving the maximum debt forgiveness, no additional loan subsidy will be granted. The provision for qualifying as disadvantaged with fewer than 80% year-round residents sunsets June 30, 2011. Since it is likely that no loan awards for FFY10 projects will be made prior to June 30, 2011, this form of disadvantaged system is not expected to be applicable to any FFY10 projects.

The application of the disadvantaged system program will be based on the best available information when the Department of Environmental Conservation approves the loan application. All other subsidies obtained from other institutions that will reduce the project and user cost shall be considered when calculating whether a system is disadvantaged or not. Normally, the total subsidy (negative interest plus principal forgiveness) for all loans cannot exceed 30 percent of the amount of the capitalization grant in any given year, with the exception so far for the ARRA

FFY2009 appropriation and this year's FFY2010 appropriation. If the full amount of subsidy is met in any given year, any remaining projects eligible for the program subsidy can either receive standard project loans for that funding year or delay the project so they may avail themselves of disadvantaged program funding in the future. The Secretary shall make the determination whether to defer the project based on public health and other factors.

4.6.2. School Water System Disadvantaged Program

Public funding for schools in Vermont is controlled by the State to ensure that all Vermont children have equal access to resources for education through high school. The complicated system of state wide property tax, property tax rebates and local school district property tax sharing requirements make all municipally owned school water systems equally disadvantaged and discouraged from making needed water system improvements. All municipally owned public school water systems are eligible for loan principal forgiveness under the disadvantaged program.

Projects are ranked in accordance with the priority system. Loans for water system improvements to schools have a maximum term of 20 years and an interest rate of 3%. To make school system water projects more affordable, up to \$25,000 of the principal of a construction loan may be forgiven when the following conditions are met:

- 1) The system demonstrates capacity;
- 2) The system is in compliance with the Vermont Water Supply Rule including any temporary operating permit or other compliance schedule;
- 3) A Department of Environmental Conservation construction permit has been obtained and all conditions of the construction permit satisfied;
- 4) Competitive procurement procedures in accordance with ANR requirements were followed; and
- 5) A Professional Engineer or ANR staff has verified the completed work.

More detailed guidance on eligibility and procedures is provided in a Water Supply Division Guidance Document. The standard ANR procedures for obtaining a loan must be followed and the system will not be eligible for principal forgiveness if the 30% limit on loan subsidies has been utilized by projects higher on the priority list.

4.7. Financial Status of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

As part of the Intended Use Plan, states must report on the financial status of their DWSRF. The first capitalization grant was awarded September 30, 1997 and the projected status of the fund at 7/1/2011, excluding ARRA 2009, is as follows:

Loan Award Transactions SFY2011	Loan Awards	Total Loan Funds	Federal Funds	State Match Funds	Fund Interest	Repayments and Misc.
Cumulative Awards and Funds Utilization at 6/30/10	(97,136,149)	97,136,149	69,769,331	17,625,909	1,999,859	7,741,051
Available Balance at 7/1/10		16,385,211	8,011,614	2,361,991	1,608,944	4,402,662
Transactions 7/1/10 to 12/31/0						
Funds Received		6,914,915	1,043,965	844,015	231,167	4,795,768
Net Loan Awards	(4,278,806)					
Transactions 1/1/11 to 6/30/11						
Funds Received thru 4/30/11		6,499,956	4,703,345	785,185	85,731	925,695
Funds Projected thru 6/30/11		229,069	0	0	50,000	179,069
Loan Awards thru 4/30/11	(1,999,800)					
Current Pending Loans	(7,177,261)					
Projected Loan Awards	(11,775,284)					
Cumulative Awards and Funds Received at 6/30/11	(122,367,300)	127,165,301	83,528,254	21,617,100	3,975,702	18,044,245
Carryover to 7/1/11		4,798,001				
Carryover for FFY10 Projects		4,417,795				
Projected Funds – FFY10 Grant and State Match		12,690,755	9,976,155	2,714,600		
Total Available Funds for FFY10 PPL		17,108,550				

Note 1: An amendment to the FFY09 grant transferred \$222,387 from the project account to the Program Management Set-Aside.

Note 2: Above federal funds balance is reduced by \$195 to reflect corrected amount of FY98 project funds approved by EPA.

Actual Plus Anticipated Funding Commitments by Priority List	
FFY 1997 Priority List	\$12,490,858
FFY 1998 Priority List	\$5,046,384
FFY 1999 Priority List	\$6,330,532
FFY 2000 Priority List	\$7,982,165
FFY 2001 Priority List	\$9,718,091
FFY 2002 Priority List	\$9,135,730
FFY 2003 Priority List	\$8,778,550
FFY 2004 Priority List	\$11,093,662
FFY 2005 Priority List	\$6,333,942
FFY 2006 Priority List	\$9,996,083
FFY 2007 Priority List	\$7,667,914
FFY 2008 Priority List	\$10,959,706
FFY 2009 Priority List	\$16,774,269
FFY 2010 Priority List (as Adopted)	\$17,108,550
Total Funding Commitments	\$139,416,436

Note: Commitment amounts for any given fiscal year's PPL is subject to change until all loans for that year are closed out and amounts are final.

Admin Fee Account	
Fund Balance 7/1/10	\$885,118
Fees Projected 7/1/10 thru 4/1/2011	\$344,272
Additional Fees Projected thru 6/30/11	\$20,000
Fund Balance Projected at 7/1/11	\$1,249,390

Total Loan Program Funds Projected at 7/1/11 – Excludes ARRA 2009 Funds (Obligated + Unobligated)			
	Federal	State	Total
FFY 97 CAP Grant	\$10,399,392	\$2,511,760	\$12,911,152
FFY 98 CAP Grant	\$5,505,827	\$1,424,260	\$6,930,087
FFY 99 CAP Grant	\$6,045,972	\$1,492,760	\$7,538,732
FFY 00 CAP Grant	\$6,241,580	\$1,551,400	\$7,792,980
FFY 01 CAP Grant	\$5,856,754	\$1,557,820	\$7,414,574
FFY 02 CAP Grant	\$6,264,100	\$1,610,500	\$7,874,600
FFY 03 CAP Grant	\$6,593,314	\$1,600,820	\$8,194,134
FFY 04 CAP Grant	\$6,391,744	\$1,660,620	\$8,052,364
FFY 05 CAP Grant	\$6,394,868	\$1,657,100	\$8,051,968
FFY 06 CAP Grant	\$6,129,679	\$1,645,860	\$7,775,539
FFY 07 CAP Grant	\$6,031,592	\$1,645,800	\$7,677,392
FFY 08 Cap Grant	\$5,925,927	\$1,629,200	\$7,555,127
FFY 09 Cap Grant	\$5,747,505	\$1,629,200	\$7,376,705
Subtotals	\$83,528,254	\$21,617,100	\$105,145,354
Cumulative Interest Earnings Projected at 7/1/11			\$3,975,702
Cumulative Loan Repayments Projected at 7/1/11			\$18,044,221
Miscellaneous Income Projected at 7/1/11			\$24
Total Funds for Projects at 7/1/11			\$127,165,301
Admin Fee Account Projected at 7/1/11			\$1,249,390
Total Funds			\$128,414,691

If loan repayments and fund interest earned during this funding cycle exceed the amount currently projected, additional projects on the FFY10 PPL will be funded. Additional information on funding will be included in our biennial report.

See Section 9.3 for a list of fund commitments for all pending loan approvals for prior years' projects.

4.8. DWSRF and CWSRF Transfer

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (Section 303) allow a state to transfer up to 33% of the DWSRF capitalization grant from the DWSRF to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or an equivalent amount from the CWSRF to the DWSRF. This transfer is at the Governor's discretion. Vermont does not intend to transfer any money between these funds, although the right is reserved to do so at a later date.

5. Priority Ranking System

The State of Vermont will continue to use a point system to prioritize the order in which eligible water supply projects that are ready to proceed will be financed. To be eligible, projects must maintain or facilitate compliance with the drinking water regulations or further the protection of public health, or qualify for the Green Project Reserve (GPR). The projects must also be needed and the proposed type, size and estimated cost of the project must be suitable for its intended purpose. Additionally, the water system must have or will have the technical, financial and managerial capability to operate the system in compliance with federal and state law and the system must not or will not be in significant noncompliance with the regulations. Projects on the list should anticipate needing the estimated funding during the next year. Projects will be phased if appropriate. Projects for final design are expected to submit a loan application together with a draft engineering services agreement prior to October 1st of the following year. Projects requesting construction funds are expected to advertise for bids prior to the October 1st deadline.

Priority in funding will be given to projects that address the most serious risk to human health, are necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Vermont Water Supply Rule (WSR), and assist systems most in need according to State affordability criteria. Examples of projects that might meet these goals include repairing or replacing aged infrastructure (e.g., install or replace/upgrade treatment, storage, or transmission facilities), water system restructuring such as consolidation of systems, or management changes to ensure technical, managerial, and financial capabilities of the water utility. Projects not eligible include operation and maintenance costs, future growth, fire protection, and laboratory fees for monitoring.

A separate list of qualifying GPR projects will be established in the adopted PPL to meet the 20% target to the extent we find sufficient eligible projects. Highest priority for GPR projects will be given to replacement of leaking pipes that meet the business case requirements for water conservation and/or energy savings.

Municipal projects to purchase land or conservation easements for the purpose of protecting public drinking water supplies and planning projects are also prioritized using this system. Separate priority lists will be maintained for each of the loan types.

5.1. Priority Ranking System Scoring Criteria

There are seven criteria used to prioritize projects. The criteria used will be determined based on the loan fund used to fund the project. Criteria one through five and seven (Section 5.1.1 through Section 5.1.5 and 5.1.7) will be used for the Revolving Loan Construction Fund and Planning Loan Fund and criteria 3 through 6 (Section 5.1.3 through Section 5.1.6) for the Source Protection Loan Fund.

The priority ranking system scores projects based on information submitted by water systems and from information in the WSD files. The seven criteria are:

1. System facility deficiencies to be corrected by the project (a weighting factor of 1.2 is applied for eligible schools and childcare facilities).
2. Physical consolidation of water systems.

3. Financial need/affordability.
4. Population.
5. Downtown center preference.
6. Source protection (only applies to Source Protection Loans funded thru the LASRF).
7. Security improvements.

Priority points assigned to projects are computed in the manner described below. Projects to extend existing water systems or develop new water systems to replace contaminated non-public water sources are assigned points based on documented information on water facilities serving a majority of the homes to be served. Points for such projects are only awarded for System Facility Deficiencies (Criteria 1, Section 5.1.1) and must satisfy the EPA requirement of addressing significant threats to public health.

5.1.1. System Facility Deficiencies

The points assigned to each required improvement reflect the relative public health risk and compliance concern of the deficiency being corrected. Points are awarded for the deficiency corrected by the project that addresses the highest health risk and compliance concern, and represents a significant portion of the total project cost. The Secretary may phase projects for priority scoring purposes when more than one deficiency is being corrected, the associated costs of correcting each deficiency is significant, and the relative public health risk and compliance concern of the deficiencies are significantly different. A weighting factor of 1.2 will be applied to the system facility deficiency category for qualifying schools and childcare facilities, because the people served by these types of facilities are considered to be at higher risk. Priority points are awarded for the following deficiencies:

	Deficiencies	Points	Description
A	Microbiological Contaminated Source	120	Project will replace a documented contaminated source.
B	Contaminants above MCL	120	Project will correct a deficiency resulting in water being delivered to consumers exceeding an MCL. This project may be a new source, replacement of contaminated equipment, piping, or treatment.
C	Unapproved source of water	110	Water system is routinely using a non Water Supply Division permitted water source that requires a boil water or do not drink advisory. The project may include a new source or approval of the existing unapproved source.

	Deficiencies	Points	Description
D	Action level above DOH and DEC established levels of concern for eight chemicals (benzene; carbon tetrachloride; vinyl chloride; dibromochloropropane (DBCP); 1,2 dichloroethane; 1,2 dichloropropane; hexachlorobenzene, and tetrachloroethylene)	100	Points will also be awarded for other chemicals when DOH expresses a similar level of concern. Project may include new source, treatment or removal of contamination source.
E	Inadequate filtration performance	100	Documentation of inadequate performance should be available. This deficiency applies to filtration to control microbiological contamination or treatment to reduce an MCL contaminant. Inadequate filtration or other equipment to control secondary contaminants does not meet this criterion.
F	No treatment under influence of surface water	95	These points are awarded in those instances when a source has not been determined to be microbiologically contaminated; a) applies in those cases.
G	Inadequate chlorination or disinfection facilities	95	These points would be awarded to projects where water systems are required to continuously disinfect and maintain chlorine contact time. A project to provide equipment, controls or storage for the contact time could receive these points.
H	Daily or routine water shortages	95	These shortages should require either water conservation measures by customers, water hauling or use of an emergency source.
I	Lack of standby disinfection facilities	90	These points could be awarded for all community and non-transient non-community (NTNC) water systems without these facilities.
J	Finished storage vulnerable to contamination	90	These points could be awarded to correct a deficiency such as a reservoir with a leaking roof or within a building that is not insect or rodent proof.

	Deficiencies	Points	Description
K	Lead and Copper corrosion control	80	These points may be awarded for treatment systems needed to correct lead and copper corrosion control problems.
L	Contamination below MCL	80	These points may be awarded if the project is being undertaken to treat or eliminate contamination of a regulated contaminant below an MCL.
M	Seasonal water shortages	70	These points may be awarded if a water system experiences water shortages seasonally requiring hauling or water conservation measures. Improvements may include new source, increases in pump sizes or mains or treatment facilities, or replacement of leaking water mains.
N	Routine pressure below 20 psi in distribution system	70	Points may be awarded if pressure falls below 20 psi regularly on a weekly basis. Project may include storage, pumping, source, distribution or transmission facilities.
O	Source vulnerable to PSOCs	60	Points will be awarded if project is being undertaken to eliminate potential sources of contamination of a water source.
P	Pressure under 20 psi during fire flow	60	Points may be awarded if pressures will drop below 20 psi in the distribution system during system expected fire flows. Project may involve storage, transmission, pumping or distribution facilities.
Q	Redundancy of critical components	50	Points may be awarded if project will provide redundant facilities such as pumps, sources, storage or treatment facilities.
R	Iron, manganese, and other secondary contaminants	50	Points may be awarded if project will eliminate or minimize secondary contaminant problems. Project may involve replacement of piping, treatment facilities or new source.
S	Inadequate finished storage construction	50	Points may be awarded to replace or repair storage facilities. Routine operation and maintenance costs are not eligible.

	Deficiencies	Points	Description
T	Inadequate transmission main	40	Points may be awarded to repair or replace transmission mains. Routine operation and maintenance costs are not eligible.
U	Inadequate finished storage capacity	40	Points may be awarded to provide additional storage capacity.
V	Inadequate pumping facilities	30	Points may be awarded to replace or repair pumping facilities. Routine operation and maintenance costs are not eligible.
W	Lack of reserve capacity	30	Points may be awarded to provide system reserve capacity recommended by the Water Supply Rule. Project may include source, pumping, transmission mains or treatment facilities.
X	Inadequate cross-connection control	30	Points may be awarded to correct existing or potential cross-connection problems.
Y	Inadequate distribution facilities	20	Points may be awarded to replace or repair distribution facilities. Routine operation and maintenance costs are not eligible.
z	Inadequate backwash	20	Points may be awarded to correct inadequate back wash facilities. Projects may include pumping, storage, and backwash disposal facilities.
aa	Routine distribution pressure below 35 psi	20	Points may be awarded if project will correct distribution system pressures below 35 psi. Project may include pumping, storage, or distribution facilities.

5.1.2. Physical Consolidation of Water Systems

The physical consolidation of small water systems is a major factor in the capability of small systems to protect public health and comply with Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. The following points will be awarded to projects that consolidate systems. Higher points are awarded to projects that will have a greater positive impact on compliance and protecting public health. Points are awarded for only one of the four sub-criteria. Points for this criterion are not awarded for projects primarily intended to extend existing or create new water systems.

Description (points received for 1 of the 4 areas only)	Priority Points
Consolidation of interconnection of community system lacking capacity	20
Consolidation or interconnection of community system	15
Consolidation or interconnection of NTNC systems	10
Consolidation of interconnection of TNC systems	5

5.1.3. Financial Need/Affordability

Affordability only considers income because it is the most fundamental predictor of a household's ability to pay and is represented by the median community household income statistic. Affordability is based on a comparison of state community median household income (SCMI) to the median household income (MHI) of the water system or of the town(s) in which the system exists. The SCMI figure is \$52,547 based on the 2000 federal census and inflated 4% per year beginning with the FFY 03 projects priority list. For water systems that encompass more than one town, the MHI is based on the weighted number of household connections in each town if the MHI is to be based on town figures. The formula for affordability involves first dividing the community water system MHI by the SCMI (\$52,547), and then multiplying this figure by one hundred (100) to yield a percentage. Different percentage brackets are then assigned points. Points for this criterion are not awarded for projects primarily intended to extend existing or create new water systems.

Affordability (Community MHI/SCMI x 100 = X)	Priority Points
X < 60	35
60 < X < 70	25
70 < X < 80	15
80 < X < 90	10
90 < X < 100	5
100 < X < 120	2
X > 120	0

5.1.4. Population Criteria

Priority points will be assigned to the system based on population. Small systems are generally at a disadvantage because of economies of scale (affects ability to do physical improvements, improve system capacity, etc.); projects for small systems have a greater impact on protecting public health and compliance with regulatory requirements than projects for larger systems.

Population	Priority Points
25 to 100	20
100 to 200	15
200 to 300	10
300 to 500	5
500 to 3300	3
> 3300	0

The point values for population will be multiplied by a factor of 3 for the set-aside planning loan fund to give higher priority to small systems. Population used for assigning points will be total population served including seasonal population. Populations for unserved areas will be total estimated population of the geographical area to be served. Points for this criterion are not awarded for projects primarily intended to extend existing or create new water systems.

5.1.5. Downtown Area Preference

The points assigned for this factor will give minimal priority to projects that improve service to designated downtown areas.

Downtown Area Preference	Priority Points
Project improves service to a designated downtown area	5

5.1.6. Source Protection Loan – Land Purchase or Conservation Easement

Sources must have an approved hydrogeologically delineated Source Protection Area and an approved Source Protection Plan prior to loan approval.

- a. Land location points are not additive. Points for the highest applicable improvement are counted.

Land Location	Priority Points
Project achieves isolation zone control	40
Project achieves primary recharge zone control	10

- b. Potential Sources of Contamination (PSOCs) addressed. Points are not additive, and are awarded for the highest applicable improvement.

PSOCs addressed	Priority Points
Project addresses microbiological PSOCs	20
Project addresses nitrate PSOCs	15
Project addresses primary inorganic or organic PSOCs	10

5.1.7. Security Projects

Projects receiving technical points “a” through “aa” above will be awarded the following additional points if the project includes security improvements.

Security Projects	Priority Points
Project is strictly a security improvement project.	20
Points may be awarded if project includes security improvements to water system infrastructure. Project may include fencing and gates, alarm and detection systems, lock systems or other security type improvements necessary for critical infrastructure protection.	5

5.2. Refinancing of Existing Facilities

The DWSRF construction loan program may be used to buy or refinance municipal debt including all obligations for DWSRF eligible projects. Under federal law, privately owned systems (both profit and nonprofit) are not eligible for refinancing. The long-term debt must have been incurred and construction must have started after July 1, 1993 to be eligible for refinancing. The use of DWSRF funds are intended to be first directed at proposed projects that address ongoing compliance problems or public health risks.

State legislation allows for loans to systems that incurred debt and initiated construction after April 5, 1997 at interest rates and terms comparable to those for new projects. Projects that have initiated or completed construction in accordance with DWSRF environmental and procurement requirements will receive priority ranking using the procedure described for new projects for the next two annual priority lists compiled following the initiation of construction. All other applications to refinance existing debt or fund completed construction will not be considered.

5.3. Construction Loan Fund Priority List

The fund provides construction loans to municipalities and certain privately-owned water systems for planning, design, construction, and repairing or improving public water systems to comply with State and Federal standards and protect public health. The projects that are ready to proceed in the Federal fiscal year October 1 - September 30 are assigned points in accordance with the Priority Ranking system scoring criteria. Project funding is based on priority score and the following considerations:

5.3.1. Projects Partially Funded in Prior Year

Projects that received partial funding from the construction loan fund in the current state fiscal year are placed at the top of the priority list. If there is more than one such project, priority order of these projects will be determined by priority score. Partial funding includes final design and/or partial construction. Planning and feasibility study loans are not considered partial funding. The water system must have submitted a loan application and Water Supply Division funding commitments must be made prior to July 1st to receive this consideration; projects that have received in excess of \$6.0 million for construction costs are not eligible.

5.3.2. Commingling of New Projects with Continuing Projects

At the Department's discretion, Continuing projects will be commingled with new projects receiving technical priority points in the categories a., b., and c. listed in Section 5.1.1, i.e., for a microbiological contaminated source, 120 points; contaminants above MCL, 120 points; and unapproved source of water, 110 points, respectively. New projects with technical points in one of these three categories will be commingled with continuing projects based on the total amount of points available for the project. The projects will be funded in priority order.

5.3.3. Tie Breaking Procedure

When two or more projects score equally under the project priority system, the higher total score under the system facility deficiencies criteria will be used as a tiebreaker. If the projects are still tied, the system serving the lowest population will be given priority.

5.3.4. Amendments

The state revolving fund priority list may be amended up to twice a year to consider updated or new information from water systems that have already been identified and ranked through the priority system public participation process and are listed on the Comprehensive Project Priority List. Amendments to the priority list will only affect the ranking of eligible projects; projects will not be removed from the Anticipated Loan Recipient category. A public participation process will be followed for any amendments to the priority list.

5.3.5. Funding Cap

All three loan funds have maximum annual funding limits. No more than the following amounts of funds available in any given year can go to a single project, except when there is a surplus of funds, or when the Secretary specifically approves an exception.

Loan Fund	Funding Cap
Construction Loan Fund	\$2,000,000
Source Protection Loan Fund	\$200,000
Planning Loan Fund	\$100,000

5.3.6. Bypass System

It is the intention of the state of Vermont to adhere to the priority list to the maximum extent possible. However, there are certain funding limits that could result in changes to the list. Also, the state recognizes that some systems may not be ready to proceed or emergency events could occur that would necessitate systems being bypassed in a given funding year. Anticipated Loan Recipients with a total cost of projects that does not exceed the estimated funds available during the fiscal year are identified in the Intended Use Plan.

5.3.7. Bypassed Projects

Bypassed projects in any given year may be eligible for funding in the next funding year. The projects will be considered for the following year's project priority list. Updated information on project plans and scheduling will be required. Projects that will be bypassed will receive formal written notification in advance of being bypassed.

Programs funded under the technical assistance and the local assistance set-aside will be used to assist bypassed systems with pre-project activities required for project approval and funding.

5.3.8. Bypass Mechanisms

5.3.8.1. Small Water Systems

A minimum of 15 percent of the DWSRF monies must go to systems serving fewer than 10,000 persons. Meeting this minimum funding requirement should not be a problem in Vermont since all but eight systems serve a population of fewer than 10,000 people. However to ensure compliance with this item, the projects on the list serving more than 10,000 people will be bypassed in any given year by the highest priority projects serving fewer than 10,000 people as necessary to meet the 15% funding requirement for the Anticipated Loan Recipients.

5.3.8.2. Private Water Systems

A maximum of 20 percent of the available funds can go to privately owned water systems. If necessary, privately owned water system projects on the list will be bypassed to comply with the 20% limitation for Anticipated Loan Recipients.

5.3.8.3. Financial Capacity or Readiness

Systems that have not demonstrated financial capacity (e.g., positive bond vote) or are not ready to proceed (i.e., do not meet schedules approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation such as feasibility and engineering studies, final design, construction or signed agreements) may be bypassed in any given funding year. In general, projects requiring bond votes with fund commitments will be bypassed if there is not a positive bond vote by March 2012. When projects not meeting the eligibility guidelines are bypassed, the highest priority projects not identified as Anticipated Loan Recipients will become eligible for funding, utilizing the monies made available. In general, new funding commitments will not be made after September 30th of the funding year. Any uncommitted funds identified after September 30th can be awarded to those projects outside the fundable range that have notified the WSD in writing prior to September 30th of project readiness and determined by WSD to meet readiness-to-proceed criteria. Such additional projects will be funded in priority order. Any remaining funds will be used to fund projects on the following year priority list.

5.3.8.4. Disadvantaged Community

Disadvantaged communities can elect to be bypassed if they are not able to receive principal forgiveness because the 30 percent annual maximum has been reached. The highest priority project(s) not identified as Anticipated Loan Recipients will then be selected for funding up to the dollar amount allocated to the bypassed project. Lack of funding does not alter the obligation of the bypassed system to comply with the SDWA and WSR regulatory requirements.

5.3.8.5. Emergencies

Systems either on or off the Priority List that experience an emergency resulting in an imminent and substantial threat to the public health may bypass all other projects and may be assigned top priority. Emergency additions to the Priority List will result in the lower priority projects identified as Anticipated Loan Recipients being bypassed. The number of projects bypassed will depend upon the amount of funds needed to cover the emergency. Projects that may be required to address such a health risk could involve installation of treatment facilities, construction of a new water source, or replacement of a failed system element.

5.3.9. Minor Changes to Fundable Projects

Once a project is determined to be fundable, minor scope changes that occur during project development or during construction may be eligible without having to re-rank the project. This will be acceptable provided the project scope includes correction of the facility deficiency that was the basis for the points awarded to the project on the adopted list.

5.4. Planning Loan Fund

The planning loan fund provides loans to municipalities and privately owned non-profit community water systems (other privately owned water systems are not eligible) for preparation of preliminary engineering planning studies and final engineering plans and specifications for water system improvement projects. Priority list applications for planning loans may be submitted at any time for projects that are ready to proceed. Proposed projects that are ready to proceed are assigned points in accordance with the priority ranking system scoring criteria and available funds are used to fund the projects with the highest scores. Initial funding commitments for new funding will be made based on priority list applications received on or before October 1st. Additional projects are funded in priority order as funds become available. A total of \$225,000 of planning loan funds will be reserved for funding projects later in the year. At the beginning of each quarter (January 1st, April 1st, July 1st), \$75,000 of this \$225,000 will be made available. Water systems are given 60 days to submit loan applications following notification of available funds. Additional time to submit applications based on a project schedule approved by the Water Supply Division may be authorized by the DWSRF Program Manager. Expenditures by the applicant prior to fund commitment by the Department are not loan eligible. Assigning points and prioritization of planning loans will only be implemented when planning loan requests equal the current balance of unobligated funds, consisting of prior years' allocations, loan repayments plus fund interest.

5.4.1. Planning Loan Forgiveness

Under certain circumstances up to \$50,000 of the unpaid balance of a planning loan to a municipality may be forgiven by the Secretary. Potentially eligible preliminary engineering and design cost forgiveness will be determined by DEC using DEC guidance documents (Engineering Fee Allowance Curve) and the completed documented construction cost eligible for revolving loan funds. The forgiveness criteria may be modified in the future based on operating experience. Procedures and eligibility criteria for planning loan forgiveness are detailed in a Water Supply Division guidance document.

5.4.1.1. General Eligibility Criteria

- 1) The system must demonstrate capacity.
- 2) The system must be in compliance with the Water Supply Rule including any temporary operating permit or other compliance schedule.
- 3) The system must be current on fee payments.
- 4) A construction permit must be issued and the requirements must be satisfied including O&M manual and as-built requirements.
- 5) The loan funding agreement must be signed following the effective date of legislation authorizing loan forgiveness (June 16, 2001).

5.4.1.2. Specific Eligibility Criteria

Projects must meet at least one of the criteria below to qualify for forgiveness.

- 1) Construction of the project was completed using non-Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds (DWSRF) and the project did not receive other state appropriated funds for project costs.
- 2) If the project serves a small population, the maximum forgiveness shall be \$25,000. Projects for systems serving populations of 300 or fewer shall receive 100 percent of eligible forgiveness. The percent eligible for forgiveness for systems serving 300 to 500 populations shall be reduced by 0.5% for an increase of one in the design population. Systems serving populations of 500 and above will not be eligible for any forgiveness under this criterion.
- 3) User rates exceed 2% of the median household income. The amount of forgiveness will be determined by increasing the forgiveness until the 2% target, the \$50,000 maximum, or the amount of the unpaid balance is reached. The annual planning loan cost to the municipality will be determined using construction loan terms and interest rates for DWSRF funded projects.

5.5. Source Protection Fund

The source protection fund provides loans to municipalities (privately-owned water systems are not eligible) for purchasing land or conservation easements in order to protect public water sources and ensure compliance with drinking water regulations. Priority list applications for land purchase or conservation easement projects may be submitted at any time for projects that are ready to proceed. The proposed projects are assigned points in accordance with the Priority Ranking System Scoring Criteria; projects are funded in priority order when funds become available. Water systems are required to submit a project schedule for approval by the Water Supply Division within 30 days of notification of available funding.

6. Information on Set-asides

The State of Vermont plans to set aside \$3,596,845 (26.5%) of the Capitalization Grant for various non-construction related activities that are authorized in the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. These activities are often vital to water systems so that they can develop and maintain the financial, technical, and managerial capacity to run their system effectively. A portion of the set-aside money will be used to develop and implement programs within state government necessary to implement the DWSRF and the SDWA Amendments of 1996.

The SDWA provides guidance for a variety of uses of the set-aside money. The set-aside money will be placed in separate accounts outside the Project Fund. The SDWA allows for transfers between the set-aside accounts, and from the Set-aside Account to the Project Fund Account, but not from the Project Fund Account to the Set-aside Account. The set-aside amounts and Project Fund amounts are the current best estimates of the funds required to complete the programs and projects described in the IUP. Transfers of funds between accounts and projects in accordance with EPA requirements will be made as necessary to accomplish the programs and projects described and efficiently and effectively use the available funds. The SDWA limits the percentage of the capitalization grant that can be used in each of these set-asides and whether the set-aside funds can be “banked” or reserved for future use.

6.1. DWSRF Administrative Set-aside

Up to 4% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Administrative Set-aside. The full 4%, \$542,920, will be taken for the various uses described below. The maximum 4% administrative set-aside has been taken each year. Expenditures are made from the earliest fiscal year funds available. Total administrative set-aside funding awarded through July 1, 2010 (inclusive of ARRA 2009 funds) is \$5,103,420. With the award of the base FFY10 funds, the total will be \$5,646,340.

The set-aside will be used to pay for approximately 3 FTEs within the Water Supply Division and fund the associated operating costs. These FTEs are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the DWSRF, including reviewing engineering contracts, ensuring that state and federal guidelines are followed, monitoring and approving funding obligations, environmental reviews, project approvals, preparation of the IUP and grant applications, preparation of reports, legislative testimony in support of the state match,

Funding from this set-aside for approximately 1.75 FTEs and associated operating costs will be utilized by the Facilities Engineering Division to support their roles in the DWSRF. Additional FTEs performing work in the DWSRF Program are funded through other sources. The Facilities Engineering Division is responsible for a variety of tasks, including, but not limited coordination/preparation of loan documents, maintaining project financial records, approving loan disbursements, completing project audits, inspections, managing loan closeouts, monitoring loan repayments, and managing compliance with Federal Cross-cutting Authorities, general program accounting.

As part of the financial administration required by Vermont Statute and federal guidelines, set-aside funds will be used for financial administration of the DWSRF. This money will go to other state agencies or authorities in accordance with Memoranda of Understandings contained in the FFY97 Capitalization Grant Application and subsequently amended. Briefly, these organizations consist of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, which is responsible for the overall fund and is a party to all loan awards to municipal applicants, and the Vermont Economic Development Authority, which is responsible for conducting creditworthiness reviews of loan applicants for privately-owned water systems and is a party to those loans.

6.2. State Program Management Set-aside

Up to 10% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Program Management Set-aside. The state is requesting to take \$1,357,300 or the full 10% of the grant for the Program Management Set-aside. The State Program Management Set-aside can be used to fund a variety of SDWA required programs, including emergency support and various federal Public Water Supply Supervision programs. This year's Program Management Set-aside funds will be used to fund Water Supply Division personnel costs.

6.2.1. Water Supply Division Personnel Costs

Amount - \$1,283,083

Description - The money will provide funding for approximately 13 FTEs and associated operating costs. Duties of the FTEs include capacity development, consumer confidence report assistance, adoption and implementation of new regulations, implementation of new and existing federal rules, source water assessment and protection, planning, outreach, data management, engineering and construction supervision, compliance supervision, DWSRF loan program administration, and other drinking water program activities.

6.2.2. Contract for Technical Services

Amount - \$74,217

Description – The WSD may contract for engineering assistance to provide technical support to public water systems to attain and maintain compliance with federal regulations, with particular focus on recently promulgated federal rules such as, LT2 SWTR, Stage 2 DBP, Groundwater Rule, and the Lead and Copper Rule.

6.2.3. Continued Activities Using Prior Year Funds

A number of programs described and funded under the prior IUPs are still active but do not require additional funding this year. These include Water Supply Division - owner/operator communications, group training and one-on-one technical assistance, Public Service Board user rate setting assistance, board member/owner's manual, consolidation assistance, emergency support, electronic permits & fees, SDWIS State, WSD personnel and operating expenses. If limited additional funding is required for some of these programs, funds will be transferred between the various program management set-aside activities.

6.3. Small Systems Technical Assistance Set-aside

The State of Vermont has chosen to take the allowed 2% of the DWSRF for the Small Systems Technical Assistance Set-aside and continue activities initiated with the FY 97 Capitalization Grant. The state is requesting the full amount of FFY10 funds available for this set-aside, or \$271,460. These funds will be combined with the funds remaining from previous grants to provide technical assistance to small public water systems.

6.3.1. Small Systems DWSRF & Capacity Assistance

Amount - \$129,500

The Water Supply Division will continue funding operator training through either grants or contracts with technical service providers. Previously, this activity was funded with Local Assistance and Program Management Set-Aside funds and we are now proposing to utilize the Technical Assistance funds for this purpose.

6.3.2. Technical Assistance Contract for NTNCs and TNCs

Amount - \$50,000

The Water Supply Division will continue to provide technical assistance to public non community water systems. This work will be accomplished through an engineering contract. The primary focus of this assistance is troubleshooting water treatment for TNCs.

6.3.3. GPR Assistance – Energy/Water Conservation Audits

Amount \$50,000

The Water Supply Division will contract with a qualified consultant or a technical service provider to conduct energy and water conservation audits of public water systems. These audits may provide the basis for subsequent loan applications for “green” projects that could potentially be included in the FFY2011 PPL as part of that year’s 20% Green Project Reserve.

6.3.4. WSD Technical Assistance

Amount - \$41,960

The Water Supply Division intends to allocate approximately 0.5 of an FTE to provide direct technical assistance to PWSs. It is anticipated that technical assistance will be part of the Division’s overall strategy for implementing the new federal ground water rule.

6.3.5. Continuing Activities

A number of programs described and funded under prior IUPs may be resumed, such as a multi-year engineering contract to provide operational troubleshooting assistance to small water systems. Additionally, we will reserve funds for possible renewal of the SRF assistance contract (services provided previously by the Vermont Rural Water Association). We will reevaluate after we have had an opportunity to judge the success of parceling out those services through several smaller scope contracts.

6.4. Local Assistance and other State Program Assistance Set-asides

States are authorized to take up to 15% of the capitalization grant for this set-aside. The authorized activities under this set-aside include a land acquisition and conservation easement loan program, a voluntary source water quality protection efforts loan program, establishment and implementation of a wellhead protection program, and technical and financial capacity implementation. No more than 10% of the capitalization grant can be used for any one of these authorized activities. The State of Vermont is requesting to take \$1,425,165 for this set-aside, which is 10.5% of the capitalization grant.

6.4.1. Capacity Implementation

Capacity implementation includes a variety of activities to support the development and implementation of technical, financial, and managerial capacity for public water systems. The Water Supply Division will allocate \$1,357,300 of the FFY10 grant to provide this assistance.

6.4.1.1. Planning Loan Program

Amount - \$1,153,705

The Planning Loan Program was established with FFY98 funds to make planning loans to municipally owned water systems serving populations of fewer than 10,000. The program was expanded to provide loans for both planning and final design and to authorize loans to owners of non-profit privately owned community water systems in October 2001. This program is part of the state capacity development strategy to provide assistance to small systems to conduct feasibility studies, preliminary engineering reports, and prepare final designs in order to comply with state and federal standards and protect public health. This loan program is described in more detail in the Program Description Section of this IUP and the administrative details were described in the initial workplan for this activity, which was included with the FFY98 EPA grant application.

The State of Vermont is proposing to increase available funds in this account by \$1,153,705. Current planning loan commitments, pending loan applications, and set-aside funding amounts are summarized below.

Summary of Planning Loan Set-aside Amounts	
Funding Year	Amount
FFY98	\$534,195
FFY99	\$300,000
FFY00	\$200,000
FFY01	\$500,000
FFY02	\$250,000
FFY03	\$225,000
FFY04	\$225,000
FFY05	\$225,000
FFY06	\$300,000

Summary of Planning Loan Set-aside Amounts	
Funding Year	Amount
FFY06 (Transfer from Source Protection Loan Fund)	\$400,000
FFY07	\$450,000
FFY08	\$500,000
FFY09	\$500,000
FFY10	\$1,153,705
Subtotal	\$5,762,900
Cumulative Net Other Funds (repayments, interest, miscellaneous projected at 7/1/11)	\$2,714,926
Total Funds	\$8,477,826
Total Commitments at 5/1/2011	\$6,713,243
Projected Commitments 5/1/11 to 7/1/11	\$300,000
Total Commitments Projected at 7/1/11	\$7,013,243
Projected Available at 7/1/11	\$1,464,583

6.4.1.2. Capacity Positions

Amount - \$203,595

Starting in the FFY 03 IUP, the State funded approximately 1.09 FTEs and associated costs as part of the capacity implementation program. We increased the FTEs to approximately 2.0 with the FFY 05 grant. In FFY 06, we added funding for another FTE in a temporary service position to provide direct assistance to systems with the preparation and implementation of the surface water treatment rules, with a particular focus on the Long Term 2 Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Stage 2 Disinfection By-products Rule. The SWTR position is now shown as a part-time position. FFY10 funds totaling \$203,595 will be allocated to fund approximately 2.3 FTEs and associated costs.

6.4.1.3. Ongoing Capacity Activities

Ongoing activities with prior year's funds include the Water Supply Division newsletter, the Source Protection Loan Program, asset management assessments contracts, engineering contracts to prepare O&M manuals, and other forms of technical assistance to public water systems.

6.4.2. Wellhead Protection Program

Amount - \$67,865

We are proposing to continue the funding of positions to implement the groundwater portion of the Source Water Protection Program. We are seeking to provide funding for approximately 0.75 of an FTE and associated costs. The funding for surface water protection activities performed by these positions is funded under the Program Management Set-aside. This program includes the review and approval of Source Protection Plans, creating and reviewing Source Water Assessments, reviewing Source Protection Plans as part of the Phase II/V waiver review process, and outreach and assistance on source protection.

6.5. Summary of DWSRF Set-asides for FFY2010

DWSRF Set-asides for FFY10		
Set-aside (Maximum %)	Funds Available	Grant Request
Administration (4%)	\$542,920	\$542,920
Technical Assistance (2%)	\$271,460	\$271,460
Program Management (10%)	\$1,357,300	\$1,357,300
Local Assistance (15%)	\$2,035,950	\$1,425,165
Totals	\$4,207,630	\$3,596,845

DWSRF Set-asides Summary (Includes ARRA 2009 Funds)					
Set-aside	Previous Funding	Current Year (FFY10) Funding	Total with FFY10 Funds	Expended as of 5/1/2011	Unexpended as of 5/1/2011¹
Administration	\$5,103,420	\$542,920	\$5,646,340	\$4,738,158	\$908,182
Technical Assistance ²	\$2,251,710	\$ 271,460	\$2,523,170	\$1,809,185	\$713,985
Program Management ³	\$9,561,067	\$1,357,300	\$10,918,367	\$8,349,533	\$2,568,834
Local Assistance	\$8,730,854	\$1,425,165	\$10,156,019	\$7,323,687	\$2,832,332
Totals	\$25,647,051	\$3,596,845	\$29,243,896	\$22,220,563	\$7,023,333

¹ Plans for use of unexpended funds are included in work plans; some of these funds are committed in grants, contracts, or loans committed to activities described in previous work plans.

² Vermont has reserved the right to take additional technical assistance funds from future grants. (ARRA FFY10 \$300,000)

³ Vermont has reserved the right to take additional program management funds from future grants based on the following authorization balances from prior grants:

FFY97:	\$927,458
FFY98:	\$592,130
FFY99:	\$226,380
FFY00:	\$275,700
FFY01:	\$48,910
FFY03:	\$177,410
ARRA FFY09:	\$1,730,000
Less Prior Transfer:	<u>\$(780,505)</u>
Total:	\$3,197,483

Note 1: The above ARRA Program Management (PM) Set-aside amount is \$1,730,000, which is the sum of \$975,000 plus a transfer of \$755,000 of unexpended Project Management Set-Aside funds to the Fund.

Note 2: The FY97 banked authority was \$1,105,880, but has been reduced by \$178,422 to the amount shown to reflect amendment to the 2009 grant, which was increased by \$222,387, \$43,965 of which was within the 10% allowable from the 2009 grant.

7. Program Changes

7.1. Changes to Planning Loan Forgiveness Criteria

We are proposing to modify the criteria for planning loan forgiveness by eliminating the planning loan forgiveness solely on the basis of proceeding to construction without SRF funding. All other criteria for planning loan forgiveness will remain the same.

7.2. Changes to Incorporate New Federal Requirements

The FFY2010 funds include several new requirements which will be implemented with this IUP and which are outlined as follows:

- Davis-Bacon wage rate requirements will continue to apply to all construction loans on the FFY2010 PPL. This requirement applied for the first time to the ARRA 2009 projects and was subsequently expanded to apply to all projects receiving loan awards after October 30, 2009.
- All loan recipients must obtain a D-U-N-S number prior to receiving a loan.
- 20% of the federal grant will be reserved for qualifying green projects to the extent there are sufficient eligible projects
- At least 30% of the grant funds must be provided in the form of additional loan subsidy.

7.3. Possible Future Changes to Priority Point System

Further review of the DWSRF priority system is planned this year. If changes are identified, they will likely apply to the FY2011 IUP. Program staff will be evaluating the current priority ranking system to determine if modifications are needed. Particular focus will be placed on comparing EPA and the Division's enforcement priorities to determine if those priorities optimally align with the current scoring methodology (primarily in the facility improvement category). Additionally, staff will evaluate if new point categories are needed in order to score projects that qualify under the GPR. This effort may result in the creation of new categories, renaming of existing, and adjustment to the points that are awarded.

8. Public Participation Documents

8.1. Request for Priority List Applications Postcard Text

VERMONT DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND REQUEST FOR PRIORITY LIST APPLICATIONS

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is now accepting priority list applications for placement on the 2010 DWSRF Project Priority List. The deadline for **2010 priority list applications is Friday, January 21, 2011**. Priority list applications can be downloaded online at <http://www.vermontdrinkingwater.org/DWSRFGuidanceDocuments/DWSRFPriorityListApplication.pdf> or can be obtained by contacting the Water Supply Division toll free in Vermont at 1-800-823-6500 or 802-241-3408.

Program changes associated with the 2010 priority list include a requirement to provide loan subsidy of at least 30% of the EPA grant amount, or an aggregated amount of \$4.07M. The subsidy can be in the form of negative interest, principal forgiveness and grants, which will be identified following preparation of the draft priority list. Additionally, to the extent there are eligible projects, we will maintain a separate Green Project Reserve (GPR) in the amount of \$2.71M for qualifying projects. The Water Supply Division intends to use the GPR to fund pipe improvement projects that address a documented water loss problem.

A draft priority list will be available on Friday, February 4, 2011. A public meeting to receive comments on the draft priority list and FY 2010 Vermont Intended Use Plan will be held on Friday, March 11, 2011 from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Summit Training Center - Hazen Notch Room at the Waterbury State Office Complex. Final written comments are due by Friday, March 25, 2011.

The meeting will be held in a wheelchair accessible facility. Upon request, the agency will provide interpreters, listening devices, auxiliary aides or other assistance that may be necessary to make this hearing accessible to all interested parties.

If you have questions about completing the application form or the loan program in general, please contact Bryan Redmond toll-free in Vermont at 1-800-823-6500 ext. 3408, direct at 1-802-241-3408, fax at 1-802-241-3284 or by email at bryan.redmond@state.vt.us. We look forward to assisting you with your water system improvement needs.

8.2. Green Project Reserve Solicitation

In February the documents listed in Sections 8.2.1 and 8.2.2 below were sent to applicants and their consulting engineers to obtain further information regarding potential project eligibility for the Green Project Reserve.

8.2.1. DWSRF 2010 Green Project Reserve Form

Does your water system improvement project seek to address water loss through waterline replacement or rehabilitation? If so, please provide an estimated cost for this component(s). Please note that a business case will be required for final eligibility- guidance is attached.

Yes:

Total estimated cost: \$ _____

Is the qualifying project split into multiple contracts?: _____

Total estimated cost of each contract(s):\$ _____

No: not eligible for GPR

Does your water system improvement project include other qualifying green infrastructure component(s) (see other side for examples of other qualifying green components)?

Yes:

Total estimated cost of other green components: \$ _____

No: not eligible for GPR



Water System Name/WSID _____

Authorized Representative _____

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Phone number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Other Green Project Examples

Energy Efficiency- capital projects that reduce energy consumption of eligible drinking water infrastructure projects

- Retrofits to pumps or treatment processes
- Leak detection equipment
- Onsite power generation (wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric)

Water Efficiency- improved practices or policies that deliver equal or better services with less water

- New or replacement of water meters or automated reading system
- Retrofit or replacement of water using fixtures, fittings, equipment or appliances, including a rebate program
- Leak detection equipment

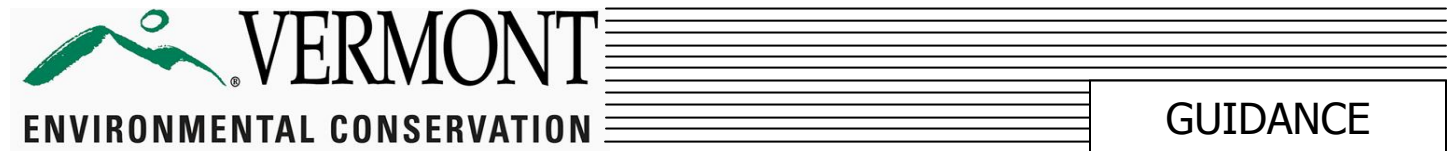
Green Infrastructure- wide array of practices that manage wet weather to maintain and restore natural hydrology by infiltrating and evapotranspiring and capture and using stormwater.

- Porous concrete
- Green roofs
- Bioretention

Environmentally Innovative- demonstrate new and/or innovative approaches to delivering services and/or managing water resources in a more sustainable way including projects that achieve public health and environmental protection objectives with the least life-cycle costs

- Projects or components of projects that enable the utility to adapt to the impacts of global climate change
- Projects, components of projects or planning frameworks within which project life cycle costs are minimize.
-

8.2.2. Green Project Reserve Guidance Document



Water Supply Division

Green Project Reserve 2010 DWSRF Priority List

Green Project Reserve (GPR) is a new component of our Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF). The law states "for FY2010, to the extent there are sufficient eligible project applications, not less than 20% of the funds made available under this title, to the State for DWSRF Capitalization Grants shall be used by the State for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative projects." To meet the requirements of the GPR, the VT DWSRF is proposing to focus its efforts on waterline replacement projects that address significant water losses and improve energy efficiency. While currently there is no additional subsidy being proposed for projects funded under the GPR, the primary benefit for a qualifying waterline replacement project is elevated priority ranking. Those systems wishing to be considered for the 'leaky pipe fund' must submit a business case addressing all of the identified components found below. The purpose of the business case is to provide a well documented justification for a project and will be used to determine eligibility for the GPR. Business cases will be reviewed by this office for completeness, accuracy and reasonableness/justification. Below is a recommended outline for a business case.

Green Project Reserve Type- Water and Energy Efficiency

Provide brief project description and basic outline of water and energy efficiency benefits.

Documents submitted and to be reviewed by the State:

List engineering reports, water audit summaries, leak detection reports, maintenance records, break history and other supporting documentation.

Leaky Pipe Technical Business Case Evaluation:

Provide technical analysis to justify eligibility for GPR.

The business case should identify:

- length, pipe material and age, diameter, and a general description of location within system
- if pipes are being rehabilitated or replaced
- the pipes being replaced are the primary source of water loss (if such data is available)
- any relevant break, repair or other maintenance records
- the means for determining water loss (source metering vs. individual metering of connections)

The business case should provide specific information on the basis for rehabilitation or replacement of the pipes covered in the project. This information should give a reasonable basis to expect that the pipes proposed for replacement are likely to generate the largest return in leak reduction for the size of the project. Thus, a pipe replacement project based essentially on useful life assessments, without more, would not be eligible. Finally, if energy efficiency is relevant to project qualification as 'green', the business case should provide any available documentation regarding expected increases in energy efficiency. Please refer to AWWA's guidance for further explanation and assistance on proper water loss calculations.

Financial Evaluation:

Include documentation and analysis to support the financial evaluation. The business case should identify the amount of real water loss related to daily production and relative lost revenue or increased cost to produce the water that is lost. Estimate cost and water savings from the project based on the technical analysis of the benefits.

For more information about draft DWSRF Project Priority List and a projects priority ranking, please contact Bryan Redmond, DWSRF Program Specialist, at (802) 241 3408 or bryan.redmond@state.vt.us. For information about the GPR Business Case contact Ashley Lucht, Capacity Development Coordinator, at (802) 241 3424 or ashley.lucht@state.vt.us or Eric Law, Project Development Specialist, at (802) 241 4656 or eric.law@state.vt.us. Additionally we can be reached toll free within Vermont by calling (800) 823-6500.

8.3. Responsiveness Summary

A responsiveness summary will be included in the Final IUP following the close out of the public comment period March 25, 2011.

	Question or Comment	Response
	<p>Comment was received to re-evaluate the priority ranking for the Barre City application.</p>	<p>5 points were added to the project because the project will improve service to a designated downtown</p> <p>Facility improvement points are not cumulative. Points are awarded for the deficiency being corrected that addresses the highest health risk and compliance concern, and represents a significant portion of the total project cost. In this case, 50 points were awarded for redundancy of critical components as this was the highest ranked health risk and compliance concern addressed by the project.</p>
	<p>Comment was received by Barre City to add the Nelson Street Hydroelectric generation project to their existing application and have requested the amount of the application to be amended from \$830,000 to \$1,200,000.</p>	<p>The additional scope has been added and the project cost updated.</p>
	<p>Comment was received to evaluate the need to add scoring criteria for projects that address an imminent system vulnerability.</p>	<p>We will consider a possible change. It is too late in the process to make changes to this years' priority ranking system but we will evaluate the change and potentially incorporate into the 2011 Intended Use Plan. This type of change would most likely be addressed by expanding the program's definition of emergency project to include imminent system vulnerabilities or could also be addressed by using a weighting factor to the facility improvement points for these type of projects.</p>
	<p>Request to add Town of Barre to the comprehensive priority list.</p>	<p>The application has been added.</p>
	<p>Please revise Ascutney FD #2's total project cost from \$760,000 as indicated in the draft list to \$7,600,000.</p>	<p>Change has been made.</p>

	Question or Comment	Response
	Request to add Kettlebrook’s water system improvement project to the comprehensive priority list.	The application has been added.
	Request to add the Village of Northfield’s water system improvement project to the comprehensive and Green Project Reserve priority lists.	The applications have been added to both lists.
	The Division should consider adopting a policy in the 2010 IUP to apply the additional subsidy associated with 2010 grant to those projects that will be treated continuing in 2011.	The subsidy provisions in the 2011 grant are expected to be the same as the 2010 based on recent discussions with EPA; however, how it is to be administered will be determined in the 2011 IUP.
	The City of St. Albans has filed an application to reconstruct their South Reservoir which didn’t rank very high in priority points. The dam has been determined to be in poor condition and is considered a Class 2 “significant hazard” structure. This type of project does not fit very well into the existing priority ranking system. What can be done to move this higher on the list?	Rehabilitation of dams is not eligible for financing through the DWSRF. However, rehabilitation of reservoirs could be eligible provided the reservoir is part of the treatment process and are located on the property where the treatment facility is located.
	Comment was received from VRWA demonstrating support for numerous set asides activities and recommending future support for several others. In particular, VRWA recommends the reintroduction of the contract for technical services.	The DWSRF is currently evaluating program needs to identify if there is a need to reintroduce a technical services contract and what the scope of services of that contract would be. There are set-aside funds reserved for these types of activities from previous years’ Intended Use Plans.

9. Projects Priority Lists and Anticipated Loan Recipients - Construction Loans

9.1. Comprehensive List – New Funding Commitments

State of Vermont Comprehensive Project Priority List
 2010 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Capitalization Grant
 Total Funding Available \$17,108,550
 Last Revision Date 5/6/2011

Points	Funding Status	WSID	WS Name	Pop.	Project Description	Loan Amount	Rate	Term	Cumulative Total
133	C	5212	CASTLETON FIRE DISTRICT 1	1940	Construction of a new water storage tank, water main replacement, construction of new transmission main loop connecting South Street with Sand Hill Road	\$0	-3.00%	30	\$0
130	C	5228	PROCTOR WATER DEPT	2000	Improvements include comprehensive source, storage, treatment, and distribution system improvements to address system deficiencies associated with disinfection byproducts and substandard water pressure.	\$2,000,000	3.00%	29	\$2,000,000
125	C	5127	SHELDON WATER SYSTEM	300	Interconnection of Sheldon Village and Sheldon Springs water systems, construction of new water storage and booster pump station.	\$650,000	-3.00%	30	\$2,650,000
118	C	5136	ALBURG VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM	576	Upgrade of water treatment facility.	\$460,000	-3.00%	30	\$3,110,000
118	C	5170	BRADFORD VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM	1512	Construction of new water storage tank, building replacement and mechanical improvements to existing well pump station, water distribution system improvements, and improvements to the Fairground Road booster system.	\$2,000,000	-3.00%	30	\$5,110,000
115	C	5132	SWANTON VILLAGE WATER	4394	Upgrade water treatment plant.	\$2,000,000	3.00%	20	\$7,110,000
112	C	5010	VERGENNES PANTON WATER DISTRICT	5080	Complete upgrade of the water treatment facility.	\$0	3.00%	20	\$7,110,000
135	F	5140	COOPERS MHP	75	Water distribution system replacement and connection to the Grand Isle Consolidated Water District.	\$225,000	3.00%	20	\$7,335,000

Points	Funding Status	WSID	WS Name	Pop.	Project Description	Loan Amount	Rate	Term	Cumulative Total
135	F	5243	SOUTH WALLINGFORD CO	80	Water source, storage, and distribution system improvements; and addition of new disinfection facilities.	\$408,000	-3.00%	30	\$7,743,000
135	F	5110	AQUA HAVEN	150	New water storage reservoir and decommissioning existing reservoir, upgrade controls, new security fencing, and new hydrants.	\$383,500	3.00%	20	\$8,126,500
133	F	2396	KILLINGTON MOUNTAIN SCHOOL	91	Construction of new well source, well pump and piping, storage tank, booster system and controls, and disinfection system to replace existing water system serving Killington Mountain School.	\$35,000	3.00%	20	\$8,161,500
130	F	20562	NORTH HERO WATER SYSTEM	1800	Improvements at the water treatment facility and a new 0.4 MG distribution storage tank to address disinfection byproducts.	\$1,500,000	0.00%	20	\$9,661,500
128	F	5539	MOUNTAIN GREEN CONDOMINIUM	1300	Installation of treatment for Radium, Iron, Manganese, and pH adjustment. Chlorine disinfection will be brought up from vault and housed in new treatment building. Project also includes replacement of existing water storage tank.	\$550,000	3.00%	20	\$10,211,500
128	F	6658	BURKE TOWN SCHOOL	225	Installation of disinfection system and other miscellaneous improvements to achieve compliance with the Water Supply Rule.	\$211,200	3.00%	20	\$10,422,700
125	F	5104	BLOOMFIELD WATER SYSTEM	50	Replacement of water storage tank roof , interior platform, and upgrade of disinfection system.	\$40,000	3.00%	20	\$10,462,700
125	F	6624	PUTNEY SCHOOL	209	Upgrade of existing water system to replace pumping and storage components which are in poor condition, provide adequate disinfection capability, and provide centralized pumping, control, and treatment.	\$500,000	3.00%	20	\$10,962,700
123	F	20614	GRAND ISLE CONSOLIDATED WATER DISTRICT	1365	Building addition and treatment plant upgrade to address disinfection byproducts.	\$875,000	0.00%	20	\$11,837,700
120	F	5115	EAST BERKSHIRE WATER COOP	184	Water system upgrade to address significant deficiencies in the system as identified in the 2010 sanitary survey.	\$418,250	3.00%	20	\$12,255,950
120	F	21320	ASCUTNEY FD #2	*	Construction of new municipal water mains and storage to replace existing private water system.	\$2,000,000	3.00%	20	\$14,255,950

Points	Funding Status	WSID	WS Name	Pop.	Project Description	Loan Amount	Rate	Term	Cumulative Total
120	F	5403	FAIRFAX FIRE DISTRICT 1	80	Development of new water source and water line replacement.	\$138,000	3.00%	20	\$14,393,950
120	NF	21241	BRIERWOOD MHP	85	Replacement of water distribution system and service connections.	\$500,000	3.00%	20	\$14,893,950
113	NF	21319	KILLINGTON TOWN	*	Construction of a new municipal water system to serve the Killington Road area.	\$2,000,000	3.00%	20	\$16,893,950
112	NF	5094	ST GEORGE ESTATES WATER COOP	72	Project will address inadequate storage volume and undersized lines, replacement of existing below grade pit, extension of well casing, and O&M manual.	\$200,000	3.00%	20	\$17,093,950
112	NF	21208	KILLINGTON GATEWAY II	73	Replacement of existing booster pump and chlorination facilities with a new booster pump system controlled by variable frequency drives, replacement of water storage tank, and disinfection system.	\$100,000	3.00%	20	\$17,193,950
110	NF	5028	READSBORO VILLAGE	440	Water transmission and distribution system improvements, filtration and treatment plant improvements, install in-house booster system at one residence, and repair existing reservoir roof.	\$1,500,000	-0.97%	30	\$18,693,950
110	NF	20964	SOUTH ALBURG FIRE DISTRICT 2	25	Provide water transmission and distribution mains to most areas in South Alburgh Fire District #2. Supply proposed to come from a connection with the Village of Alburgh.	\$2,000,000	3.00%	20	\$20,693,950
108	NF	5106	CANAAN FIRE DISTRICT 1	970	Treatment system improvements for disinfection and sequestering. Improvements to source, storage, transmission and distribution lines, and consolidation.	\$1,450,000	-3.00%	30	\$22,143,950
107	NF	5261	CABOT VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM	250	Install 4,600' of water main and appurtenances to connect residents in Lower Cabot to the Town of Cabot water system to eliminate private water supplies that have been contaminated by an active hazardous waste site.	\$450,000	0.00%	20	\$22,593,950
105	NF	21202	BERLIN MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM	*	Construction of a new municipal water system to serve the Berlin Corners area.	\$2,000,000	3.00%	20	\$24,593,950
105	NF	5609	KETTLE BROOK CONDOMINIUM	420	Construction of new water storage tank.	\$360,000	3.00%	20	\$24,953,950
98	NF	5084	RICHMOND WATER DEPT	1000	Construction of chlorine contact facilities at the existing well site as well as cleaning or replacement of existing gravel pack well screen.	\$130,000	3.00%	20	\$25,083,950

Points	Funding Status	WSID	WS Name	Pop.	Project Description	Loan Amount	Rate	Term	Cumulative Total
98	NF	5566	TOWN of BARRE	1210	Review alternatives and construct system modifications to maintain adequate chlorine residual in the Millstone Storage Tank.	\$30,000	3.00%	20	\$25,113,950
95	NF	5221	EAST MOUNTAIN WATER CORP	34	Construction of water storage and/or booster pump improvements.	\$70,000	3.00%	20	\$25,183,950
85	NF	5333	SPRINGFIELD WATER DEPT	9800	Water main replacement, well house improvements, pressure reducing valves, zone boundary valving, and a 1.0 MG water tank	\$500,000	2.69%	30	\$25,683,950
85	NF	5070	HINESBURG WATER DEPT	2010	Connection of the Lyman Meadows water system to the Hinesburg water system.	\$300,000	3.00%	20	\$25,983,950
80	NF	5204	NEWPORT CENTER WATER SYSTEM	322	Rehabilitation of existing water supplies or development of a new water source to address historical water shortages.	\$200,000	3.00%	20	\$26,183,950
80	NF	5275	NORTHFIELD WATER DEPT	4000	Replacement of approximately 2590 linear feet of water main along Route 12 South.	\$714,600	3.00%	20	\$26,898,550
80	NF	5298	BELLOWS FALLS WATER DEPT	3700	Replacement of 8,900' of water main along Route 5.	\$2,000,000	-3.00%	30	\$28,898,550
80	NF	5016	BENNINGTON WATER DEPT	12000	Creation of new pressure zone which will include a water tower and booster station as well as 19,000 linear feet of new/replacement transmission main.	\$2,000,000	3.00%	20	\$30,898,550
78	NF	5198	GREENSBORO FIRE DISTRICT 1	551	Water main replacement, services, hydrants and gate valves and improvements to the water storage tank.	\$2,000,000	-3.00%	30	\$32,898,550
78	NF	5154	HYDE PARK WATER SYSTEM	590	Water line replacement including 13 service connections, replacement of booster pumps and two new pressure tanks.	\$180,000	3.00%	20	\$33,078,550
77	NF	5319	HARTFORD WATER DEPT	7600	Water main replacement, booster pump station and water storage tank improvements.	\$2,000,000	3.00%	20	\$35,078,550
75	NF	5254	BARRE CITY WATER SYSTEM	14000	Water main replacement on aging steel trestle, replacement of waterline/PRV and vault, and installation of a 25kW on-site hydroelectric generation system.	\$1,200,000	-3.00%	30	\$36,278,550

Points	Funding Status	WSID	WS Name	Pop.	Project Description	Loan Amount	Rate	Term	Cumulative Total
73	NF	5084	RICHMOND WATER DEPT	1000	Construction of new cast-in-place reservoir to provide domestic use and fire protection storage.	\$1,850,000	3.00%	20	\$38,128,550
73	NF	5084	RICHMOND WATER DEPT	1000	Construction of water main upgrades and appurtenances on Jericho Road.	\$675,000	3.00%	20	\$38,803,550
73	NF	5248	GRANITEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT 4	700	Solar panel installation at existing reservoir and security fencing.	\$60,000	3.00%	20	\$38,863,550
70	NF	6639	HARTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	500	Construction of new water tank and above-ground booster station controlled by a variable frequency drive.	\$150,000	3.00%	20	\$39,013,550
68	NF	5341	WINDSOR WATER DEPT	3300	Construction of standby generator and LP gas tanks for the Town's well pump.	\$350,000	3.00%	20	\$39,363,550
65	NF	5277	PLAINFIELD WATER SYSTEM	985	Approximately 2,500' of new water line in the Fowler Development to replace existing small diameter lines.	\$380,000	3.00%	20	\$39,743,550
65	NF	5045	ST JOHNSBURY WATER SYSTEM	5000	Replacement of three 1.0 mgd clarifier units.	\$1,900,000	-3.00%	30	\$41,643,550
63	NF	5084	RICHMOND WATER DEPT	1000	Construction of water main upgrades and appurtenances on East Main Street.	\$440,000	3.00%	20	\$42,083,550
63	NF	5084	RICHMOND WATER DEPT	1000	Water main upgrades and appurtenances on Bridge St., Depot St., Pleasant St., Baker St., and Tilden Avenue	\$750,000	3.00%	20	\$42,833,550
60	NF	5079	MILTON WATER DEPT	5333	Waterline replacement on Rugg Avenue, River Street, and Kienle Road.	\$460,000	3.00%	20	\$43,293,550
60	NF	5060	COLCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT 3	7733	Construct new 12" transmission main along Route 7 from Rathe Road to Severance Corners to provide a direct hydraulic connection between the storage tank on Water Tower Hill and the Town's designated growth center.	\$1,100,000	3.00%	20	\$44,393,550
60	NF	5130	ST ALBANS WATER DEPT	9956	Improvements to the South Reservoir.	\$1,200,000	3.00%	20	\$45,593,550

Points	Funding Status	WSID	WS Name	Pop.	Project Description	Loan Amount	Rate	Term	Cumulative Total
60	NF	5360	KILLINGTON GATEWAY	140	Replacement of existing below grade facility with a new booster pump system controlled by variable frequency drives, disinfection system, and new water storage tank.	\$100,000	3.00%	20	\$45,693,550
60	NF	20820	GREEN LANTERN MHP	144	Replacement of water line and meter vault to provide a structurally sound, passively drained vault with safe access and installation of a blow off at a dead end line.	\$50,000	3.00%	20	\$45,743,550
57	NF	5114	BAKERSFIELD FIRE DISTRICT 1	446	Development of a new water source.	\$200,000	3.00%	20	\$45,943,550
53	NF	5117	FAIRFAX WATER DEPT	1550	Development of a new water source for back-up.	\$200,000	3.00%	20	\$46,143,550
50	NF	5098	WILLISTON WATER DEPT	6848	Construction of 2,000' of new water main on Old Stage Road from Wildflower Lane north to Mountain View Road to create a new loop in the distribution system.	\$240,000	3.00%	20	\$46,383,550
50	NF	20308	STARLAKE VILLAGE LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION	50	Install standby generator and transfer switch, replace booster pumps, replace chemical feed pumps, replace well pump, and restore condition of treatment building and improve access.	\$34,000	3.00%	20	\$46,417,550
45	NF	5092	CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT	68000	Construction of a new 1.25 MG storage tank on Water Tower Hill.	\$1,600,000	3.00%	20	\$48,017,550
45	NF	5040	LYNDONVILLE WATER SYSTEM	4500	Replacement of aged water distribution pipes.	\$2,000,000	-3.00%	30	\$50,017,550
30	NF	5016	BENNINGTON WATER DEPT	12000	Replacement of 5,100 linear feet of water main on Northside Drive.	\$1,400,000	3.00%	20	\$51,417,550

Notes:

- 1) Total available funding is based on Federal Capitalization Grant, State Match, interest earnings, and other fund income.
- 2) Funding Status: C = Continuing Project, F = Fundable Project, NF = Non Fundable.
- 3) Final eligibility determinations will be made at time of the loan application review.
- 4) GPR eligibility determinations will be made at time of the business case review.
- 5) Interest rates and loan terms are preliminary estimates only.
- 6) Interest rates and loan terms for new water systems is initially set to 3%, 20 years and is subject to change as further information becomes available.
- 7) For multi-year projects that anticipate subsequent years of DWSRF funding, interest rate and term may change as the loan value increases.
- 8) Loan amounts are capped at \$2,000,000.
- 9) Point totals are subject to change as further documentation may be required to substantiate the priority points awarded.
- 10) Systems shown with asterisk in population column are proposed systems to consolidate existing public water systems but population is not yet established.

9.2. Green Project Reserve List

State of Vermont Green Project Reserve Priority List
 2010 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Capitalization Grant
 Total Funding Available \$2,714,600
 Last Revision Date 5/6/2011

Priority Points	Funding Status	WSID	WS Name	Pop.	Project Description	Loan Amount	Leaky Pipe Amount	Rate	Term	Cumulative Total
80	F	5275	NORTHFIELD WATER DEPT	4000	Replacement of approximately 2590 linear feet of water main along Route 12 South.	\$714,600	\$714,600	3.00%	20	\$714,600
78	F	5198	GREENSBORO FIRE DISTRICT 1	551	Water main replacement, services, hydrants and gate valves and improvements to the water storage tank.	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	-3.00%	30	\$2,714,600
77	NF	5319	HARTFORD WATER DEPT	7600	Water main replacement, booster pump station and water storage tank improvements.	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	3.00%	20	\$3,714,600
75	NF	5254	BARRE CITY WATER SYSTEM	14000	Water main replacement on aging steel trestle, replacement of waterline/PRV and vault, and installation of a 25kW on-site hydroelectric generation system.	\$1,200,000	\$371,000	-3.00%	30	\$4,085,600
65	NF	5277	PLAINFIELD WATER SYSTEM	985	Approximately 2,500' of new water line in the Fowler Development to replace existing small diameter lines.	\$380,000	\$380,000	3.00%	20	\$4,465,600
45	NF	5040	LYNDONVILLE WATER SYSTEM	4500	Replacement of aged water distribution pipes.	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	-3.00%	30	\$6,465,600
30	NF	5016	BENNINGTON WATER DEPT	12000	Replacement of 5,100 linear feet of water main on Northside Drive.	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	3.00%	20	\$7,865,600

Notes:

- 1) Total available funding is based on 20% of the Federal Capitalization Grant.
- 2) Funding Status: C = Continuing Project, F = Fundable Project, PF = Partially Fundable, NF = Non Fundable.
- 3) Final eligibility determinations will be made at time of the loan application review.
- 4) GPR eligibility determinations will be made at time of the business case review.
- 5) Interest rates and loan terms are preliminary estimates only.
- 6) For multi-year projects that anticipate subsequent years of DWSRF funding, interest rates may change as the loan value increases.
- 7) Loan amounts are capped at \$2,000,000.
- 8) Point totals are subject to change as further documentation may be required to substantiate the priority points awarded.

9.3. Prior Years' Pending Loan Commitments

Loan Awards/Amendments at 4/1/2011- Pending Prior Fiscal Years' PPLs		
Water System	PPL	Loan Amount
Cavendish Loan Amendment for Source Treatment	FY01	252,397
South Alburgh Fire District 2 Loan Amendment	FY04	483,064
Verdmont MHP (Waitsfield)	FY04	50,000
Waitsfield Elementary School	FY06	50,000
Royal Pine Villa (Pownal)	FY07	55,075
Castleton Fire District #1 Loan Amendment	FY08 & FY09	1,887,014
Elmore Water Cooperative	FY08	225,000
Twinfield USD 33 (Marshfield) Loan Amendment	FY08	3,386
Okemo Village HOA Loan Amendment	FY08	40,000
Springfield	FY09	2,000,000
Drumley's (Fayston)	FY09	185,000
Proctor Loan Amendment	FY09	1,134,620
Harwood Union HS Loan Amendment (Duxbury)	FY09	50,000
South Wallingford WC	FY09	408,000
Birch Landing Condominium (Plymouth)	FY09	400,000
Four Seasons of Early Learning (Greensboro)	FY09	100,000
Brookside MHP (Starksboro)	FY09	670,000
Orange Center School	FY09	50,000
Leisure Lodge Condominium (Winhall)	FY09	50,000
SEVCA Early Education Services (Westminster)	FY09	6,000
Kindle Farm Children's Services (Newfane)	FY09	25,000
Calais Elementary School	FY09	25,000
Grand Isle CWD	FY09	975,000
Brierwood MHP (St. Albans)	FY09	489,250
Bloomfield	FY09	16,000
Deerfield Valley Health Center (Wilmington)	FY09	45,000
Aqua Haven (East Haven)	FY09	383,500
Hartland Elementary School	FY09	150,000
Woodside Manor MHP (Hartford)	FY09	105,000
Swanton	FY09	1,461,978
Total		11,775,284

10. Program Description

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION VERMONT DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

The following is a brief and general overview of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program; official interpretations of policies and procedures may be obtained from the Water Supply Division (803-241-3400). The four sections in this Program Description are Construction Loans, Planning Loans, Source Protection Loans, and All Loans.

10.1. Construction Loans (*Planning & Design also eligible*)

10.1.1. Eligible Organizations

- 1) Publicly owned community water systems.
- 2) Privately owned community water systems.
- 3) Non-profit, Non-community water systems.

10.1.2. Eligible Projects

Nearly all water system improvement projects are eligible (new construction, renovation or replacement, or consolidation of systems) which will facilitate compliance with federal primary drinking water regulations or otherwise significantly further health protection objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Generally, the complete project will be eligible for a loan. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Replacement of contaminated sources with new sources;
- Construction of treatment facilities;
- Installation of disinfection facilities;
- Projects required to address compliance or enforcement issues;
- System consolidation or interconnection to address capacity issues;
- Costs for planning and engineering design associated with a DWSRF eligible project;
- Land acquisition integral to a DWSRF eligible project.
- Replacement of aging infrastructure, including all distribution and transmission lines;
- Upgrade or rehabilitation of existing water facilities;
- Installation of meters and back flow prevention devices; and
- Refinancing of DWSRF eligible projects where the debt was incurred after July 1, 1993. (Funds currently not available.)

10.1.3. Ineligible Projects

The fund cannot provide funding assistance for the following projects and activities:

- Dams or rehabilitation of dams;
- Water rights, except if the water rights are owned by a system that is being purchased through consolidation as part of a capacity development strategy;
- Reservoirs, except for finished water reservoirs and those reservoirs that are part of the treatment process and are located on the property where the treatment facility is located;
- Laboratory fees for monitoring;

- Operation and maintenance expenses;
- Projects needed mainly for fire protection;
- Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial and financial capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance;
- Projects for systems in significant noncompliance, unless funding will ensure compliance; and
- Projects primarily intended to serve future growth. This includes projects to develop new water systems and/or water system extensions. Under certain circumstances, a new water system or water system extension may be determined to be eligible. Please contact the Water Supply Division for further information.

10.1.4. Project Planning

The phasing of construction projects over multiple years is an acceptable practice. However, each application must identify a stand-alone project. The funding of future phases will be contingent on availability of funds and project priority.

10.1.5. Loan Rates and Terms

The following rates are subject to change based on determinations by the State Treasurer and the Secretary.

LOAN TYPE ^[1]	ORGANIZATION TYPE	INTEREST RATE PLUS ADMINISTRATIVE FEE	MAX TERM ^[2]
Planning	All	0%	5 yrs.
Construction	Municipal Community ^[3] Non-disadvantaged	(3%) - (0%) ^[7]	20 yrs.
Construction	Municipal/Disadvantaged ^[4]	(3%) - (-3%) ^[7]	30 yrs.
Construction	Private-Profit Community	3% ^[8]	20 yrs.
Construction	Private-Non-Profit Community (Disadvantaged) ^[4]	(3%) - (-3%) ^[10]	30 yrs.
Construction	Private-Non-Profit Community (Non-disadvantaged)	3% ^[8]	20 yrs.
Construction	Private-Non-Profit Non-Community	3% ^[8]	20 yrs.
Construction	Municipal (Non-Community)	3% ^[9]	20 yrs.
Refinancing	Municipal (Debt incurred July 1, 1993 - April 5, 1997)	4.376% ^[5]	20 yrs.

LOAN TYPE ^[1]	ORGANIZATION TYPE	INTEREST RATE PLUS ADMINISTRATIVE FEE	MAX TERM ^[2]
Refinancing	Municipal (Debt incurred after April 5, 1997)	New loan rates ^[6]	New loan ^[6] terms

- 1) Planning loans may include feasibility studies, preliminary engineering, engineering design etc., and will be rolled over into a long term loan if a loan is obtained for the proposed facilities. Construction loans include all system improvement type loans.
- 2) Loan durations are for maximum terms but may be for a shorter time based on loan amount and other considerations.
- 3) Municipal includes city, town, village, fire district, school district, etc. Interest rate plus administrative fee will not be less than necessary to achieve an annual household user cost of 1.00% of median household income.
- 4) A disadvantaged municipality has a median household income below the state average community median household income ($\$40,368 * 1.04^8 = \$55,246$) or the user cost exceeds 2.5% of the MHI. Interest rate plus administrative fee and term will not be less than necessary to achieve an annual household user cost of 1.0% of median household income, and final adjustments will be made when loan is finalized after construction completion.
- 5) Interest rate set by State Treasurer.
- 6) Interest rate plus administrative fee and term will be the same as for new loans if funded within 2 years of the initiation of construction.
- 7) Administrative fee will be from 0% to 2%.
- 8) Administrative fee will be 3%.
- 9) Administrative fee will be 2%.
- 10) Administrative fee will be from 0% to 3%

10.1.6. Comprehensive Project List

The Water Supply Division maintains a list of known projects eligible for loans. The list is developed/updated annually and water systems are encouraged to identify projects and submit applications for this list. The Water Supply Division may add projects to the list without an application from the water system.

10.1.7. Project Ranking and Selection Criteria

A project priority list is established for projects needing funds during the Federal fiscal year (October 1 - September 30 of each year). A priority score is established for each eligible project by assigning points based on established criteria

The criteria required by Federal and State regulations are covered under the following general categories:

- 1) System facility deficiencies (weighting factor of 1.2 is applied for eligible schools and childcare facilities).
- 2) Physical consolidation of water system,
- 3) Financial need/affordability,
- 4) Population,
- 5) Downtown area preference,

- 6) Source protection (applies only to source protection loans funded thru the LASRF), and
- 7) Security projects.

Projects are listed in priority order based on total point scores.

10.1.8. Anticipated Loan Recipients

The highest priority projects with a total cost that does not exceed the estimated funds available during the fiscal year and which comply with the following Federal and State regulatory requirements are identified as Anticipated Loan Recipients on the list.

- 1) A minimum of 15% of the funds must be used for projects serving communities with populations of fewer than 10,000 persons.
- 2) Funds for private systems cannot exceed 20% of the available funds.
- 3) Subsidies for disadvantaged communities cannot exceed 30% of the federal capitalization grant.

Projects not identified as Anticipated Loan Recipients will be funded in priority order, if funds became available during the year.

10.1.9. Bypassed Projects

Anticipated Loan Recipients may be bypassed if they do not proceed in accordance with the planned project schedule or if emergency projects are funded to address imminent and substantial threats to public health.

10.1.10. Re-Application

Priority lists will be revised at least annually; updated information or new applications will be required. The Water Supply Division may include projects on the list without applications.

10.1.11. Engineering Reports and Plans and Specifications

Water Supply Division approval of feasibility studies and engineering reports funded by the program is required. The Vermont Water Supply Rule requires approval of plans and specifications for all water system improvements.

10.1.12. Procurement Requirements

Competitive procurement requirements and approvals will be included in loan agreements. Force account construction will not be allowed except in unusual circumstances. The Construction Section of the DEC Facilities Engineering Division manages procurement procedures and requirements for DWSRF funded projects.

10.1.13. Maximum and Minimum Loan Amounts

A minimum loan amount has not been established; not more than \$2 million of the funds available in any given year can go to a single project, without specific review and approval by the Secretary. Projects with costs exceeding the \$2 million cap will be treated as continuing projects and have a maximum value of \$6 million before it loses its elevated continuing status.

10.1.14. Project Approval Steps

Following are the steps for a standard construction project.

- 1) Application for priority list or updated information submitted by applicant. (April of each year.)
- 2) The eligibility of each project is reviewed, and priority points awarded to each project.
- 3) Priority list developed.
- 4) Public meeting held and public comment obtained on priority list.
- 5) Capitalization grant finalized and submitted to EPA.
- 6) EPA approves grant to State.
- 7) Anticipated loan recipients required to attend a pre-application meeting.
- 8) Anticipated Loan Recipients required to submit a project schedule.
- 9) Project schedule approved by Water Supply Division.
- 10) Anticipated Loan Recipients requested to submit application.
- 11) Application to include information for environmental review.
- 12) Project determinations made (eligibility, scope, interest rate, etc.).
- 13) Environmental review process completed.
- 14) Bond Bank or VEDA notified of project approval.
- 15) Applicant submits loan application to VEDA or Bond Bank if required.
- 16) VEDA or Bond Bank executes loan agreement with applicant.
- 17) Plans and Specifications approved.
- 18) Contracts awarded in accordance with loan agreement.
- 19) Construction initiated.
- 20) Loan disbursements made during construction for completed work.
- 21) All construction completed.
- 22) All loan agreement conditions and/or Capacity Improvement Plans completed.
- 23) Loan closed out.
- 24) Loan payments begin.

10.1.15. Municipal School Water System Disadvantaged Program

Up to \$25,000 of a loan from the construction fund for improvements to a municipally owned public school water system may be forgiven. The following criteria must be satisfied.

- 1) The system must demonstrate capacity.
- 2) The system must be in compliance with the Water Supply Rule including any temporary operating permit or other compliance schedule.
- 3) The improvements must be completed in accordance with a construction permit issued by DEC and all of the construction permit conditions must be satisfied.
- 4) Competitive procurement procedures must be followed for the construction.
- 5) The completed work must be inspected and completed in accordance with the construction permit verified by a professional engineer or DEC staff.
- 6) Standard procedures for obtaining a loan must be followed.

The determination by the Secretary on loan forgiveness will be final. The determination will be made when the loan is finalized following construction completion.

10.1.16. Department of Agriculture Rural Development - ANR Joint Funded Projects

The Secretary may designate certain projects as joint funded projects and reduce the ANR administrative fee plus interest rate to make the total cost to the borrower equivalent to an ANR DWSRF loan for the total project. Municipalities will be contacted prior to making such decisions and this procedure will generally only be considered for large projects.

10.2. Planning Loan Fund

10.2.1. Eligible Organizations

Municipal systems and private non-profit community systems with populations under 10,000 are eligible for planning and final design funding from the planning loan fund.

10.2.2. Eligible Projects

Preliminary engineering planning studies and final engineering plans and specifications for water system improvement projects needed to comply with state and federal standards and to protect public health.

10.2.3. Loan Terms and Rates

Planning Loans are at 0% interest for a 5-year term, and may be rolled into a construction loan from the priority list (based on points) at the interest and term identified for the construction loan.

10.2.4. Maximum and Minimum Loan Amounts

The maximum loan amount is \$100,000.

10.2.5. Project Ranking

The Water Supply Division maintains a project priority list for planning loans, if necessary. A priority score is established for each eligible project by assigning points for the water system improvement project based on established criteria. The criteria are the same as for construction projects, and include the following general categories except for points awarded for population:

- 1) System facility deficiencies;
- 2) Physical consolidation of water systems;
- 3) Financial need/affordability;
- 4) Population (scores are triple scores awarded for construction projects); and
- 5) Growth center impact.

Projects are only scored when there is a shortage of funds.

10.2.6. Priority List Applications

Applications will be accepted on a continuing basis.

10.2.7. Loan Recipients

The highest priority projects on the priority list will be funded as funds become available.

10.2.8. Loan Applications

Water systems will generally be given 60 days to submit a loan application following notification of available funds.

10.2.9. Loan Consolidation Requirement

Consolidation of the planning loan with a loan from the construction loan fund for the water system improvements will be required as a loan condition. Consolidation will be made when the construction loan is finalized following completion of construction.

10.2.10. Procurement Requirements

Procurement requirements will be included in loan agreements. All professional service contracts will require review and approval of scope of services, level of effort, and cost. All feasibility studies, planning documents, preliminary engineering reports, and plans and specifications require review and approval by the Water Supply Division. Costs incurred prior to a commitment of loan funds by DEC are not eligible for a loan.

10.2.11. Repayment

The first loan repayment will be two years after last loan disbursement or approval of the engineering report or final design, whichever occurs first, except for those loans that are eligible for forgiveness, in which case the repayment starts five years after last loan disbursement or engineering report or design approval. Under certain circumstances up to \$50,000 of the unpaid balance of a planning loan to a municipality may be forgiven by the Secretary following the completion of project construction. The following criteria must be satisfied to obtain loan forgiveness; the Secretary's determinations on loan forgiveness shall be final. Potential eligible preliminary engineering and design cost will be determined by DEC using DEC guidance documents (Engineering Fee Allowance Curve) and the completed documented construction cost eligible for revolving loan funding.

- 1) General Criteria
 - a. Must demonstrate capacity,
 - b. Must be in compliance with the Water Supply Rule including any temporary operating permit or other compliance schedule,
 - c. Must be current on fees,
 - d. Improvements for which planning loan was provided must be completed in accordance with a Water Supply Division construction permit.
 - e. All construction permit requirements must be satisfied including O & M manual and as-builts.
 - f. Loan agreement must be executed following the effective date of the authorizing legislation (June 16, 2001).
- 2) Specific Criteria. The project must meet at least one of the following specific criteria.
 - a. Construction of the project was completed using non-Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds (DWSRF) and the project did not receive other appropriated state funds for project costs.
 - b. The project serves a small population. The maximum forgiveness shall be \$25,000. Projects for systems serving populations of 300 or less shall receive 100% of eligible forgiveness. The percent eligible for forgiveness for systems serving 300 to 500 population shall be reduced by 0.5% for an increase of one in

design population. Systems serving populations of 500 and above will not be eligible for forgiveness under this provision.

- c. User rates exceed 2% of the median household income. The amount of forgiveness will be determined by increasing the amount of forgiveness until the 2% target, the \$50,000 maximum, the amount of the unpaid balance or the eligible preliminary engineering and design cost is reached. The annual planning loan cost to the municipality will be determined using construction loan terms and interest rates for DWSRF funded projects.

10.3. Source Protection Loans

10.3.1. Eligible Organizations

Municipal water systems are eligible for source protection loans.

10.3.2. Eligible Projects

For purchasing land or conservation easements in order to protect public water sources and ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations.

Source must have hydrogeologically delineated source protection area (no 3000' radius source protection areas) and an approved source protection plan prior to loan award.

Water system must demonstrate how the project will directly promote public health protection or compliance with national drinking water regulations.

10.3.3. Loan Terms and Rates

Source Protection Loans are at 3% interest for a term of 20 years.

10.3.4. Maximum and Minimum Loan Amounts

The maximum loan amount is \$200,000. There is no minimum loan amount.

10.3.5. Project Ranking

The Water Supply Division maintains a project priority list for source protection loans. A priority score is established for each eligible project by assigning points based on established criteria. The criteria, most of which are the same as for construction projects, include the following general categories:

- 1) Population;
- 2) Financial need/affordability;
- 3) Downtown area preference;
- 4) Source protection.

10.3.6. Priority List Applications

Applications will be accepted on a continuing basis.

10.3.7. Loan Recipients

The highest priority projects on the priority list will be funded when funds become available.

10.3.8. Loan Applications

Water systems will be required to submit a project schedule for approval by the Water Supply Division within 30 days of notification of available funding.

10.3.9. Loan Conditions

Loan conditions on land use may include:

- 1) Management in accordance with source protection plan;
- 2) Prohibition of sale as long as source is an approved water source;
- 3) Requirement for an annual inspection and report.

10.3.10. Procurement Requirements

Procurement requirements will include:

- 1) A minimum of two appraisals will be required for evaluation purposes;
- 2) Proposed easements and purchase agreements will require review and approval by WSD;
- 3) Normal closing requirements, such as title search, will apply;
- 4) Purchase must be from a willing seller.

10.3.11. Repayment

Payments begin one year after last loan disbursement.

10.4. All Loans

10.4.1. Lack of technical, managerial and financial capability

A loan fund may not provide any type of assistance to a system that lacks the technical, managerial or financial capability to maintain SDWA compliance, unless the owner or operator of the system agrees to undertake feasible and appropriate changes in operation or if the use of the financial assistance will ensure capacity over the long-term.

The Water Supply Division will make a determination on system capacity based on information available in Water Supply Division records, the priority list application, completion of the capacity evaluation form at the pre-application meeting, and the loan application. Some considerations include current compliance status with requirements for an operation and maintenance manual, operator certification, water quality monitoring, source protection plan, payment of lawful fees, groundwater under the influence determination, sanitary survey recommendations, and long range planning. Financial capacity determination will also consider current and projected water rates, delinquent water accounts, and financial planning.

The existence of an active organization with identified responsible officials and business practices with respect to customer complaints will be considerations in managerial capability determinations.

Loan applications will rarely be rejected based on capability determinations (e.g., capacity determination), however, loan agreements will frequently include corrective action requirements to improve capability.

10.4.2. Loan Application Fees

There are no application fees, however an administrative fee will be charged on some loans.

10.4.3. Loan Disbursements

Loan disbursements will be made in accordance with the loan agreement, however, only one disbursement will be allowed in a calendar month and disbursements must be for expenses incurred and paid. An estimated disbursement schedule will be required at the time of loan execution.

10.4.4. Loan Repayment

Loan repayment requirements will be specified in the loan agreement; however, repayments must start no later than 1 year after project completion.

10.4.5. Financial Capability to Repay Loan

The Vermont Municipal Bond Bank shall make these determinations for all loans to municipal organizations and the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) will make these determinations for all loans to private organizations.

The Bond Bank and VEDA make the loans on behalf of the state. Applicants must submit the necessary applications and other information to these entities as necessary for processing the loans.