

Public Drinking Water Support and Planning

Water Supply Division

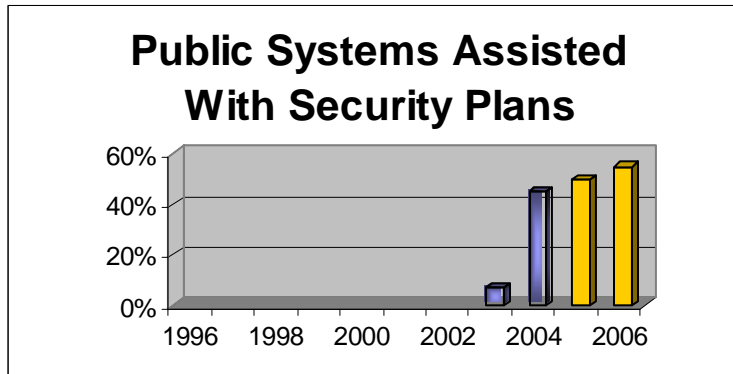
October 31, 2004

Results

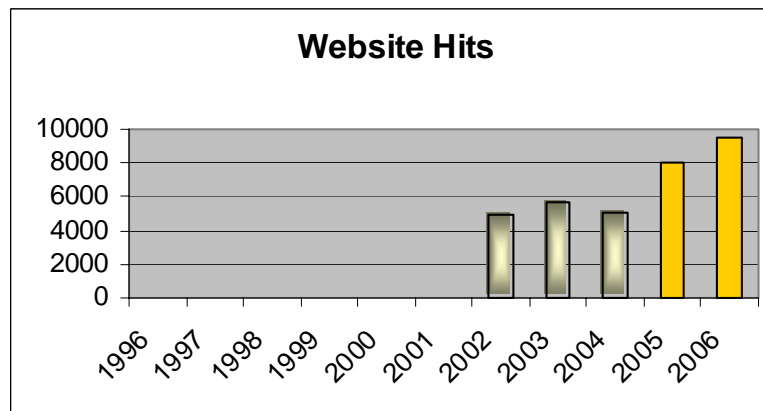
Increased support, outreach and planning services to public water systems and the Division.

Key Indicators

Percent of public water systems assisted with security plan development.



Number of web site visits.



(Drop in total hits from 2003 to 2004 were the result of a more refined format for counting web hits)

Story Behind Baseline Performance

With the Water Supply Division's reorganization in February 2003, the Division recognized the need to more actively plan for implementation of federal and state regulations. With decreasing resources to provide assistance to water systems, the section's goal is to develop better ways to do business internally and externally. Innovative outreach and planning activities will be developed to provide better customer service and increase public health protection. Outreach through the newsletter and website will be a basis for increased communication with the public and our regulated community. The *Waterline*, our newsletter, started in October 2000 and will continue to be expanded and improved to meet the growing need for communicating important federal, state, and local issues relating to drinking water and ground water topics.

Strategies

Security and Emergency Planning and Assistance

2005

Using the federal funding from Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act 2002 and subsequent appropriation, the Water Supply Division will continue to employ a position to provide direct assist to Public Water Systems in the preparation of Vulnerability Assessments and Emergency Response Plans. This position will work with other positions in the Division and state government to help the Water Supply Division better prepare and respond to break-ins and threats to water systems. This work was started in 2003.

2006 & 2007

The direct assistance to public water systems outlined for 2005 will continue.

Outreach and Education

2005

The Water Supply Division's website, www.vermontdrinkingwater.org, received a complete overhaul over the past year to include a variety of tools to enhance customer services, such as permit applications, downloadable reporting documents, etc. There is committee designated to keeping the site on the fore-front of water issues and products and is meeting on a regular basis through out 2005 to keep the site moving forward through the year.

2005

Integrate a variety of SDWIS State add-on tools to the website to provide improved customer service to public water systems, their customers, and other people interested in groundwater and drinking water.

2006

Initiate a State-wide outreach campaign to local municipalities with public community water supplies to provide them with information to better enable them to comply with state and federal rules/regulations, educate them of financial assistance funds and supply them with literature and resources that will allow them to remain at the forefront of efficiency and service.

Regulations, Compliance Assistance and Enforcement

2004/2005

Finalize the Water Supply Rule revisions in December of 2004 that were started in 2003 and are required for federal rule primacy according to the agreements signed with EPA. Submit the relevant primacy packages to EPA for review and approval. Begin to evaluate program changes necessary for integration of the federal Ground Water Rule in our drinking water program.

2005

Begin necessary changes to program, including possible rule revisions, for integration of the federal Ground Water Rule into Vermont's drinking water program. Submit any relevant primacy packages to EPA for review and approval.

2006

If appropriate, start another revision to the Water Supply Rule in order to address federal rules and guidance requirements.

Program Management-2004, 2005, 2006

2005

Complete the migration to SDWIS State started in 2003. This will include required trainings by EPA and their contractor. Attend the ASDWA-EPA Data Management Conference to develop and share new ideas for data management.

2005 & 2006

Continue working with and developing SDWIS State Add-ons for the enhancement of our SDWIS State database.

In order to continue to represent a rural state perspective on regional and national drinking water issues we will continue to be active in the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission's (NEIWPC) Groundwater Managers' and Drinking Water Administrators' Workgroups, along with the Association for State Drinking Water Administrators and the Ground Water Protection Council. We will continue to review and develop comments on proposed rules and guidance developed by EPA.

In 2003, we hired a planning and outreach specialist. With this position's assistance, the Water Supply Division's Management Team has dedicating time to focus on strategic planning. Given the potential tight budget issues of the upcoming years, this will be particularly important in order to maintain a strong, vibrant, and effective safe drinking water program.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of web site hits	P									6000	8000	9000
	A							4899	5757	5116		
Number of file reviews conducted	P									24	24	24
	A									16		
Number of security and emergency plan onsite visits	P								45	90	90	90
	A								95	177		

Proposed Accomplishments

Security and Emergency Planning – Assist public water systems to complete security vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans will be an ongoing emphasis for the Division. The Security and Emergency Planning Specialist has outlined a strategy that includes the smaller drinking water supply systems conducting vulnerability assessments and developing emergency response plans in the next year.

Website – The Division website received a face lift at the end of calendar year 2003. The new design provides easier access to most of the Division’s fact sheets, forms and applications. In the next year the site should have the Division’s complete catalog of electronic documents available for download from the website. The website will continue to evolve and expand over time providing pertinent information to the public at large, as well as system operators. The committee charged with the responsibility to keep the website current and forward is hammering out ways to best utilize the new site to get information to the public.

Newsletter – The *Waterline* will continue to be produced three times per year. To improve distribution of the news letter inventory of the distribution list will be revised so the document gets to the proper audience.

Highlights

Security - As reported in the grant for the water protection security work, our work in assisting system has been going extremely well. Vermont public water systems were 100% compliant with EPA’s deadlines for submittal of security vulnerability assessments. Our security assistance position is currently vacant, but we are recruiting for a half-time position. We previously employed a full-time position, but due to the recent limitations in EPA funding a full-time position is not sustainable. We anticipate that this will lead to a decline in the number of on-site visits, but are unable to predict the specific impact at this time.