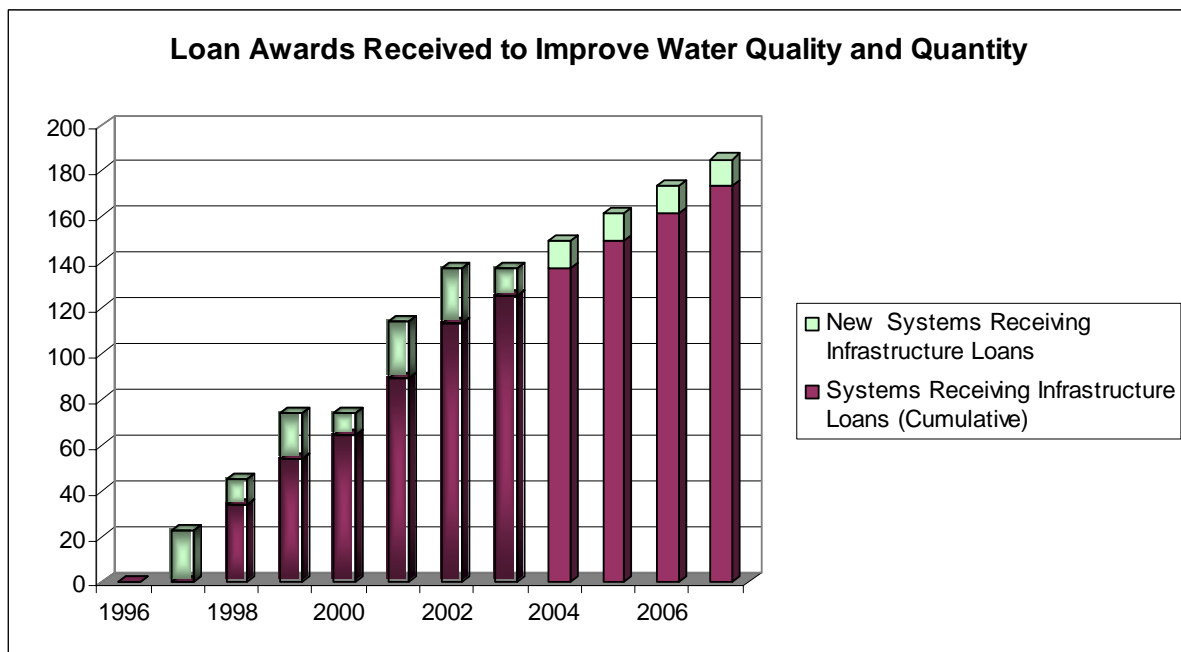


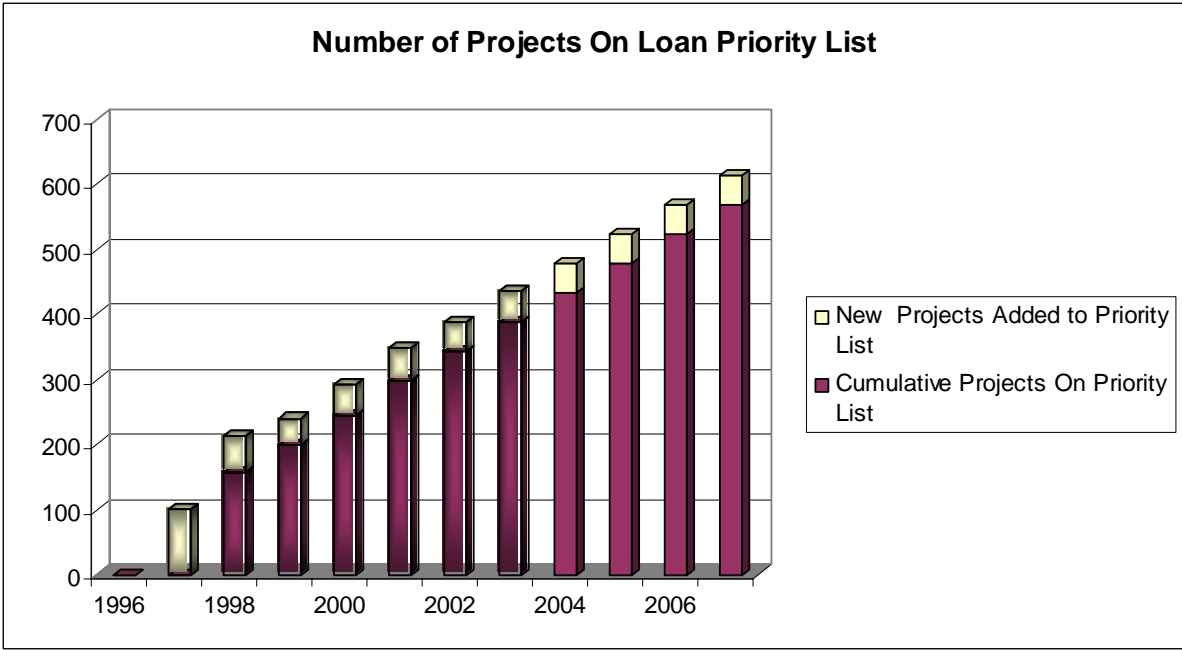
Results

Increase the protection and development of safe drinking water through construction permit reviews, infrastructure loans, and capacity development assistance.

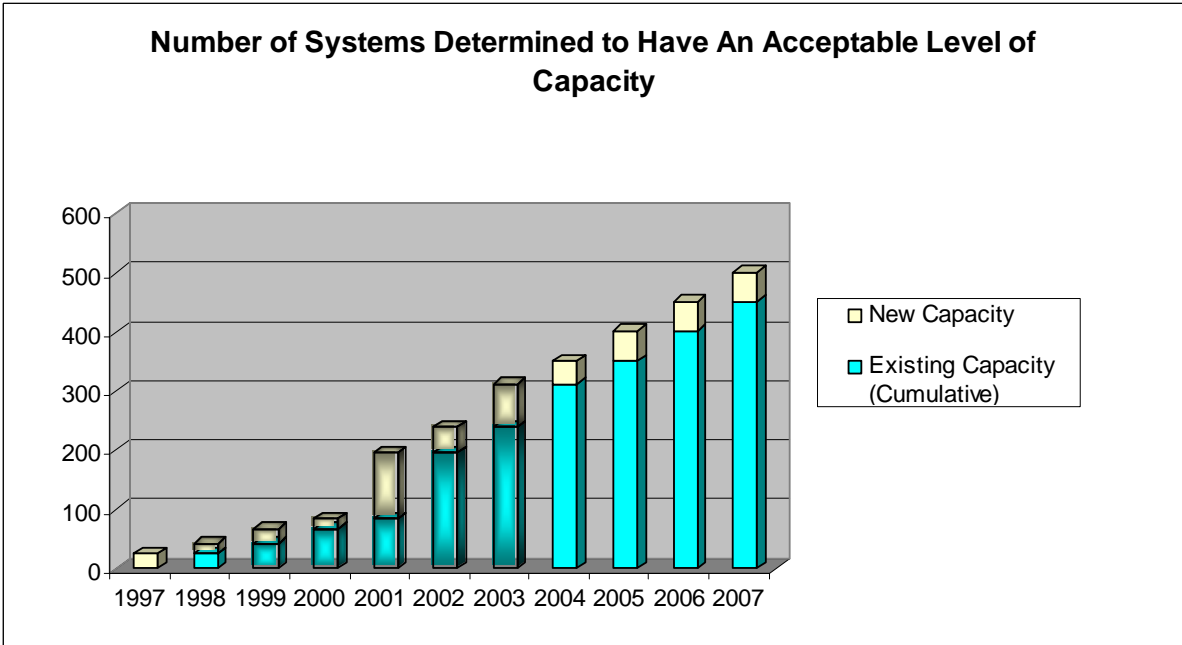
Key Indicators

Number of systems receiving loans to improve their quality and quantity of drinking water





Number of systems determined to have adequate financial, managerial, and technical capacity to operate their system.



Story Behind the Baseline Performance

The Financial and Engineering Services Section manages a construction permit program for public Community Water Systems (CWS), the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Program for CWS and certain Non-Transient Non-Community systems (NTNC), and the Capacity Development Program for CWSs and NTNCs. These three programs are important elements in assisting public water systems to provide safe drinking water to their customers. The construction permit program has been in existence since before the enactment in 1974 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The DWSRF Loan and Capacity Development programs were authorized with the passage of the 1996 amendments to the SDWA. Since the inception of the loan program in 1997, the WSD has awarded 87 water system improvement loans totaling approximately \$49.9 million. The Capacity Development Program is designed to help water systems attain or maintain technical, financial and managerial capacity. There are currently a number of initiatives underway or completed to help water systems achieve capacity. Other related activities performed by the Section include comprehensive performance evaluations (CPE), sanitary surveys (SS) for surface water treatment facilities, providing troubleshooting assistance to resolve water treatment problems, such as high concentrations of disinfection by-products, corrosion control deficiencies, etc.

Strategies

Education and Technical Assistance

2005-2007

Provide technical assistance to public water system owners, operators and consultants through on-site visits, attendance at meetings, phone inquiries, etc.

Assist in policy development, develop appropriate technical guidance documents, brochures, fact sheets, etc., and make them readily available to interested parties by adding new documents to the WSD's website as they are completed.

Continue the practice of allocating set-aside funds from annual federal DWSRF capitalization grants for financing contracts for small systems engineering evaluations and small systems engineering technical assistance. Manage the small systems engineering contracts in a manner that enables us to systematically offer this assistance to all small public water systems in need by 2006.

Grants and Loans

2005-2007

Manage the annual priority list and provide low interest loans to the highest priority water system improvement projects.

Award and manage contracts to technical services providers to assist water systems to develop or maintain financial, managerial, and technical capacity to enable water systems to provide safe drinking water.

Provide source protection loans to municipalities for purchase of land or conservation easements in order to improve protection of public water supplies from potential contaminants and ensure compliance with drinking water regulations.

Provide planning loans to municipalities serving populations under 10,000 people and to non-profit, privately-owned community water systems for preliminary engineering and final design preparatory to construction improvements.

Regulation, Compliance Assistance, and Enforcement

2005-2007

Administer the Water Supply Rule through management of the water supply construction permit program and through technical advice provided, primarily, to the Division’s Operations and Compliance Section. Engineering assistance will be provided to facilitate compliance with new federal rules that will take effect during this period.

Participate in the review of federal and state rule revisions affecting public water systems.

Make referrals to the Division’s Compliance Unit for possible enforcement action as appropriate to safeguard public health.

Monitoring, Assessment, and Delivery of Direct Services

2005-2007

Conduct financial, managerial and technical capacity assessments of public water systems.

Conduct Comprehensive Performance Evaluations for at least two systems per year from 2005 through 2007.

Provide assistance to existing and new DWSRF loan applicants.

Complete environmental documentation for DWSRF loans.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of Construction Permits Issued	P		100	100	150	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
	A	98	112	150	126	196	147	140					
Number of Systems on the Priority List	P									45	45	45	45
	A		100	56	58	42	47	52	46				
Number of Construction Permits Meeting PEP	P								48	48	48	48	48
	A		63	39	57	70	72	49					
Number of DWSRF	P		25	11	20	10	24	18	12	12	12	12	12

Loan Awards/Amendments (by priority list) * Additional Loans will/may be awarded	A		24*	11	20	10	19*	4*					
Number of Capacity Determinations Made	P								10	10	10	10	10
	A						2	3					
Systems with Capacity Assessments Completed	P									85	90	95	98
	A	0	0	0	0	0	75	75	75				

Proposed Accomplishments

Capacity Development Program – The program is aimed toward ensuring that all new CWSs and new NTNCWSs demonstrate the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to comply with the SWDA.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – This fund is capitalized with an annual grant from EPA and a 20% state match to be used to provide low interest loans for improvements to public water systems. The fund receives approximately \$8 M annually of new funds plus loan repayments from prior years’ loans. This funding program is aimed primarily at high priority projects dealing with contamination problems that pose a significant risk to public health and helping to bring noncompliant systems into compliance with SDWA regulations. Every year, a specified number of systems are identified and ranked for financial assistance in the state’s annual projects priority list. In the most recently adopted list (Federal FY04), 49 projects are identified with the top 11 ranked projects anticipated to be funded. As project costs and readiness to proceed change during the year, the actual projects funded may also change.

Comprehensive Performance Evaluations (CPE) – The engineering unit along with the operations unit established a goal to conduct up to 2 CPEs throughout Vermont on an annual basis. The staff developed a strategy for identifying candidate systems, which takes into account water system staffing, performance and design. The Division is proposing to continue to perform up to 2 CPEs per year.