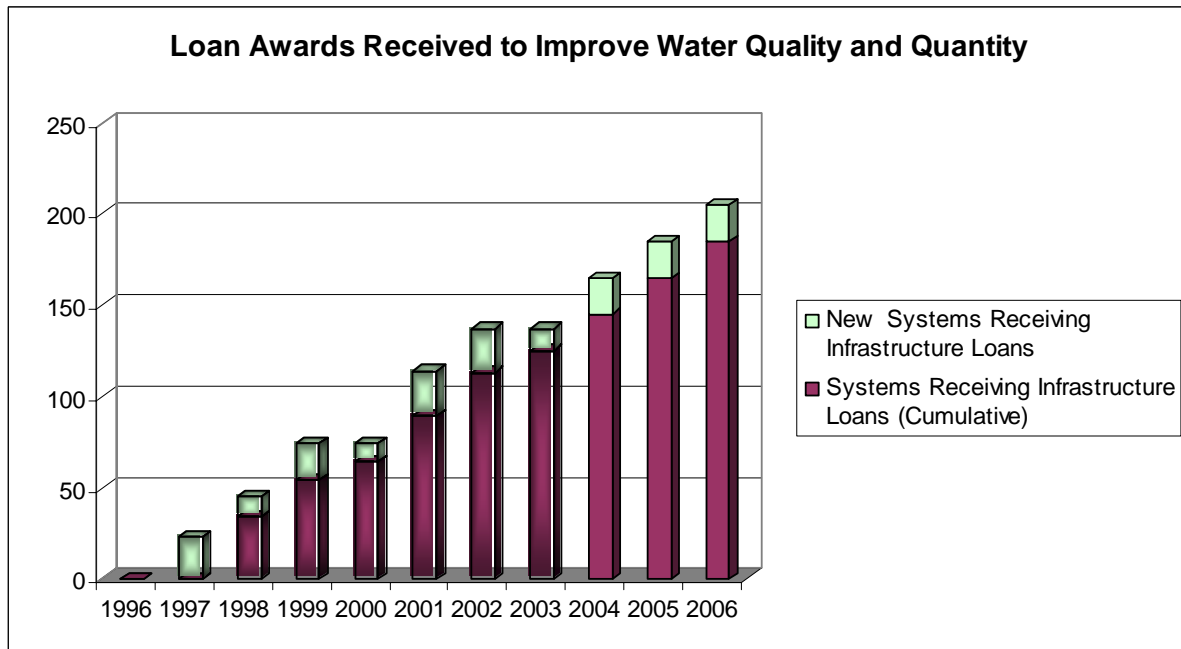


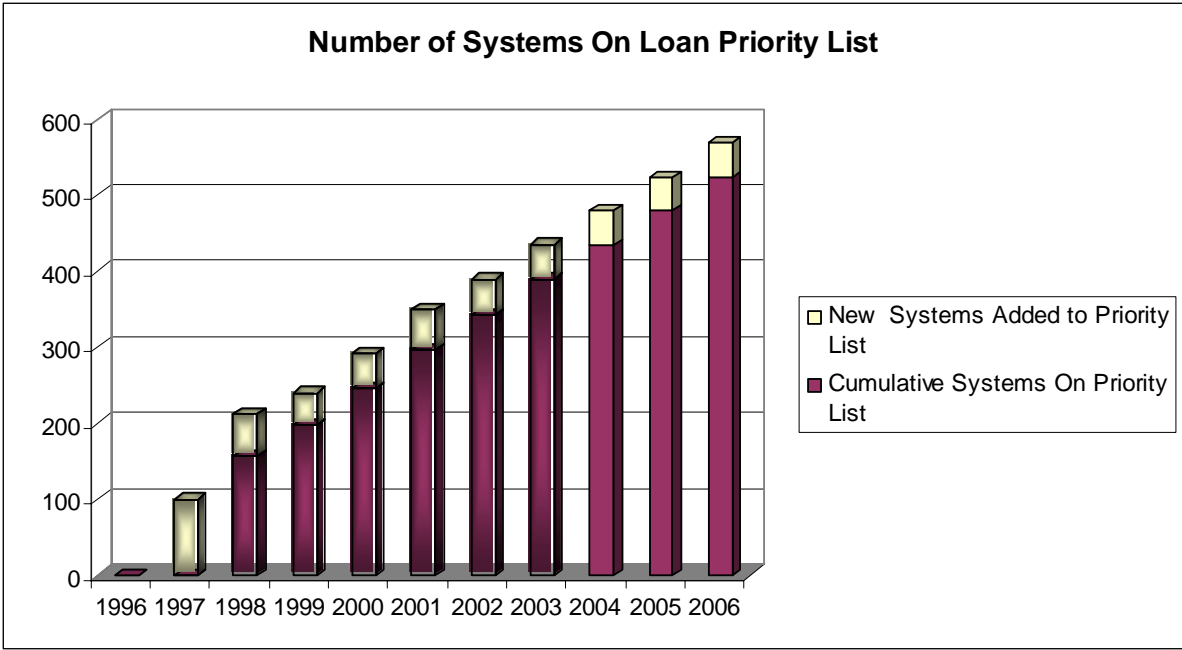
Results

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

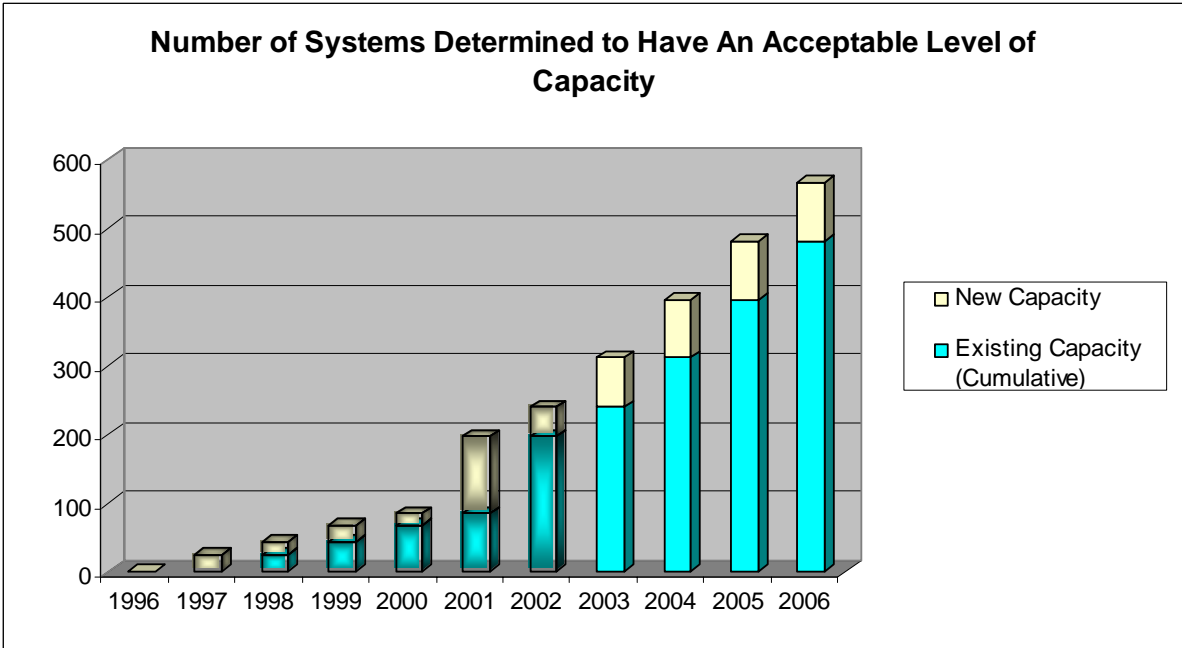
Key Indicators

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 72 water system improvement loans totaling approximately \$40.6 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) and sanitary surveys (SS) for surface water treatment facilities.

Strategies

Education and Technical Assistance

2004-2006

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

Develop appropriate technical guidance documents, brochures, fact sheets, etc. and make them readily available by adding new documents to the WSD's website as they are completed. In 2004, complete the UV guidance manual to be used by non-community water systems.

Continue the practice of allocating set-aside funds from annual federal DWSRF capitalization grants for financing contracts for small system engineering evaluations and small system 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

2004-2005

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

Award and manage grants (or contracts as appropriate) 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

2004-2005

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. Compliance assistance will be ramped up during 2004 to facilitate water system compliance with the Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproduct Rule. Similarly engineering assistance will be provided to facilitate compliance with other federal rules that will take effect as follows: in 2004 and 2005 LT1 Enhanced SWTR; in 2005, the Arsenic Rule, which requires treatment for those systems that exceed the MCL for arsenic by January 2006; and for 2004 through 2006, the Filter Backwash Rule.

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

2004-2005

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

Conduct Comprehensive Performance Evaluations for at least two systems per year from 2004 through 2006.

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
Number of Construction Permits Issued	P		100	100	150	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
	A		100	56	58	42	47	52	46			
Number of Construction Permits Meeting PEP	P								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

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
	A						2	3				
Systems with Capacity Assessments Completed	P									85	90	95
	A	0	0	0	0	0	75	75	75			

Proposed Accomplishments

Capacity Development 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 is Vermont’s capitalization grant to finance improvements for public water systems. This funding program is aimed primarily at high priority projects dealing with contamination problems potentially posing risk to human well-being and helping to bring noncompliant systems into compliance with SDWA regulations. Every year a specified number of systems is set to receive financial assistance. For 2004, 12 systems will be provided with infrastructure improvement loans.

Comprehensive Performance Evaluations (CPE) – The engineering portion of this section established a goal to conduct 2 CPEs throughout Vermont on an annual basis. The staff outlined a strategy that focuses on key points that could cause deficiency in their systems such as technical, operational, and design functions. These points along with others establish the basis to prioritize systems with the greatest need for assistance, thus determining what systems will receive a CPE over the next few years. The Division is proposing 2 CPEs/year will be feasible.