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Drinking Water Program

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Date: July 18, 2014

To: All Public Water Systems and Interested Parties

From: Normand R. Lamie, P.E.  
Program Manager Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

Subject: **Request for Project Applications for 2015 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**

**Project Applications for the 2015 DWSRF season are now available.** Eligible applicants include all Community Systems and all non-profit Non-Community Systems. Don't miss out on your opportunity to access 2015 funds for your capital project needs by filling out your project application now.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides financial assistance to public water systems in Maine for infrastructure improvements. From 1997 through 2013, the DWSRF has provided over \$200 million in loans and grants to public water systems throughout Maine for more than 300 projects in 155 locations throughout Maine.

For 2014, the DWP received more than \$24 million worth of requests for funding 48 qualified projects. In 2014 only \$14 million in funding was available. **The DWP anticipates up to \$18 million in funding will be available for 2015 projects.**

Of the 34 projects that were funding in 2014, 6 projects (or 14% of the total funds) involved water treatment improvements, 8 projects (or 35% of the total funds) involved storage tanks, source, or pumping improvements, 1 project for an AMR meter replacement program, and 19 projects (or 51% of total funds) involved aging water main replacement projects.

Public water systems desiring to receive financial assistance through the 2015 DWSRF must complete and submit an Application Form for Reporting DWSRF Eligible Projects **by September 26, 2014.** **An electronic copy of the application form can be found at "Download Documents" on the DWP website at [www.medwp.com/pws/srf.shtml](http://www.medwp.com/pws/srf.shtml).** You can also request a copy from of the Application Form from Norm Lamie at [norm.lamie@maine.gov](mailto:norm.lamie@maine.gov) or calling 287-2647. A separate form must be completed for each project.

Projects will be prioritized to determine which projects will be funded. For the 2015 DWSRF, the Program will use a rating system based on the Priority Point system. The primary objective for distributing funds is to focus on projects that will provide assistance to PWS's to maintain the health

objectives of the SDWA. However, additional points may be given for projects with legal requirements, compatibility with previously identified needs, and availability of co-funding with other funding agencies. Completion of project ranking is expected by October 31, 2014.

**Eligibility** A list of eligible and non-eligible water systems and projects can be found at “Terms and Conditions” on the DWP website at [www.medwp.com/pws/srf.shtml](http://www.medwp.com/pws/srf.shtml).

**Principal Forgiveness** The U.S. Census Bureau has changed its methodology for collecting and reporting income data from U.S. households and no longer reports decadal income information. The new system, American Community Survey (ACS), collects and compiles income data for 1, 3, and 5-year averages. Because of the statistical sample size and survey frequencies the Department must use the ACS 5-year estimates for comparison of median household incomes. See “*Instructions for Obtaining Your Community’s Median Household Income to be reported on the DCWSRF Project Information Request Form*” on the DWP website at [www.medwp.com/pws/srf.shtml](http://www.medwp.com/pws/srf.shtml) for more information.

The income data used to determine median household income should be that which most accurately reflects the income of the year-round residential customers in a water system's service area. This data can come from either the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2006-2010) prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, or from a more current independent system income survey. If you intended to use an independent Income Survey, your **independent income survey must be completed prior to and included with the SRF funding application.** Income surveys must be conducted by an independent third-party using a methodology approved by the Drinking Water Program. Income surveys shall not be valid for more than three years.

**Proposed Schedule for the 2014 DWSRF Program Implementation**

Project application deadline.....	September 26, 2014
Projects prioritized, placed in IUP.....	October 31, 2014
Draft IUP available for public review.....	December 5, 2014
Public comment meeting.....	January 9, 2015
End of written comment period.....	January 30, 2015
DWSRF Grant Application submission to EPA Region I.....	February 27, 2015
Grant Award by EPA Region I.....	May, 2015

Technical/administrative questions regarding the 2015 DWSRF application process should be directed to Norm Lamie at (207) 287-2647 or Nate Saunders at (207) 287-5685. Questions regarding loan applications and the loan approval process should be directed to Rob Nadeau at the Maine Municipal Bond Bank at (207) 622-9386 or (800) 821-1113.

Yours for safe drinking water,



Normand R. Lamie, P.E.  
Chief Engineer, Maine Drinking Water Program