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Drinking Water Program

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Date: August 5, 2016

To: All Public Water Systems and Interested Parties

From: Michael Abbott, P.E., C.G.
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Manager

Subject: **Request for Project Applications for the 2017 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**

The Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) is soliciting applications for drinking water projects through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. The DWSRF program is a low-interest loan program that assists public water systems with the cost of improving drinking water infrastructure, including but not limited to:

- New and replacement well sources;
- Treatment and pump house upgrades;
- Storage tank construction and repair;
- Water main replacements;
- New or replacement service water meters; and
- Interconnections between two or more existing public water systems.

Eligible public water systems include all community public water systems. Non-transient non-community (NTNC) public water systems that are classified as not-for-profit entities are also eligible.

Project Applications for the 2017 DWSRF season are now available. The DWP anticipates up to \$18 million in funding will be available for 2017 projects.

Public water systems desiring to receive financial assistance through the 2017 DWSRF must complete and submit an Application Form for Reporting DWSRF Eligible Projects (enclosed) **by September 30, 2016**. An electronic copy of the application form can be found on the DWP website at www.medwp.com/pws/srf.shtml. Electronic submissions must be received by DWP before 5:00 pm on Friday September 30, 2016. Paper applications must be hand delivered (before 5:00 pm) or postmarked by September 30, 2016 to be considered for funding in 2017.

Projects will be ranked by the DWP using Priority Ranking Criteria approved by USEPA to determine which projects will receive priority for 2017 DWSRF funding. The primary objective for distributing funds is to focus on projects that will provide assistance to public water systems to maintain the health objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). However, additional points may be given for projects with legal requirements, compatibility with previously identified needs, readiness to proceed to construction, and availability of co-funding with other funding agencies.

Principal Forgiveness Qualified Disadvantaged Communities may be eligible for Principal Forgiveness of a portion of their DWSRF loan. Eligibility is based on a community’s Median Household Income (MHI) and current residential water user rates. The MHI is based on information from the U. S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). 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 DWSRF Project Information Request Form*” on the DWP website at www.medwp.com/pws/srf.shtml for more information.

Anticipated Schedule for the 2017 DWSRF Program Implementation

Project application deadline.....	September 30, 2016
Projects prioritized, placed in IUP	November 4, 2016
Draft IUP available for public review.....	December 2, 2016
Public comment meeting.....	January 10, 2017
End of written comment period	January 27, 2017
DWSRF Grant Application submission to EPA Region I.....	February 24, 2017
Grant Award by EPA Region I.....	May, 2017

Finalization of loan offers will subject to DHHS receipt of EPA Region 1 DWSRF Grant in 2017. Technical/administrative questions regarding the 2017 DWSRF application process should be directed to Mike Abbott at (207) 287-6196 or Nate Saunders at (207) 287-5685. Questions regarding loan applications and the loan approval process should be directed to Greg Connors at the Maine Municipal Bond Bank at (207) 622-9386 or (800) 821-1113.

Yours for safe drinking water,



Michael D. Abbott, P.E., C.G.
Assistant Program Manager and Chief Engineer
Maine CDC Drinking Water Program