

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Drinking Water State Revolving Funds
Wellhead Protection Set-Aside**

Annual Report - Program Year 2006

Ohio EPA utilized FFY 2002 and FFY 2003 capitalization grant wellhead protection set-asides to fund activities during Program Year 2006 (PY 06). These funds were used to complete source water assessment and wellhead protection activities for public water systems using ground water. Funds were also used for general administrative and information management support and to assist local communities in the development of their own wellhead protection/source water protection plans.

A. Expenditures and Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

In PY 2006, from July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006, Ohio EPA obligated approximately \$1,184,134 to fund the 12.5 full time equivalent staff and 4 part time interns to support implementation of the wellhead protection and source water assessment activities specified in Ohio's Intended Use Plan for PY 2006.

B. Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives for the Wellhead Protection Program for PY2006 were as follows:

1. delineate drinking water source protection areas;
2. conduct potential contaminant source inventories;
3. complete source water susceptibility analyses;
4. promote and assist public water systems in developing and implementing protection strategies;
5. disseminate the results of source water assessments;
6. analyze source water assessment information and protection implementation; and
7. provide general program support.

C. Program Accomplishments

The Agency has completed source water assessment reports for all public water systems, except for recently activated public water systems. To date, 5,400 source water assessment reports have been completed by Ohio EPA. During PY 2006, Ohio EPA completed 1,303 final source water assessment reports.

Beginning in the second half of PY 2006, the program focus shifted to promoting protective strategies, developing education and outreach activities, conducting training workshops, providing direct technical assistance to public water system officials and QA/QC of the source assessment information and databases. Staff continue to complete source water assessment reports for public water systems that were activated during program year.

Staff provided on-site assistance to dozens of public water systems in development of local wellhead protection plans and conducted 12 county or regional protection planning workshops. Eighteen municipal protection plans were reviewed and twelve of these plans were endorsed by the agency. Finally, 409 non-municipal public water systems completed and returned a protective strategy template customized for their facility that was sent to them with their source water assessment report, on which they indicated which protective strategies they intend to implement to protect their source of water. As of June 30, 2006, a total of 1,074 such templates had been received by the Agency.

As of July 2006, thirty-six percent of the community public water systems addressing forty percent of Ohio's population served by public water systems have developed source water protection plans or are implementing protection strategies based on Ohio's definition of "substantial implementation" which includes public water systems with ground water sources determined to have a "low" susceptibility to contamination.

D. Program Accomplishment by Activity

Specific accomplishments for each of the program activities identified in the PY 2006 IUP are summarized in detail in the tables as follows:

<p>Activity 1-3. Delineate wellhead protection (source water assessment) areas, conduct inventories of potential contaminant sources and make susceptibility determinations for public water systems using ground water</p>
<p>Proposed Outcome/Product -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. source water assessment reports for all the remaining non-community public water systems; 2. source water assessment reports for new public water systems; and 3. re-delineations and inventories of source water areas, per guidance. <p>Actual Work Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed WHP/SWAP reports for public water systems using ground water. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 497 SWAP Delineations 1,003 Potential Contaminant Source Inventories 1,303 Susceptibility Analyses 1,303 Final Source Water Assessment Reports <p>We have completed source water assessment reports for all public water systems per the original program commitment. The Agency continues to complete source water assessment reports for new public water systems that have been activated during the past year.</p> <p>Supplemental Programmatic Benefits Identification of SWAP areas which are incorporated into a statewide geographic</p>

information management systems allows the easy identification and association with other environmentally regulated activities.

Activity 4 - Encourage and provide direct technical assistance to public water systems and federal, state and local environmental programs on source water protection activities.

Proposed Outcome/Product -

1. Locally developed SWAP/WHP plans and implementation of protective strategies;
2. Complete up to 10 local/regional source water protection workshops for public water systems.
3. Provide direct technical assistance to public water systems in developing source water protection plans
4. Work with state environmental programs to implement source water protection strategies in areas that have a high susceptibility to contamination.

Actual Work Completed

- Reviewed 18 municipal Protection Plans for endorsement; endorsed 12 of them and provided detailed comments on the others. Sixty-six percent of the plan reviews were completed within 60 days.
- Returned certificates of recognition to 457 public water systems that sent in protective strategies templates (409 received this year, and 1,074 received to date.)
- Assisted in the development of source water protection planning at dozens of public water systems. In addition to the 57 Ohio public water systems that already have endorsed protection plans, 66 systems statewide are currently engaged in developing protection plans. For the public water systems actively developing Protection Plans, District staff have typically provided site-specific maps and information and participated in several on-site meetings and numerous phone calls. Sixteen systems are expected to submit protection plans for endorsement by January 2007. In addition, dozens of other systems have “expressed interest” but have not reported activities that indicate intent, such as passing a resolution to create a Protection Plan, organizing a Protection Team, or starting to draft a plan. Protection planning is voluntary in Ohio.
- Statewide, conducted 12 Source Water Protection Planning County/Regional workshops where protection planning was discussed in a workshop setting with local organizations, community officials and public water system operators. County-based meetings were held for the following counties: Stark, Portage, Carroll, Fairfield, Putnam, Marion, Hardin, Wayne, Homes, Franklin.
- Prepared a final report and Executive Summary reflecting the Ohio Water Resources Council’s inter-agency workgroup’s recommended setbacks from human and animal waste management facilities--including recommendations for greater protection of high susceptibility public water systems and sensitive hydrogeologic settings such as karst and fractured bedrock. Collaborated with

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~~participating programs (Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water; Ohio Department of Health; Ohio EPA, Voluntary Action Program) to incorporate recommendations into guidance or state regulations.~~

- Supported and collaborated with the Ohio Rural Water Association (OWRA) Wellhead Protection and Source Water Protection Technicians in their efforts to assist public water systems developing protection plans.

Activity 5 - Conduct public outreach and education and disseminate source water assessments to public water systems and the public, via a secure web site.

Proposed Outcome/Product -

- development of secure web page to access reports
- document management
- respond to technical assistance requests
- updates to source water assessment and protection web pages

Actual Work Completed

- Continued working with Agency's Information Technology Services to develop a secure web page, where users can log in with a user name and password maintained by Ohio EPA's Central Office. *(The Web page was approved for completion in early August and went online August 25, 2006)*
- Added the non-transient non-community reports and transient non-community reports to the DDAGW intranet, where they are available to all Ohio EPA staff. *(Community reports were uploaded during PY05).*
- Added a "Small System Protection Plan Template" to the SWAP Web site. This fill-in-the-box template facilitates the writing of a Protection Plan and can be printed out and filled in by hand, or edited electronically.
- Continued supporting the Partnership Project "Project SWEET" with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Initiated in January 2005, Project SWEET supports the development and implementation of county/regional Source Water Environmental Education Teams (SWEETs). SWEETs use provided tools (ground water simulator models, source water assessment reports, maps of drinking water source protection areas) and training (Ohio geology, water resources, outreach techniques) to provide source water environmental education to Ohio's general public as well as assist Ohio's public water systems with the development and implementation of the educational portion of their drinking water source protection plan. Currently there are 40 teams representing 47 of Ohio's 88 counties. As of 6/30/06, 48 SWEET outreach events had been conducted reaching over 13,000 Ohioans through a variety of venues, including Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meetings, educator workshops, community programs, civic meetings, water festivals, and school programs.
- Created a SWEET Web page <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/swap/SWEET/index.html>,

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fact sheet, and listserv to provide continued support and education to SWEETs, encourage statewide communication among the teams, and advertise the availability of teams to the general public.

- Presented the SWEET Project at the 50th Midwest Ground Water Conference in Champaign, Illinois.
- The source water assessment and protection web pages were accessed approximately 500 times per month during the year. Most common areas selected were source water protection planning guidance, status of communities with protection planning, frequently asked questions, statewide maps of source water assessment areas and sole source aquifers.
- Responded to 427 requests for site-specific maps showing locations of source water protection areas near regulated facilities. Average response time was less than two days.
- Developed an ArcGIS template for technical assistance requests, to ensure greater consistency in SWAP-related map products provided to the public.

Activity 6 - Analysis of source water assessment data to establish protection priorities, development of a methodology for identifying 'most prevalent' and 'most threatening' sources, and evaluation of 'substantial implementation' for protective strategies, as required by U.S. EPA final guidance on measures. Develop method to measure public water system progress in implementing protection strategies.

Proposed Outcome/Product -

- priority areas for source water protection
- procedure or guidance documents

Actual Work Completed

- Developed and piloted a survey to document information on "most threatening sources" at individual public water systems as well as information on the protective strategies being implemented at each system.
- Designed a SWAPtrack module to store and manage this information, so that progress in implementation can be tracked and reported.
- Provided U.S. EPA with a definition of substantial implementation for Ohio and reported on using the required federal reporting tables.

Activity 7 - Provide general program support activities including: time accounting and budgeting, planning, personnel management, computer programming, network support, data management, information tracking, staff training, federal reporting, etc

Proposed Outcome/Product -

- federal reporting

Actual Work Completed

- PY '06 DW SRF Wellhead Protection Set-aside Semi-Annual Report, February 2006
- PY '05 DW SRF Wellhead Protection Set-aside Annual Report, September 2006.
- Provided general management and supervision to staff, completed annual report and internal director's quarterly reports; all staff performed time accounting procedures and provided support for accounting, budgeting and purchasing.
- Administrative staff provided general office support to program staff.
- Information management staff provided technical support for staff.
- SWAP program supervisor is attending an Ohio Management Training Program.

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