



# America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA): Study on Intractable Water Systems *Fact Sheet*

## Purpose:

This fact sheet serves as a quick reference guide to outline the US EPA project approach to meet the directives mandated by the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018. Specific to Section 1459C - *Study on Intractable Water Systems* that amends the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

## Background:

**AWIA directs EPA** to conduct a study no later than two years from the enactment of the Act to:

- Identify "intractable water systems";
- Describe the barriers to delivery of potable water to individuals; and
- Coordinate with US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS).

**AWIA defines** "intractable water systems" as a community or noncommunity water system that serves fewer than 1,000 individuals and the owner or operator:

- is unable or unwilling to provide safe and adequate service to those individuals;
- has abandoned or effectively abandoned the community water system or noncommunity water system, as applicable;
- has defaulted on a financial obligation relating to the community water system or noncommunity water system, as applicable; or
- fails to maintain the facilities of the community water system or noncommunity water; and
- is in significant non-compliance with SDWA or its regulations or listed as having a history of significant non-compliance (HSNC).

## Report Development:

**EPA HQ will** use SDWIS-Fed data (the database-of-record) to develop the Report-to-Congress by:

- Describing SDWIS-Fed data trends;
- Identifying HSNC with health-based violations (i.e., MCL, TT, MRDL);
- Describing "the barriers" based on Technical, Managerial and Financial (TMF) challenges with recommendations and best practices;
- Consulting with USDA and HHS on relevant information.

### Project Milestones 2019:

- **May**
  - Consult with EPA Regions on barriers for small systems.
  - Meeting #1 with USDA and HHS on opportunities for collaboration.
  - Meeting #1 with water sector stakeholder groups on project approach.
- **June**
  - Brief EPA Regions on data analysis and report development.
  - Draft report in progress.
- **July**
  - Meeting #2 with USDA and HHS.
  - Meeting #2 with water sector stakeholder groups.
  - Draft report out for review.
- **August**
  - Revise report based on reviewer comments.
  - Brief EPA management on report
- **September**
  - Submit final report to EPA Office of Water

### For More Information:

#### Contacts:

- Questions related to the report or other AWIA small system issues: Cindy Mack, [mack.cindy-y@epa.gov](mailto:mack.cindy-y@epa.gov)
- Questions related to the data analysis & Excel spreadsheet: Deborah Vacs Renwick, [VacsRenwick.Deborah@epa.gov](mailto:VacsRenwick.Deborah@epa.gov)
- Branch Chief: Maria Lopez-Carbo, [Lopez-Carbo.Maria@epa.gov](mailto:Lopez-Carbo.Maria@epa.gov), HQ Protection Branch, DWPD/OGWDW/OW

#### Resources:

- Information on National Capacity Development Program Trends for Small Drinking Water Systems:
  - <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/general-information-national-capacity-development-program-trends-small-drinking-water>
- AWIA Website – in progress

### Data Analysis Methodology:

**SDWIS-Fed data** queried to identify HSNL for PWSs that meet the following criteria (total of 334 HSNLs identified):

- Serve <1,000 individuals;
- PWS currently active;
- Health based violations (i.e., MCL, TT, MRDL) with a “start” date on/after January 1, 2016;
- PWS had an open HB violation for at least 3 out of 4 quarters (274 days) in each year of 2016, 2017 & 2018.

### Examples of Data Analysis Methodology to Include or Exclude PWSs:

- PWS in compliance
- PWS out of compliance

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Godric's Hollow

YEAR	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2016												
2017												
2018												

Godric's Hollow PWS would *not* be included as a HSNL because in one of the years (2017) the system only out of compliance for 1 out of 4 quarters.

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Hobbiton

YEAR	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2016												
2017												
2018												

Hobbiton PWS would be included as a HSNL since they were out of compliance for 3 out of 4 quarters in every year.

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King's Landing

YEAR	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2016												
2017												
2018												

King's Landing PWS would be included as a HSNL since in every year the system was out of compliance at least 9 out of 12 months of the year.