

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;
- <u>has abandoned</u> or effectively abandoned the community water system or noncommunity water system, as applicable;
- <u>has defaulted on a financial obligation</u> 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
- <u>is in significant non-compliance</u> 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
- Questions related to the data analysis & Excel spreadsheet: Deborah Vacs Renwick, VacsRenwick.Deborah@epa.gov
- Branch Chief: Maria Lopez-Carbo,_ <u>Lopez-Carbo.Maria@epa.gov</u>, 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-nationalcapacity-development-programtrends-small-drinking-water
- AWIA Website in progress

Data Analysis Methodology:

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

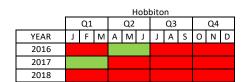
- Serve <1,000 individuals;
- PWS currently active;
- Health based violations (i.e., MCL, TT, MRDL) with a "start" date on/after January 1, 2016;
- PWS had an open HB violation for at least 3 out of 4 quarters (274 days) in each year of 2016, 2017 & 2018.

Examples of Data Analysis Methodology to Include or Exclude PWSs:

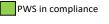


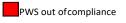
	Godric's Hollow											
	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
YEAR	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D
2016												
2017												
2018												

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



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







	King's Landing											
	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
YEAR	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D
2016												
2017												
2018												

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