Table Top Exercise

Collaborating Across State Drinking Water Programs to Support Sustainable Systems

OVERVIEW

Public funding can be limited in assisting drinking water systems. Work with your colleagues to maximize the use of your state's funding assistance.

Collaboration among your state's various drinking water programs will help to ensure the greatest public health protection for the American public.

Use this exercise to improve communication with your drinking water colleagues. Learn how other parts of your drinking water program prioritize funding and technical assistance to public water systems.

Different state staff perspectives will come together to prioritize limited funding and technical assistance. This exercise is based around "real life" small system challenges.

EXERCISE DESCRIPTION

Participants will separate into groups of five people each, with each person representing one of five roles. Details are tailored to your role – each role will receive a different package of information. You will work with your colleagues to obtain a full picture of each utility so that you may prioritize them for funding and technical assistance. Everyone may prioritize differently!

GOALS

- Demonstrate that better communication and collaboration will result in more effective assistance.
- Work together to come up with the most impactful prioritization of utilities seeking assistance.

FIVE STATE ROLES:

- Capacity Development Representative
- DWSRF Representative
- Enforcement Representative
- Operator Certification Representative
- State Drinking Water Administrator

OUTLINE

PHASE 1

- Participants assume a drinking water role unfamiliar to them and begin prioritizing assistance based on the available information.

PHASE 2

- The State Drinking Water Administrator (one of the five roles) convenes team members to share rankings.
    - The group provides input to determine which systems will receive DWSRF loan assistance.
    - The group provides input to determine which systems will receive technical assistance.

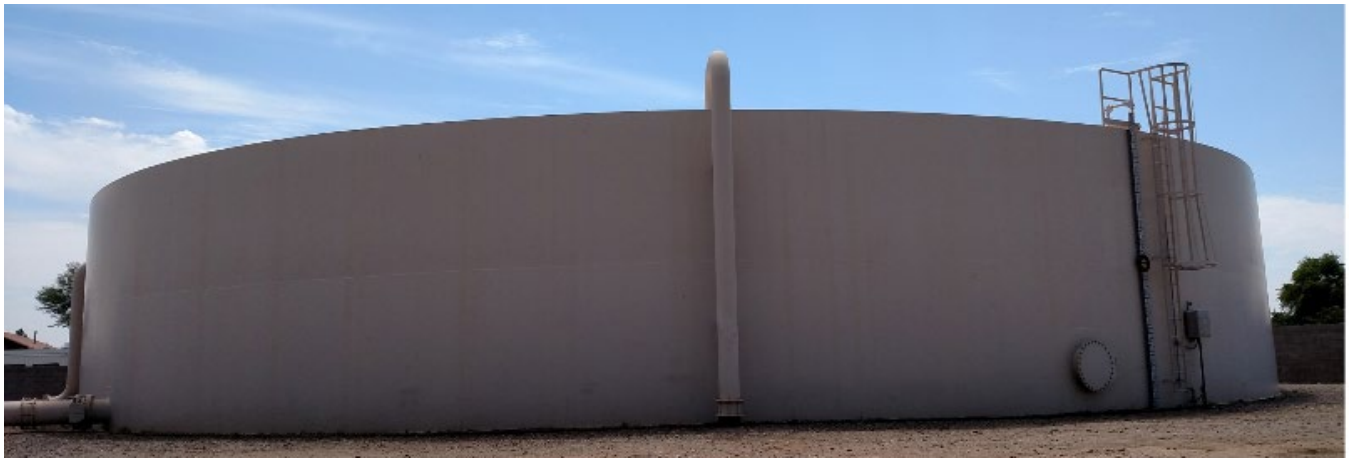
- The State Drinking Water Administrator decides on final rankings.
    - The State Drinking Water Administrator ranks systems in order from highest to lowest priority in terms of receiving state assistance.

PHASE 3

- Teams report rankings to group at large.

FINAL STEP

- Final rankings are discussed amongst the various teams.
- Reflect on lessons learned and main takeaways from the training.

KEY CONTACT

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