

Small Systems Engineering Contract Initiative

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New Jersey Water Association (NJWA) have executed a contract in which small public water systems, serving less than 3,300 customers, seeking infrastructure funding assistance through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) can be provided with funding to cover the initial engineering and design costs needed to be eligible to apply for the DWSRF loan program. This program eliminates the need for small water systems to utilize their own resources to pay for the engineering costs and ensures that the system design will be the most cost effective.

The NJDEP and NJWA will assign a New Jersey Professional Engineer to the system for the purpose of: 1) first drafting an asset management assessment of the water system with infrastructure improvements recommendations; and 2) completing the necessary planning documents, plans and specifications, and obtaining applicable permits for the infrastructure project chosen. The system will not receive the planning and design allowance associated with the DWSRF loan award, as these resources will be provided directly to the engineer through this contract. If the engineering funds, capped as noted in the contract, are not sufficient to cover the planning and design costs for the project, the additional costs may be the responsibility of the water system.

In order to be considered for this funding initiative, a water system must serve fewer than 3,300 customers (that is a community water system or non profit non community water system), and request in writing to NJDEP to participate in this engineering assistance contract. The request can be submitted in an email to Joseph.DuRocher@dep.nj.gov or can be sent to:

NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
Mail Code 401-04Q
401 East State Street
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Attention: Joseph DuRocher, Environmental Specialist 3

Once the asset management assessment and recommendations are completed and presented to the water system, then the water system must submit a ranking form for the most critical and needed project(s) to be ranked and placed on the DWSRF Project Priority list for funding consideration. The ranking form can be completed online at www.njeit.org under the forms section. The next phase of this contract would commence, the engineer completing the necessary planning documents, plans and specifications, and obtaining applicable permits for the infrastructure project chosen.

Please remember, as a limited amount of resources are currently available for this program, the NJDEP will provide funds for engineering services as funds allow. Any questions, contact Joseph DuRocher at (609) 292-5550.