

Mississippi Delta Water Projects Face Hurdles Poverty, Environmental Justice, Rural Population Are Challenges

by Mark Kemp-Rye
Water Sense Editor

The Mississippi River is little more than a stream when it leaves Lake Itasca, its source in northern Minnesota. By the time it reaches the Gulf of Mexico, 2,340 miles later, it is a mile or more wide and, in many places, resembles a lake more than a river. Virtually every drop of rain between the Appalachian Mountains in the east and the Rocky Mountains in the west—not to mention every discharge from every sewage and drinking water facility—ends up in the Mississippi River.

“The basin of the Mississippi is the body of the nation,” Mark Twain wrote in 1863. “All the other parts are but members, important in themselves, yet more important in their relations to this.” Indeed, the river’s impact on the development of the U.S. in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries cannot be understated.

But, the vast reaches of the river and its tributaries that made for such an important transportation system have a down side. It was also referred to in Twain’s day, less glowingly, as “the nation’s first sewer system.”

The fact that the Mississippi drains a massive area of 1.24 million square miles means that its lower reaches—the Delta—face unique challenges. Nonpoint source pollution problems are one such example.



Steamboats, an important form of transportation during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, can still be seen traveling the Mississippi River.

Environmental justice issues are another concern in the Delta. A study by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry states “there are mounting concerns that environmental health risks are borne disproportionately by members of the population who are poor and nonwhite. Concerns that possible disparities in environmentally induced illness are related to socioeconomic class and ethnicity or race have made this issue a top priority.”

Other challenges, though, are familiar to small towns across the country. “Key problems facing rural communities in Mississippi are the number of small systems who are faced with increasing requirements and expenses and, at

the same time, limited availability of funds for growth and improvements,” says Hershel F. Johnson, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) program director in the Mississippi Rural Development Office.

“More financial

resources are definitely needed to meet demands for new water systems to serve areas presently without a community water system and to make improvements to the large number of existing systems in rural areas,” says Danny Magee, Sr., RUS program director for Louisiana.

Magee also mentions that an adequate source of water will be a problem as the population in his state increases. “Presently, the
Continued on page 10

Water Sense

**Increasing
Water Rates :**
How are
public service
commissions
involved?
page 3





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National Drinking Water Clearinghouse

The National Drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC) assists small communities by collecting, developing, and providing timely information relevant to drinking water issues. Established in 1991, the NDWC is funded by the Rural Utilities Service and is located at West Virginia University.

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Drinking Water Discussion Board Is Back Online

Do you want to talk about drinking water? The National Drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC) now provides an online discussion group for professionals and other individuals with an interest in small community drinking water issues. The discussion board is located at www.estd.wvu.edu/forum/ndwc.

This forum is open to anyone wishing to post drinking water related questions and

receive feedback from users. An NDWC engineer will review the forum regularly.

If you have specific questions that require the expertise of an engineer, we encourage you to call the NDWC at (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191 and ask to speak with a technical assistance specialist. \$

EPA Budget Request Includes SRF Increases

In its \$9.5 billion budget request for fiscal year 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeks more spending for both new and existing water programs. The drinking water state revolving fund (DWSRF) and the clean water state revolving fund (CWSRF) would continue to receive funding under the proposed budget, which includes \$825 million for the DWSRF and \$800 million for the CWSRF.

Two new programs in the budget include one titled the "Cleaner Waters Across America" program and another to improve water quality in the Great Lakes.

"We are stepping up our efforts to identify and restore polluted waterways by providing an additional \$456 million in states grants for the administration's new Cleaner Waters Across America program," says EPA Administrator Carol Browner.

Through the \$50 million Great Lakes initiative, "states and communities will be eligible for funds to improve water quality through stormwater pollution control, wetlands restoration, and remediation of contaminated sediment," says Browner.

"The program is aimed at waterways still in need of improvements," she continues. "Resources will be used to develop specific restoration plans for some 20,000 waterways across the nation."

In the budget, EPA proposes \$495 million for Clean Water state grants, including \$250 million to fight polluted runoff, a situation that Browner calls "the largest current threat to our nation's water quality." Additionally, states have the option of using up to 19 percent of their CWSRF funds in the form of grants to fight polluted runoff. \$

RUS Loan Rates Unchanged

Interest rates for Rural Utilities Service (RUS) water and wastewater loans have been announced and are unchanged.

RUS interest rates are issued quarterly at three different levels: the poverty line rate, the intermediate rate, and the market rate. The rate applied to a particular project depends on community income and the type of project being funded.

To qualify for the *poverty line rate*, two criteria must be met. First, the loan must primarily be used for facilities required to meet health and sanitary standards. Second, the median household income of the area being served must be below 80 percent of the state's non-metropolitan median income or fall below the federal poverty level.

To qualify for the *intermediate rate*, the service area's median household income cannot exceed 100 percent of the state's non-metropolitan median income.

The *market rate* is applied to projects that don't qualify for either the poverty or intermediate rates.

The rates for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2000 apply to all loans issued from July 1 through September 30, 2000, are:

- *poverty line*: 4.5 percent;
- *intermediate*: 5.125 percent; and
- *market*: 5.875 percent.

RUS loans are administered through state Rural Development offices, which can provide specific information concerning RUS loan requirements and applications procedures.

For the phone number of your state Rural Development office, contact the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse at (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191. The list is also available on the RUS Web site at www.usda.gov/rus/water/states/usamap.htm.

Increasing Water Rates

How are public service commissions involved?

by Jamie Knotts
NDWC Writer/Editor

Editors Note: This is the second of a two-part series covering water rate increases. The first part explained the steps a utility should go through to calculate and justify a rate increase. This article explores the next step: working with the state public service or public utility commission to get the rate structure approved.

Raising a community's water rates is never easy. Many factors must be considered including the political ramifications, public support or outcry, and necessity of the increase.

One additional step that many utilities must consider is getting the rate increase approved by a state regulatory body, usually a Public Service Commission (PSC) or Utility Commission. Because there are statutory differences among states, some water utilities can merely set their own rates with little state regulatory oversight. But in many states, the water utility must go through a formal process to get the increase approved.

For those utilities that are regulated by their state's PSC, system staff often must complete a formal application for a rate increase. Some states have no formal application but do expect certain pieces of information that justify a rate increase.

Washington's Rate Increase Process

In Washington, the legislature gave the Utilities and Transportation Commission rate setting responsibility for some private, investor-owned water companies.

Gene Eckhardt, assistant director of the Water and Transportation, says that water companies wanting a rate increase must put together a good case as to why they need the increase. "The burden is on the company to demonstrate that the utility needs additional revenue to recover expenses and earn a fair return on its investment," he says. "The company must put together a case proving it needs the increase."

Eckhardt says the company does its own analysis of its revenue needs and then files its

proposed tariff and justification with the commission. "Our auditors then check the company's records and visit the plant," he says. "We often do preliminary work with a company to determine if a rate increase is needed or help develop rates so that when the company does formally file for a tariff increase, we know the proposal.

"We look to see what are the operating costs, the income statement, the balance sheet, the customers' usage, and

meter readings, among other things, over a 12-month period to accurately reflect the operation's records," he says. "We review the general ledger, looking for all money that comes in and goes out. We want to get an accurate idea of what it actually costs the company to provide the water to the customer."

Who's regulated and who's not?

The Utilities and Transportation

Commission regulates private, investor-owned companies that serve 100 or more customers or receive more than \$429 average annual revenue per customer. Only 71 private investor-owned companies are regulated in Washington. But these companies maintain 650 water systems throughout the state. The majority of the utilities are very small systems, with only four companies serving more than 2,000 customers.

Other water systems operated by municipalities, public utility districts, water districts, and homeowner associations do not fall under state regulatory control. In these systems, users have input in rate setting through a democratically elected process where the users vote on board members who ultimately set rates.

Rate Review, Step-By-Step

When a regulated water company decides to increase rates in Washington, it is required to file its proposed rates and justification with the Commission and notify each customer of the proposed rate changes 30 days in advance. It must also offer information that advises how a

Continued on page 4



"Companies know they have to go out and operate the water system in a fair manner to provide a quality product at a fair rate."

■
Gene Eckhardt,
assistant director,
Washington State
Water and
Transportation
Commission

Increasing Water Rates

Continued from page 3

customer can provide comments to the Commission, either in writing or by telephone.

Eckhardt says his staff reviews customers' comments. "Often a rate increase notice will prompt customers to file complaints about service problems," he says. "The customer might say, 'I've had a problem with a system for a long time but the company won't solve it. Now they want a rate increase.' Our consumer affairs section investigates those complaints," Eckhardt notes, "but that's generally a separate issue from the rate setting side. A lot of customer complaints will raise the question of service quality, which is a consideration in a rate case."

Commission staff summarize comments for the three-member Commission in a memorandum that discusses the proposed filing, reports staff's findings, and makes a recommendation to either allow the filing to become effective or suspend the filing for further review. Washington's commissioners hold an open meeting before the public which is a less formal process and not a hearing. Both the company and the customers may attend these meetings and make comments to the commissioners.

If the Commission takes no action after reviewing the rate review proposal, then the rate increase becomes effective by law. Eckhardt says that if a rate change is allowed, rates almost always go into effect on the first of the month.

A second option may be used whereby the Commission could suspend the filing for a maximum of 10 months. In this case, the Commission would perform additional evaluation and analysis of the company's proposal. This could lead to a more formal hearing process before an administrative law judge.

Eckhardt says the hearing process includes witnesses' sworn testimony, exhibits, and cross examination by attorneys. A law judge typically hears the case and drafts a recommended decision. Any party involved can appeal the ruling. The commissioners make the final decision, which can be filed before the courts in Washington. A rate increase can't be denied without the hearing before a law judge or the commissioners.

Eckhardt says it is uncommon for a rate filing to reach the formal hearing process. "Staff work with the company and in almost all situations, we negotiate a compromise to avoid a formal hearing," he says. "There have been just two formal hearings in Washington in the last eight years. Our staff resolve 60 percent of rate reviews within the 30 day period. The other 40 percent are resolved within the next few weeks or months. They are generally resolved quickly.

"We like to work with the water company beforehand so it shortens the review process," Eckhardt notes. "We generally have good working relationships with the companies. We do have different opinions and occasionally have disagreements on various issues, though.

"The bottom line is if a company can demonstrate that it spent money on an item and it spent the money wisely, then we determine its revenue needs and design a rate that will generate the needed revenue," he says. "We ask ourselves, 'Did the company make a prudent decision in operating it's business?'"

"Companies know they need to operate their water system in a fair manner to provide a quality product at a fair rate," Eckhardt says.

Maine's Rate Increase Process

In Maine, municipal, investor-owned, and quasi-municipal public service districts are regulated by the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).

Raymond Hammond is a senior utility engineer with the MPUC and says utilities wanting a rate increase must submit a proposal they put together themselves, although some staff assistance is available, based on need and staff workload. The Commission does have filing requirements that vary with the rate increase method available to the utility. "We usually have from 15 to 30 filings per year," Hammond says.

The Commission offers two different methods for reviews. One is open to all investor-owned, municipal-owned, and public service districts. Another option is only available to municipalities and public service districts.

Under a standard rate filing, municipal and quasi-municipal systems must file a copy of all relevant supporting documentation with the Commission and then hold their own public hearing where customers can testify. Statutes require that the customers be notified, and that a fair and open hearing be held. The utility may adjust its rate request based on testimony at this hearing. Within 30 days, the utility must submit its rate filing with the Commission that includes the public's comments and any responses to those comments the utility makes.

At this point, customers can petition for the Commission to investigate the rate filing. A petition must be signed by either 15 percent of the utility's customers or by 1,000 customers, whichever is less. The Commission can then suspend the rate increase.

Continued on next page

"Ultimately, the burden is on the utility to justify the rate increase."

■
Raymond Hammond,
senior utility
engineer, Maine
Public Utilities
Commission

Great Lakes RCAP Establishes Safe Water Fund

The Great Lakes Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) now has a revolving loan fund to serve as a niche market for financing water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Currently, the loan fund is available only in Ohio. However, the program will soon cover all states in RCAP's Great Lakes Region.

According to Julie Ward, program manager, the Great Lakes RCAP will serve as the lender for eligible projects, and the loans will be repaid to RCAP to relend for future projects. "Potential projects include equipment replacement and repair, gap financing, interim financing, predevelopment costs, land acquisition, and new source development," says Ward.

Eligible applicants include local units of government, as well as nonprofit and regional

water and wastewater service providers. According to Ward, loan terms range from one to six years, the interest rates ranges from 4 to 6 percent, and the loans range from \$5,000 to \$250,000.

"The Safe Water Fund is a source of funding available with lower than market interest rates, and it is easier to access than other sources of federal and state funds," says Ward. "RCAP technical assistance providers will work with communities to complete the application and put together the total financing package, depending on the project's funding needs."

To learn more about the Safe Water Fund, contact Ward at (419) 332-2074 or visit the Great Lakes RCAP Web site at www.wsos.org/programs/glrcap.htm. \$

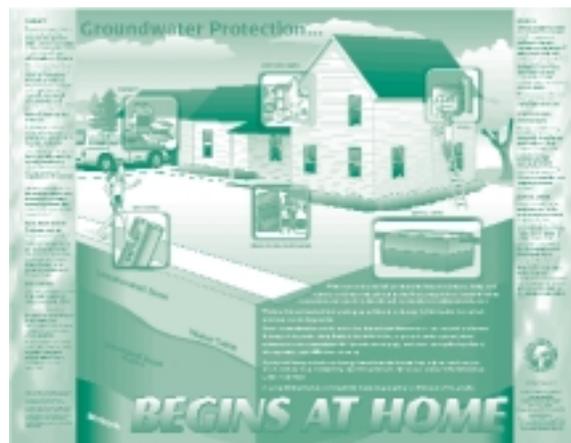


Free Groundwater Poster Is Available

The National Drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC) has numerous copies of a popular groundwater protection poster available at no charge.

Titled "Groundwater Protection Begins at Home," the poster shows how household hazardous waste can contaminate groundwater. The back of the poster contains articles about household hazardous waste and disposal, as well as information about how to set up a household hazardous waste disposal program.

For a copy of the poster, call the NDWC at (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191 and request item #DWSPE40. You may also order the poster online at ndwc_orders@mail.estd.wvu.edu \$



Increasing Water Rates

Continued from previous page

"The first person to sign the petition is the lead petitioner," Hammond says. "The lead petitioner can sign off on a stipulation on behalf on the petitioners but in an investor-owned case all the parties would have to sign off or have a chance to be heard."

The utility can then challenge the suspension whereby the Commission holds another public hearing about the validity of the customers' petition. If the Commission finds the petition to be invalid, it must lift the suspension and the rate increase goes into effect.

Small Utilities Get Help

Hammond says that the small utilities may need extra help in bringing their rate reviews before the Commission. "A fair number of small systems take advantage of our support

service," he says. "We assess their need because we don't want to be in competition with the consultants that do that kind of work."

"A number of small systems have been in dire financial straits and we've provided them with assistance," he says. "We answer any general questions and offer guidance. We're more than happy to answer questions to help them put together a rate case, but ultimately the burden is on the utility to justify the rate increase."

To speak with Gene Eckhardt, call (360) 664-1160. Raymond Hammond may be reached at (207) 287-3831. To learn more about the regulatory requirements for your system, contact the Public Service Commission or Utility Commission in your state found in the government listings section of your phonebook. \$



One Man's Dilemma

Operator Struggles To Meet Expenses, Provide Safe Water

by Jamie Knotts
NDWC Writer/Editor

Editor's note: Because of the sensitive nature of this story, we've changed the name of the operator in this article and chosen not to identify the utility he owned and operated.

His name is Tom and he didn't ask to be a drinking water system owner and operator. He sort of fell into the role by accident. And he had no idea what problems the job would bring with it.

When he bought some property in Missouri back in the 70s, Tom didn't know about all the problems he would face in the future. The property had a well on it that fed the needs of several of the town's residents. As more and more people moved to the area, they tapped into the well. Eventually, Tom's well became a public water system that served 83 households.

Over the years, the now 68-year-old Tom tried his best to keep the system operating. He often spent his own money to pay the electric bill, largely because he still charged rates set 17 years ago in 1983. He worried about the little old lady down the street who couldn't afford a rate increase. There were times the residents helped him out by collecting money to pay for the electric bill.

He was just being neighborly. But things changed when his system was cited for a number of maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations by the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He was injecting chlorine into water from a ground well and didn't have enough detention time because the system had no storage. His pumps ran all the time, resulting in some electric bills hitting \$2,000 a month.

The long list of MCL violations also included pipe that wasn't sufficiently covered. With maybe 6 inches of dirt resting on a layer of rock, it was hard for him to meet the standard.

On top of these problems, the system's \$10 a month rate for unlimited water often didn't even cover the system's routine costs. Even at that low rate, some people owed \$300 or \$400 in back payments. Any improvements he made would have to come out of Tom's own pocket.

MAP Lends a Helping Hand

Tom needed help and he got it from Chris Fierros, a rural development specialist with the Midwest Assistance Program (MAP). Headquartered in New Prague, Minnesota, MAP is one of six Rural Community Assistance Programs that strive to improve the delivery of water and waste

disposal services to rural and low-income areas. Working out of her office in Mound City, Missouri, Fierros set out to help Tom.

"I knew there were problems. The plant facilities were put together makeshift and the system never really was in compliance," Fierros says. "I helped review the rates and look over the system. Tom only actually owned the well location. He had no easements; no right-of-ways. He couldn't even disconnect customers for nonpayment. It was a pretty bad situation when I got down there.

"Tom knew he needed a rate increase," she says. "At that point, I had never worked on a private side issue before. Most of the systems we work with are municipalities and they don't fall under the PSC." The Public Service Commission (PSC) works differently for private and public water systems.

"I got a few lessons about how the PSC works in Missouri," she says. "It's just the opposite of a public system. On the private side you have to make all the improvements before you can get a rate increase. Small systems often don't have the financial resources available to make improvements without the PSC guaranteeing they will get the increase and no bank will loan the money because there may not be any repayment ability.

"The PSC won't ever look at and approve a rate increase pending an agreement that the system will make the improvements," says Fierros. "And we couldn't go to a bank asking for a loan without the PSC's rate approval. The PSC did acknowledge that the rates were too low and had not changed since 1983. The PSC knew that the \$10 wasn't even covering the electric bill." The PSC's hands were tied because of the regulations.

Public water systems in Missouri are not regulated by the PSC. Fierros says the public water systems are somewhat regulated by funders. Systems sometimes get approval for rate increases from funders who provide grants or loans.

"Tom didn't know where to go or what to do," Fierros says. "Most small system operators don't want to call any type of regulatory agency for help if there is something wrong. They think they will get in more trouble if they come forward with their problems. But Tom was already under a compliance agreement with state DNR. He needed help and assistance from our organization."

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Chris Fierros,
rural development
specialist, Midwest
Assistance Program

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Gathering the Facts

One of the first things the two had to do was collect all the necessary information to put a rate increase proposal together. They took an inventory of the system's equipment and put together financial reports detailing all assets and expenses. "The report was as detailed as listing 200 feet of 6-inch pipe and its cost," Fierros says. "It took a lot of research to list what he put in the system."

Once they started this fact gathering process, Fierros says, the PSC came down to the system and worked with them. "I knew I could eventually work things out," she says. "All I had to do was call the PSC and they were really good about helping. It helped that they knew he was charging 1983 rates. A rate increase was easily justifiable for this system."

With all the information gathered, the pair filled out a formal document that totaled 28 pages. "It was real in-depth," says Fierros. "It listed the year he made improvements, what the improvements were, and any debts against the system. It also included such things as how much money was invested in the system, and how much profit was taken from the system. They are allowed a 30 percent profit over their expenses in Missouri, and they'll [the PSC] catch it [if it exceeds 30 percent.]"

New rate denied, now what?

They submitted the rate increase application in late June and by September they learned the increase had been denied. "The PSC pushed that through," Fierros says. "Normally they say that it's a six month process once they receive it. He just didn't have six months to wait."

The application went through a review committee and eventually came before a three-member commission who had the authority to approve or disapprove.

"They found that he needed the increase, however because of the public comments, they said that he couldn't enforce the rate until improvements were made," Fierros says. "The comments were justifiable because some people didn't even have water. How could he enforce a new rate on people who weren't always getting what they were paying for?"

Fierros estimates that there were 20 comments out of the 83 connections to the system. She says most of the written comments were negative.

"He ended up giving the system to the city because he didn't have the money to make the improvements and didn't want the customers to suffer," Fierros says. "The situation had gotten

way past the typical help the system could get. The city could get the grant money and funding in order to put the system in working compliance."

In Missouri, a Hancock Amendment prohibits cities from taking over systems and immediately raising rates. Having gone through the PSC rate increase process that found that an increase was justifiable, but not enforceable until improvements were made, they could bypass this rule.

"Tom had to walk through the whole PSC process to get the system turned over to city," Fierros says. "He wanted to get out of the water business. He was 68 and just wanted out."

Tips for Working With PSCs

Systems wanting a rate increase need to make sure that all system improvements are justified, Fierros says. "They can't go out arbitrarily and make system changes and then say they need a rate increase," she says. "The PSC needs to see that systems are making needed changes. The PSC is there for consumer protection, but are very helpful to the systems, too.

"Keep in contact with the PSC and let them know what is going on," she urges. "They are more open to involvement than not knowing about something that is going on behind their back. The PSC doesn't like surprises. Let them know what you are doing."

Fierros says that those going through the process need to make sure they know all the rules that apply with the PSC's regulations. Most are posted on the internet. "Going into it I didn't know there would be so many things different between public and private system regulations."

She says the biggest pitfall a system can fall into is exaggerating expenses. "The PSC is pretty good about knowing what the costs are," she says. "If an operator has two 250-gallon-a-minute pumps, then the PSC should know what the electric costs would be.

"They questioned various parts of our application and we justified the situation," says Fierros. "In this case, there was no holding tanks, so the pumps ran pretty much 24 hours a day resulting in the higher than normal electric bills. The PSC understood this."

To speak with Fierros, call her at (660) 442-3852. To contact the Midwest Assistance Program, call (800) 822-2981 or (612) 758-4334, or visit their Web site at www.map-inc.org. MAP offers assistance to systems in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. 💰

"[Utilities] can't go out arbitrarily and make system changes and then say they need a rate increase. The PSC needs to see that systems are making needed changes."

Chris Fierros,
rural development
specialist, Midwest
Assistance
Program



Census 2000 Is Making Progress Results May Benefit Your Community

by Jamie Knotts, NDWC Writer/Editor and
Mark Kemp-Rye, Water Sense Editor

With time running out in the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial population tabulation, census workers will comb local communities this summer hoping to reach the 35 percent who haven't yet returned their census forms.

"Sixty-five percent of the households in America have returned their census forms," says Dr. Kenneth Prewitt, Census Bureau director. "This is a serious achievement; it is news to celebrate. The country has stopped in its tracks a decades-long decline in meeting our civic responsibilities."

With each decade, it has become increasingly difficult to count everyone. The percentage of people who mailed back their census forms declined from 78 percent in 1970 to 65 percent in 1990. During this same time, the percentage of people who were missed altogether also increased.

"In reaching 65 percent, the American public outperformed the expectations of the Census Bureau, of the U.S. Congress, and of the General Accounting Office," reports Prewitt. "Now the Census Bureau and its community partners turn to an even more demanding task—convincing the millions and millions who did not return their forms nevertheless to cooperate when census-takers knock on the door in the coming weeks."

How did the census come about?

The first official census was taken in 1790, following the nation's independence. At that time, there was an almost immediate need for a census of the entire nation. That census counted 3.9 million inhabitants.

Through the years, the nation's needs and interests became more complex. This meant that there had to be statistics to help people understand what was happening and to have a basis for planning. The content of the decennial census changed accordingly.

The censuses also spread geographically to new states and territories added to the Union, as well as to other areas under U.S. sovereignty or jurisdiction. There were so many more inquiries

of all kinds in the censuses of 1880 and 1890 that almost a full decade was needed to publish the results of each count.

As the nation grew, changes in the economy became more frequent and far-reaching. Since government officials and businesses had to adjust their plans as these changes occurred, they needed more frequent reports about various indicators.

Now directed by the U.S. Census Bureau, census counts are ongoing from year to year on various social, economic, and geographic subjects. The best-known census, which calculates the nation's population, is done every 10 years.

Why is the census so important?

By surveying America's population every decade, the Census Bureau secures general statistical information that is helpful in many ways.

Every question in Census 2000 is

required by law to manage or evaluate federal programs, or is needed to meet legal requirements stemming from U.S. court decisions, such as the Voting Act.

People who answer the census help their communities obtain federal and state funding, and they provide valuable information for planning schools, hospitals, roads, and more. Information collected in Census 2000 will provide local area data needed for communities to receive federal program funds and for private sector and community planning. Congressional redistricting is also dependent on counts obtained from

decennial census reports.

Federal dollars supporting schools, employment services, housing assistance, highway construction, hospital services, programs for the elderly, and more are distributed based on census data. In fiscal year 1998, 22 of the largest 25 federal grant programs awarded \$162 billion to state, local, and tribal governments. More than half of this money was distributed using formulas based on census population data.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is one agency that relies on census information for funding projects. The interest rates for RUS water and wastewater loans are based on the median household income of a service area and the federal poverty level.

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■
Kenneth Prewitt,
Census Bureau
director

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Both measures are derived from census data. (See page 2 of this issue for current loan rates.)

The Census Bureau estimates that at least \$182 billion will be distributed annually based on formulas using Census 2000 data.

American Community Survey Is Launched

This year's census has been controversial due in part to the detailed questions asked on the "long form." One in six households received the form asking far more in-depth demographic, housing, social, and economic questions.

Those who had to complete the lengthier questionnaire will be pleased to know that the Census Bureau plans to phase out the long form by 2010 and replace it with the American Community Survey (ACS). This new approach provides accurate, up-to-date profiles of America's communities every year, rather than once every 10 years. Community leaders and other data users will have timely information for planning and evaluating public programs.

ACS will provide estimates of demographic, housing, social, and economic characteristics for all states, as well as for all cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and population groups of 65,000 people or more.

For smaller areas, it will take two-to-five years to accumulate sufficient samples to produce data for areas as small as census tracts. For example, areas of 20,000 to 30,000 can use data averaged over three years. For rural areas and city neighborhoods or population groups of fewer than 15,000 people, it will take five years to accumulate a sample that is similar to that of the current census. These averages can be updated every year, so that eventually, the Census Bureau will be able to

measure changes over time for small areas and population groups.

What does this mean for small communities?

The Census Bureau expects the nation's population could more than double in this century. According to national population projections, the current population will grow from 273 million to 404 million in 2050. By 2100 the population could reach 571 million.

Recent census data shows the West continues to be the fastest-growing region of the country, followed by the South. For the 14th consecutive year, Nevada was the nation's fastest-growing state. Communities in those regions will continue to plan for the growing needs of their residents.

After a period of rapid outmigration during the 1960s through the 1980s, rural areas are seeing fewer people leave for urban areas. In fact many rural places are experiencing growth for the first time in years. Because federal money is linked to census data, a good measure of a community's population will be important to these places and could mean much-needed dollars for water-related improvements.

It should be noted that the bureau only uses replies from individuals and establishments to compile general statistics. The confidentiality of these replies is very important. By law, no one—neither the census takers nor any other Census Bureau employee—is permitted to reveal identifiable information about any person, household, or business.

For more information about the census, call the Census Bureau at (301) 457-4608 or visit the Census 2000 Web site at www.census.gov/dmd/www/2khome.htm. \$

The Census Bureau estimates that at least \$182 billion will be distributed annually based on formulas using Census 2000 data.

What's the timeline for this census?

By now, households in the U.S. have seen either the short or the long form of the census questionnaire. People have also been exposed to the largest media effort ever undertaken by the Census Bureau. Even though most of the forms have been returned, the current count is far from over. Here are some key dates for completing this census.

- January through May 2000—Census employees visit rural and remote areas to deliver and then retrieve questionnaires.
- March 15, 2000—The first census survey instruments were mailed. Five out of six households received a short form, which asked basic questions about occupants' gender, age, race, and house type. One in six households received a long form, which, in addition to the short form questions, asked for detailed information about occupants' education, ancestry, employment, and home characteristics.
- April 1, 2000—Census forms returned. As of April 30, 2000, 65 percent had been returned.
- Summer 2000—Census counters visit housing units that did not return questionnaires.
- Summer 2000—Census posts enumeration survey using scientific statistical methodology to correct and adjust the count.
- December 31, 2000—The Census Bureau delivers congressional apportionment counts to the president.
- April 1, 2001—States receive adjusted redistricting counts.

Mississippi Delta Water Projects Face Hurdles

Continued from page 1

Sparta Aquifer is not recharging sufficiently and will cause a water supply problem for most of north Louisiana and south Arkansas.”

Communities and rural development professionals are tackling these and other challenges throughout the region.

Delta Region Has Unique Characteristics

Any project that tries to bring safe, clean water to the Delta, must address two critical elements. First, the population of the region is significantly more rural than the rest of the U.S. Second, poverty rates are much higher than national averages, and have been for decades. Many rural parts of the country experience poverty, but few experience it to the degree found in the Delta.

In the 1990 census, 40 percent of the eight million residents of the 219 counties and parishes that make up the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission (LMDDC) lived in rural areas. (See map below.) This compares with approximately 25 percent for the U.S. as a whole.

Interestingly enough, housing units in the Delta are more likely to be on public or private water systems than nonmetropolitan communities throughout the rest of the country. The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) attributes this to that fact that soil conditions do not allow for drilling adequate wells.

At the same time, though, these residents are much more likely to live in poverty. An HAC report titled “Information About the Lower Mississippi Delta” notes that nearly one-fourth of the people in this region live in poverty—175 percent higher than for the rest of the country. “The Lower Mississippi Delta region has had high, even extreme, rates of poverty for decades,” the report notes. Elsewhere, an Appalachian Regional Council analysis of the region found that “poverty is severe and persistent” and that, in the poorest fifth of Delta counties, “per capita income was less than half the U.S. average, ranging (in 1995) from just \$4,448 to \$9,017.”

In a report to the President and Congress in 1990, the LMDDC described the inhabitants of the Delta as people “who by virtue of place are surrounded by thousands of square miles of some of the country’s richest natural resources and physical assets ... And yet, these are the people who by statistics constitute the poorest region of the United States of America.”

For water projects, the reality of poverty and a rural population is a double-edged sword: any improvements are going to be costly—because of the dispersed, rural population and environmental conditions—and the ability for communities to pay for improvements is severely hampered by the historic poverty of the region.

What’s being done to help Delta communities?

Since at least the New Deal of the 1930s, federal and state officials have been trying to tackle problems in the Delta. More recently, in 1970, the Mississippi Delta region was identified

as 43 counties in the flatland delta areas of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri.

In 1988, Congress established the LMDDC, which expanded the region’s geographic definition to include a total of 219 counties and parishes in portions of seven states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, and

Kentucky. In 1990, the LMDDC submitted to Congress and then President Bush an ambitious plan with some 400 recommendations that included roles for federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector.

Eight years later, in 1998, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), with nine other federal agencies, formed a partnership to provide economic assistance to the seven states located in the Mississippi Delta. The compact, titled “The Delta: Beyond 2000,” will re-examine the first LMDCC report and identify new ways that federal resources might help the region.

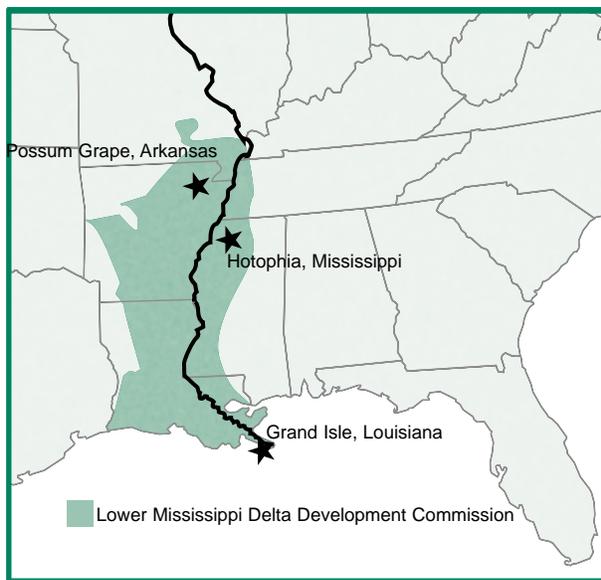
“USDA administers a number of programs

Continued on next page

“It was a monstrous big river here, with the tallest and the thickest kind of timber on both banks; just a solid wall, as well as I could see by the stars.”



Mark Twain, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn



The Mississippi River Delta Region

Continued from previous page

designed to develop the economic infrastructure of rural communities, such as those located in the Delta,” says Dan Glickman, USDA secretary. “In 1997 alone, USDA programs helped preserve more than 150,000 rural jobs and assisted more than 40,000 families in purchasing homes.

We will continue to work with our other agency partners, and nonprofit and government partners in the states, to make the resources available which will improve the lives of the residents of the Delta and help them look toward a brighter tomorrow.”

In 1999, the Delta received \$7.2 million for five projects under USDA’s Water 2000 initiative. More assistance is expected when the latest Water 2000 funds are announced in July, and several goals have been established for next year. (See sidebar below.)

To get an idea of how these programs are brought to bear in the small towns themselves, we examined three Delta communities: Possum Grape, Arkansas; Hotophia, Mississippi; and Grand Isle, Louisiana.

Possum Grape, Arkansas

Located in northeast Arkansas approximately 100 miles from Memphis, Tennessee, Possum Grape, is a community of 1,500 or so people. (See map on page 10.) Workers who live there typically commute to nearby factories or work as laborers in the numerous farms in the area.

The unemployment rate for Jackson County, where Possum Grape is located, was 6.9 percent in 1999, as compared to the statewide average of 4 percent. The median household income for the area during this time was \$16,640—more than 80 percent of the state median household income, but less than the poverty level for the nation as a whole.

In order to provide better service to customers in southwestern Jackson and southeastern Independence counties, the Independence-

Jackson Regional Water Users Association, Inc. (IJRWUA) was formed in 1983. IJRWUA received their first USDA funding in 1986 through a \$1,116,500 loan and a \$483,500 grant.

In addition to the USDA funds, the association received \$750,000 from the Arkansas Department of Economic Development. The 1983 project was designed to serve approximately 650 users.

In 1989, USDA funded an additional loan of \$171,300 and a grant of \$263,300 to cover a bid overrun. Then, in 1993, USDA funded a request from the association for \$254,700 to serve 117 new users.

The latest project provides an extension of the system to 60 new users in remote areas of Jackson and Independence counties. Residents in these outlying areas are currently served by wells that have a high failure rate during drought conditions, have poor water quality due to iron and other minerals, and are often found to be unsafe due to fecal coliform.

In addition to the line extension, the project also provides an upgrade of the system, which is needed to correct two key problems. The first is that the system has a high pressure area that will have ductile iron installed to replace some PVC piping that used to break due to high pressure.

The second problem is the existence of two pressure plains. Presently, it is not possible to move water from the lower plain to the higher one except through one pump station, which is located in an isolated area where power outages occur frequently. By installing more pump stations, the system will be able to use two well sites and treatment plants throughout the whole system, and will have a backup in the event of power outages.

“The only problem we encountered were some rocky areas where the extension went,” says Wayne Menley, project manager and *Continued on page 12*

“More financial resources are definitely needed to meet demands for new water systems to serve areas presently without a community water system and to make improvements for the large number of existing systems in rural areas.”

Danny Magee, Sr.,
RUS program
director for
Louisiana.

Commission Establishes Goals for 2001

The Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission identified three goals for environmental protection in the Delta Region. The goals are:

1. The Delta will improve its overall environmental quality by meeting or surpassing national environmental standards and by preparing for natural and manmade disasters.
2. The Delta will be at the forefront of environmental research and will promote community

environmental awareness and education throughout the Region.

3. All states in the Delta will achieve methods to dispose of their hazardous and solid waste without threatening groundwater, surface water and air quality.

The year 2001 is the target deadline for achieving these goals.

Mississippi Delta Water Projects Face Hurdles

Continued from page 11

engineer with Miller-Newell Engineers, the engineering firm overseeing the project. "All in all, everything's gone remarkably smoothly."

Funding for the project will also enable the system to build a new office and maintenance facility. Currently, the operator stores all materials and supplies at his home. "The structure is a big improvement over the way things used to be," says Menley.

The total project cost is \$1,159,500, with a RUS loan of \$645,800 and RUS grant for \$510,700.

"These funds will upgrade the existing system to use both well sites, and to construct office and maintenance building to better serve the rural citizens of this area with a safe, reliable, and economical water supply," says Jerry Virden, engineer with Arkansas' Office of Rural Development.

Hotophia, Mississippi

In the heart of blues country—just 40 miles from where Highway 49 crosses Highway 61 (the infamous "crossroads" so often mentioned in blues music)—is the Hotophia Water Association, a small, rural water association with approximately 621 users located in Panola County, Mississippi. (See map on page 10.) The existing system is at least 20 years old.

A proposed project will allow the system to improve water service to the existing users and expand service to approximately 20 additional users in the area. The proposed upgrade will allow the water association to have its own well and additional water storage capacity.

RUS is providing 56 percent of the total project cost with a direct insured loan of \$263,000, and 44 percent of the total cost is being leveraged with a RUS guaranteed loan of \$200,000 through First Security Bank of Batesville, six miles west of Hotophia.

The proposed project involves the installation of a 500-gallon-per-minute well; a 30,000 gallon

hydropneumatic storage tank; and approximately 23,000 feet of 4-inch water line. When the project is finished, Hotophians may still have the blues, but at least they'll have good water.

Grand Isle, Louisiana

If you head south out of Baton Rouge on Louisiana State Highway 1 and drive until you run out of road, you'll find yourself in the town of Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, in the Gulf of Mexico. (See map on page 10.) Grand Isle is the

center for the local seafood and fishing industries and a staging area for offshore oil exploration and production. A small town of approximately 3,000 during the week, the weekend population of Grand Isle swells to more than 11,000.

According to Magee, Grand Isle experiences

"severe problems with an insufficient supply of potable water and inadequate water pressure." Deficiencies in the existing water supply, as well as in the distribution system, cause "significant problems for the town's water department—particularly with the increasing demand for water."

To address these problems, Grand Isle currently purchases 450,000 gallons of water a day from LaFourche Parish Water District No. 1 (LPWD), which is pumped from 12 miles away through a 35-year-old, 8-inch water line. In 1993, a new booster station was added to the existing line to increase volume and pressure.

The original cost of purchasing water from LPWD was 57.8 cents per 1,000 gallons but that agreement expired in 1992. Since that time, Grand Isle has been paying \$2.48 per 1,000 gallons for the first 12 million gallons and \$3.40 per 1,000 gallons thereafter. In addition to these costs, water was being barged to the island at a cost of approximately \$12.50 per 1,000 gallons to meet demand that could not be met by LPWD.

Grand Isle's water system has been evaluated a number of times between 1976 and 1992. Even

Continued on next page



In their book *Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada*, geographers Stephen S. Birdsall and John W. Florin, identify antebellum mansions and trees covered in Spanish Moss as among the characteristics that give the Deep South its distinctive regional flavor.

"Small towns are trying to get out of the water business. It's mostly a matter of economics and the fact that the small systems can't deliver quality water the way the bigger ones can."

Wayne Menley,
project manager,
Miller-Newell
Engineers

Mississippi Delta Water Projects Face Hurdles

Continued from previous page

though each of the studies addressed the same problems and offered similar solutions, the town had not been able to remedy the situation due to lack of financial resources.

To solve these long-standing problems, Louisiana officials worked together to come up with a solution. The total cost of the project—which will be finished this year—is more than \$20 million. Funding came from RUS and Jefferson Parish loans (\$9.25 million and \$1 million, respectively) and grants from the State of Louisiana and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “This project is a good example of cooperative efforts for resolving water problems in rural Louisiana,” says Magee.

The project involves constructing a new waterline consisting of 16-inch pipe and four booster stations. Each booster station consists of a 250,000 gallon ground storage tank, two pumps, a standby generator, and housing. The new waterline is connected to an existing 1,000,000 gallon ground storage tank in Grand Isle, from which water is transferred to a new 1,000,000 gallon ground storage tank, also in Grand Isle.

“The project provides Grand Isle with a tremendous boost toward improving its infrastructure to meet the needs of its rural residents and businesses,” says Magee. “The project will also provide a foundation for future economic opportunities and growth for this community.”

What’s the future for small systems in the Delta?

One of the stereotypes associated with the Deep South is that it is somehow “backward” and “behind the times.” When it comes to innovative programs for water officials, though, nothing

could be farther from the truth. Mississippi, for example, legally requires management training for drinking water system board members—currently the only state with such a requirement. And, Louisiana has mandatory training for anyone (e.g., board members, owners) who manages a water system.

These programs will go a long way toward improving water in the Delta. But, for many communities the future is unclear. “Small towns are trying to get out of the water business,” says Menley. “It’s mostly a matter of economics and the fact that the small systems can’t deliver quality water the way the bigger ones can.”

“Requirements by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Health Department in Mississippi are getting more strenuous, and operating expenses are always going up,” observes Johnson. “The only answer seems to be to merge. They (small systems) either have to merge ownership or management.” (See the Summer 1999 issue of *Water Sense* for an in-depth discussion of mergers and mutual aid agreements.)

Whatever the case may be, communities are being encouraged to take a more holistic approach to growth and development. In their 1990 report to Congress titled *Realizing the Dream, Fulfilling the Potential*, the LMDDC wrote “Economic development of the Delta cannot be separated from the cultural and ethnic realities and cannot be planned apart from careful management of its resources and protection of its environment. This report envisions a coming time when ecological mindfulness and economic development are no longer seen as incompatible but as indivisible.”

A list of contacts on page 14 provides more information about water project assistance in the Mississippi Delta region. \$

HAC Offers Predevelopment Loans

A small Water/Wastewater Loan Fund (W/WWLF) is available from the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) to finance predevelopment activities for water and wastewater systems in poor rural areas.

Eligible borrowers include local units of government, public utility districts, water and wastewater associations, and other nonprofit utility service organizations.

W/WWLF loans may be used for:

- preliminary engineering and technical studies, including soil, water, or drilling tests;
- preliminary easement and water rights purchase;
- legal expenses to establish utility districts;
- bonding expenses;
- interim financing of local share costs;
- emergency repairs; and

- acquisition of existing private systems for rehabilitation.

Loans are made for two-year periods, with zero percent interest the first year and 5 percent the second year. The loans also carry a 1 percent service fee.

According to John Frisk, director of HAC’s loan fund, the W/WWLF is intended to provide only interim seed money. HAC usually requires applicants to identify permanent funding sources for long-term project expenses.

HAC is a national nonprofit corporation created to improve housing and living standards for low- and very low-income rural households.

To learn more about the W/WWLF or to obtain an application packet, contact Frisk at (202) 842-8600. \$

“The Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission envisions a coming time when ecological mindfulness and economic development are no longer seen as incompatible but as indivisible.”

From *Realizing the Dream, Fulfilling the Potential*



Mississippi Delta Water Contacts

Rural Development Offices

Louisiana State Office
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302
Phone: (318) 473-7920
Web: www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/index.html

USDA Service Center
700 West Capitol, Room 3416
Little Rock, AR 72201-3225
Phone: (501) 301-3200
Web: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ar/index.html

Mississippi Rural Development Office
100 West Capitol St., Suite 831
Federal Building
Jackson, MS 39269
Phone: (601) 965-4318
Web: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ms/index.html

Southern Region Community Resource Group (CRG)

Serves Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas
Community Resource Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 1543
Fayetteville, AR 72702
Phone: (501) 443-2700
Web: www.crg.org

Community Development Block Grant Program

Louisiana Division of Administration
Office of Community Development
P.O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095
Phone: (225) 342-7412
Web: www.doa.state.la.us/cdbg/cdbg.htm

Mississippi Department of Economic & Community Development
Community Services Division
P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 359-3179
Web: www.mississippi.org/decd/community/comm_grants.htm

Arkansas Department of Economic Development
One State Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 682-1121
Web: www.1800Arkansas.com/home.html

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Region 4
Serves Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104
Phone: (404) 562-9900
Web: www.epa.gov/region4/

EPA Region 4 Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Office of Economic Development
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3435
Phone: (919) 962-8494
Web: www.unc.edu/depts/efc

EPA Region 6
Serves Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

EPA Region 6 Main Office
1445 Ross Avenue Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202
Phone: (214) 665-2200
Web: www.epa.gov/earth1r6/

EPA Region 6 Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico
Engineering Research Institute
901 University Blvd., SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106-4339
Phone: (505) 272-7357
Web: nmeri.unm.edu/Eefc.htm

Rural Water Associations

Arkansas Rural Water Association
240 Dee Dee Lane
Lonoke, AR 72086
Phone: (501) 676-2255
Web: www.arkansasruralwater.org/

Louisiana Rural Water Association
P.O. Box 180
Kinder, LA 70648
Phone: (337) 738-2896
Web: www.lrwa.org/home.cfm

Mississippi Rural Water Association
5400 N. Midway Road
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone (601) 857-2433 



WATER FACT

An acre of corn contributes more to humidity than a lake of the same size.

Source: Drinking Water Activities for Teachers and Students

Signing on the Bottom Line: Grant Agreements and You

by June Otow, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) corporate development manager and Frank Emmick, RCAC rural development programs manager

You worked so hard to put that proposal together and now, at last, the award letter has arrived. You are told a grant agreement will follow in a few weeks. OK! You can't wait to sign that agreement and get that cash flowing!

The grant agreement comes. Do you sign it and promptly return it? Wisdom dictates that you read that document before you sign.

On June 24, 1999, the California Court of Appeals issued a decision in *Health Reform Action Project v. Archstone Foundation*, California Court of Appeals, Fourth Appellate District. The case is now final.

In this case, a nonprofit was awarded a one-year foundation grant for \$1.5 million. At the end of the project year, only \$616,000 had been used. The nonprofit received a second grant of "not more than \$487,000." The second agreement specified that it "superseded any and all prior and contemporaneous agreements or understandings." The nonprofit sued the foundation for breach of promise to fund a total of \$4.5 million to the project over a three-year period based on earlier discussions of the foundation board. The court sided with the foundation and viewed grant agreements as fully binding legal documents rather than one-way transfers of charitable funds.

You must live with the expectations, requirements and limitations in your grant agreement. Often the agreement will relate:

- the start and end date of the grant;
- the actual amount that has been approved;
- how many reports are required and when to file them;
- how often the funds will be disbursed and under what circumstances;
- what you are expected to accomplish with the funds;
- under what circumstances you might be required to return funds;
- whether renewal or future funding is discretionary;
- special conditions contained in attachments to the grant award or catchalls, such as "all applicable federal agency requirements";
- the staff or subcontractors that can be used for the project, and that changes must be approved by the funder;
- any requirements for in-kind contributions or matching funds of a specified amount;

- requirements for detailed project budgets and limitations on subsequent changes without the prior approval of the funder; and,
- any requirement regarding prior approval of any publicity or publications generated under the project.

Ideally, a project team should be assembled to examine both the proposal and the grant award and to determine any staff changes or other changes that might affect the ability of the agency to meet all of the grant conditions. Identify potential risks including unrealistic time frames and administrative requirements that add substantial costs to the project.

Agenda items for the project team may include the following objectives:

- understand program goals;
- agree upon staff assignments including names, roles, authority, monitoring, and reporting;
- identify the scope of work, salary projections, budget, and special conditions;
- identify program deliverables, such as time lines, scheduling, and milestones;
- discuss and resolve potential risks;
- if appropriate, set up a subcontract process including development and monitoring;
- agree on internal and external reporting procedures;
- identify a point person to coordinate with funder staff;
- establish a system for regular feedback and updates; and,
- make recommendations for changes, and point out red-flag indicators to the chief executive officer before signing a grant award.

There usually is room for negotiation. Ask questions if statements are unclear; negotiate if terms are unreasonable; understand what you are signing; and let the funder know if project goals or time frames are revised. Get agreements in writing if possible.

This article originally appeared in the March 2000 issue of Pacific Mountain Network News, the newsletter of the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC). For more information about RCAC, write to 3120 Freeboard Drive, Suite 201, West Sacramento, CA, 95691 or visit their Web site at www.rcac.org. \$



News & Features

Mississippi Delta Water Projects Face Hurdles, page 1



Increasing Water Rates: How are public service commissions involved?, page 3



Operator Struggles To Meet Expenses, Provide Safe Water, page 6



Census 2000 Is Making Progress, page 8



Signing on the Bottom Line: Grant Agreements and You, page 15

Departments

RUS Rates, page 2



Resources, page 16



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■ *Catalog of Financial Support Sources for U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure*

Item #DWBKFN15 – 1996

This catalog identifies various financial sources for water and wastewater projects. Mexican and U.S. multilateral financing sources are included. Information includes eligibility requirements, amounts of resources available, and explanation of preferential considerations available for U.S.-Mexico border communities.

■ *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Guidelines*

Item #DWBKFN3 – 1997

Written for state administrators, this document explains the final guidelines for administering the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. It describes state requirements, eligible

uses and projects, set-aside allowances for activities other than construction, the roles of both the states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in administering the program as well as other provisions.

■ *Tapping Your Own Resources*

Item #DWBKMG1 – 1993

This document provides elected officials or community boards with the necessary information these officials need to protect the public health and to maintain affordable water. It provides a good understanding of federal regulations and how they affect small systems, as well as a list of contacts for additional information.

■ *Small Water System Byproducts*

■ *Treatment and Disposal Cost Document*

Item #DWBKOM0 – 1993

Small system managers can use this report to help estimate water treatment byproduct management costs. It focuses on technology descriptions and estimated treatment and disposal costs. Various byproduct management options, such as chemical precipitation, thickening, land applications, waste landfill, and radioactive waste disposal, are discussed in detail.

National Drinking Water Clearinghouse
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P.O. Box 6064
Morgantown, WV 26506-6064

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