

**State of Kansas
Capacity Development Strategy**

for

Existing Public Water Supply Systems

Amendment 1



**Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Division of Environment
Bureau of Water**

State Fiscal Year 2007

Introduction

The Kansas Capacity Development Strategy for Existing Public Water Supply Systems was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in September 2000. This Amendment to the Strategy modifies some of the original 15 recommendations made by the Capacity Development Workgroup to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). In most instances these modifications involve only minor changes that reflect more accurately how KDHE is implementing the Existing Public Water Supply Systems Strategy. Only the recommendations that are changed or removed are discussed in this Amendment. The original recommendation is shown in regular font and the change is in italics.

In addition to the modifications to the original recommendations, KDHE added one new program to the Capacity Development Strategy for Existing Systems during State Fiscal Year 2007. This program is the Capacity Development Achievement Awards and is discussed at the end of this document. For additional information on the Awards Program please refer to the KDHE Capacity Development Webpage: <http://www.kdheks.gov/pws/capdev.html>

Changes to the Strategy for Existing Public Water Supply Systems

1. Statewide benchmarking that can be used to identify general positive and negative trends developing in Kansas water systems. The Kansas Water Office in conjunction with other agencies and technical assistance providers will create a voluntary survey designed to incorporate TFM criteria. The results will help the State analyze how to utilize limited technical assistance to best aid water systems. Initial discussions were that the survey would be conducted on a voluntary basis. After further discussion, the workgroup agreed that the survey should be mandatory and that the survey should be repeated every three years.

Change: The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Water Office agreed that KDHE should conduct the surveys. The KDHE conducted surveys in 2002 and 2005 with a response rate of 97% in both years. Based on this response rate, the KDHE has determined that a regulation requiring mandatory completion of the survey is not necessary.

2. Provide State lawmakers with an information package detailing TFM and why the State is promoting capacity assessment and improvement for public water systems.

Change: The Report to the Governor provides information regarding the Capacity Development Strategies for the State of Kansas. A separate information package for lawmakers would be redundant. The KDHE will make the Report to the Governor available to all interested lawmakers. In addition, notification of the Report to the Governor will be sent to the appropriate committee chairs.

3. KDHE should investigate the feasibility of developing a water system “as built” mapping assistance program.

Change: The KDHE provided funding to the Kansas Water Office (KWO) to update rural water district boundary maps that were previously developed. "As Built" maps should be the responsibility of the individual water systems.

4. Establish rules relative to water meter use. This information is critical for rate setting and for daily system operations.

Change: This recommendation required the State of Kansas to develop rules and regulations requiring customer meters at all public water supply systems. The KDHE or the Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR) does not have the necessary authority to require public water supply systems to install customer meters. The KDHE, KWO, and DWR strongly recommend customer meters for all public water supply systems. The new 2007 Water Conservation Plan Guidelines indicate that customer meters are needed for approval of Water Conservation Plans.

5. The KDHE should take a proactive approach in providing information to public water systems that is accurate and understandable. The workgroup recommended ideas such as a periodic newsletter and a CCR-style report that would include an accounting of how water supply fees were spent in addition to a summary of annual compliance data and KDHE activities.

Change: The KDHE publishes Capacity Development Program articles in the Operator Newsletter, provides information for technical assistance provider publications and posts information on the KDHE webpage. In addition information relating to the use of capitalization grant funds is provided in the Annual Work Plan for the SRF program. Creating and publishing an additional newsletter would be redundant and would require resources that can be better used elsewhere.

6. The Workgroup recommends a third-party assessment of current and future program resource needs to provide information to overcome the perception that KDHE personnel resources have not kept pace with the new responsibilities of the State Drinking Water Protection Program.

Remove: The Kansas Legislature approved additional staffing requests for the public water supply supervision program and the PWS Fee Fund. An evaluation of resources need is no longer necessary.

Addition to the Strategy for Existing Public Water Supply Systems

During State Fiscal Year 2007 the KDHE added the Capacity Development Achievement Award Program to the Strategy for Existing Public Water Supply Systems. The Award Program is designed to recognize public water supply systems that demonstrate excellence in achieving and maintaining technical, financial and managerial capacity. The awards are given annually. Up to 5 awards will be given to systems serving a population of 500 or less. Up to five additional awards will be given for systems serving a population between 501 and 3,300. One award each will be granted for systems serving between 3,301 and 10,000; and for 10,001 or more. One public wholesale water supply district will be also be given an award each year.