



Hot Topics In Water in New Hampshire & Northeast

Presented by

Bob Scott, Commissioner

NH Department of Environmental Services



NECPUC 73rd Symposium

October 28, 2021

Climate Impacts



- Extreme weather events - storms, drought, sea level rise
 - Potential utility Impacts
 - Relocation of utility infrastructure
 - Water well impacts



COVID Impacts

- Changes in water demand
- Stale water issues
 - Maintenance of Building Water Systems
- Waste water impacts from non-flushables



Drinking Water Contamination

Emerging Contaminants Poly and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)



Emerging Contaminant Challenges to Water Utilities

- Public confidence
 - Waiting on the science
- Cost to treat
 - Carbon/resin
 - Blending
 - Well closures
 - Higher O&M costs
- Regulatory Uncertainty
 - What's next?

Supply chain and workforce constraints

- Chemical and materials supply shortages
- Industry challenged to recruit and retain qualified staff



Aging Infrastructure Needs

- NH estimates more than \$2 billion in Drinking Water and Waste Water needed upgrades and expansion



Proposed ARPA Funding Plan

NHDES Drinking Water and Clean Water Infrastructure Assistance Program



Project Planning Assistance

- Improves project development
- Increases project readiness
- Assists communities in applying for funding (state or federal loan and/or grant programs)
- Ensures efficient use of funds



Infrastructure Project Assistance

- Distribution of ARPA grant funds across NH
- Grants will increase the probability of projects moving forward
- Opportunities to leverage other funding sources



Assistance for Disadvantaged Communities

- Enhance the quality and reliability of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure
- Economic benefits to communities beyond the project
- Training and tools for long-term asset and system management



Long-term System Sustainability

- Support existing sustainability programs, i.e., asset management, water and energy audits
- Cyber security improvements
- Propels communities forward by modernizing technology and infrastructure

NH ARPA Funding Opportunities & Programs

Existing Programs

- Capital Investment Projects in Drinking water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements
- Asset Management
- Energy Audits
- Water Audits
- Planning

New Programs

- Implementation of Energy and Water Audit Recommendations
- Implementation of Cybersecurity Measures
- Disadvantage System Assistance (new solicitation; established criteria and process)
- Coastal/Shoreland Resiliency (new solicitation; established criteria and process)



US Infrastructure bill

- Clean Water SRF: \$1,688,826,000
 - Mandates 10% for Green Project Reserve
 - Mandates 10% for Additional Subsidy
 - Allows EPA to use \$1.5 million to conduct the Clean Watershed Needs Survey
- Drinking Water SRF: \$1,176,088,000
 - Mandates 14% for Additional Subsidy
 - Allocates \$12 million for monitoring of unregulated contaminants
 - Requires American Iron and Steel for treatment works
- WIFIA: \$72,108,000
 - Including \$5 million for state financing authorities
- Congressionally Directed Spending (Earmarks) “Infrastructure Projects”: \$438,978,000
 - 20% cost-share (American Rescue Plan funds may not be used for non-federal cost share)



Questions?

