District of Columbia

Intended Use Plan for

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Safe Drinking Water Act Funds

Federal Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026

EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" (IIJA) (Public Law 117-58), provided significant funding for the modernization and maintenance of aging infrastructure, including drinking water systems. The IIJA allocates funding to the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program as a Supplemental Base allotment, a Lead Service Line Replacement allotment, and an Emerging Contaminants allotment. This document is submitted for Fiscal Years (FY) 2025 and FY 2026 to identify the projects intended for use by the Emerging Contaminants allotment.

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) proposes to replace unlined cast iron water mains with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding under the emerging contaminants need. Unlined cast iron water mains are known to harbor microorganisms and deplete chlorine residual, thereby allowing accelerated microbial growth. (See reference) The EPA Candidate Contaminant List 5 includes 12 microorganisms. (See reference) Among these, *Legionella* and mycobacterium are a concern for DC Water and known to be found in drinking water distribution systems nationwide (Donohue, 2019). The District of Columbia Department of Health and DC Water have investigated Legionnaires cases where the building water had multiple water samples with *Legionella* (see Attachment with data).

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 (Public Law 104-182) authorize a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program to assist public water systems to finance improvements needed to achieve or maintain compliance with SDWA requirements and to protect public health. Although the District of Columbia ("the District") is defined as a State for the purposes of SDWA, Section 1452(j) exempts the District from establishing a SRF program. Therefore, the EPA provides the District's allotment of federal funds in the form of grants. DC Water is the grantee for project grants while the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and its agent, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office at Blue Plains, can receive funds for the oversight and management of these projects.

The EPA, DOEE, and DC Water have agreed to this combined FY 2025 - FY 2026 Intended Use Plan (IUP). This IUP outlines how the combined amount of federal funding and required matching funds will be apportioned among program and project uses. The Federal FY 2025 runs from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026; and the Federal FY 2026 runs from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027. This IUP will remain in effect until superseded by a new or amended IUP.

LONG AND SHORT-TERM GOALS FOR THE USE OF DC GRANT FUNDS

Long-Term Goals

1. Eliminate potential habitat for "emerging microbial contaminants" as listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

2. Provide safe and adequate supplies of potable water by replacing aging small diameter water mains in the distribution system.

3. Maintain compliance with SDWA drinking water standards or other requirements of the SDWA.

Short-Term Goals

1. Replacing unlined cast iron small-diameter water mains could have the following system improvements:

    - Improve water quality
    - Reduce main break
    - Reduce Operation & Maintenance costs
    - Increase system reliability to respond to emergencies

AVAILABLE FUNDS

For planning purposes, we have assumed FY 2025 and FY 2026 DWSRF allotments of $7,640,000 based on the FY 2025 estimated allotment published October 2024.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

For FY 2025 and FY 2026, the available funding and expected usage is as follows:

Available Federal Funds	**Grant Dollars**
FY 2025 DWSRF Emerging Contaminants	$7,640,000
FY 2026 DWSRF Emerging Contaminants (Estimated Allotment)	$7,640,000
Total Estimated Federal Funds (FY 2025 – 2026)	**$15,280,000**
Project Pool that may be submitted for grants during FY 2025 & FY 2026	
Small Diameter Water Main Renewal 21A [FY'25]	$10,692,000
Small Diameter Water Main Renewal 21B [FY'26]	$10,755,000
Total Grant Project Pool	**$21,447,000**
Grant awards may not exceed estimated, recovered, and available allotments	

Total Estimated Federal and Local Funds Available for FY 2025 – FY 2026	**Funds**
Estimated Federal Funds for DC Water Projects (100% grant)	$15,280,000
Estimated Local Funds for DC Water Projects (0% match)	$0
Total Available Funds for FY 2022, FY 2023 and FY 2024	**$15,280,000**

The IIJA requires 0% match for the five years of the enactment.

SELECTION OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

In 1999, EPA in conjunction with DC Water developed a Project Priority Rating System. The Project Priority Rating System uses a system to numerically score drinking water projects based upon their contribution to protecting public health, improving compliance with regulatory standards, and maintaining drinking water reliability, safety and environment. The ranking system includes a provision allowing for funding of lower ranked projects (i.e. for by-passing higher ranked projects) based on exigent circumstances and ability to implement the lower ranked projects relative to the higher ranked projects proposed to be by-passed.

The plan identifies expected projects to be funded during the FY 2025 – FY 2026 period. Projects are displayed on the PPL in priority order. The project with the highest priority rating score (i.e., the most important) is listed first. The remaining projects are listed in order of descending score.

A more detailed description of these and future water projects can be found online at DC Water's website under "District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority: Capital Improvement Program, Approved FY2018– 2027, Section V, Capital Programs".

REFERENCES

Debbie Lee, Calendo Gennaro, Kopec Kristin, Henry, Rebekah, Coutts, Scott, McCarthy David, Murphy Heather. (2021), "The Impact of Pipe Material on the Diversity of Microbial Communities in Drinking Water Distribution Systems" Microbiotechnology, Volume 12 – 2021, doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2021.779016.

US Environmental Protection Agency, "Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) and Regulatory Determination - CCL 5 Microbial Contaminants" Website https://www.epa.gov/ccl/ccl-5-microbial-contaminants

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