

# **The Federal Perspective: Potential Role of HACCP and Water Safety Plans**

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# **THE GOAL**

**Good safe drinking  
water which has the  
trust of consumers**



# 1996 SDWA Amendments Public Health Strategy

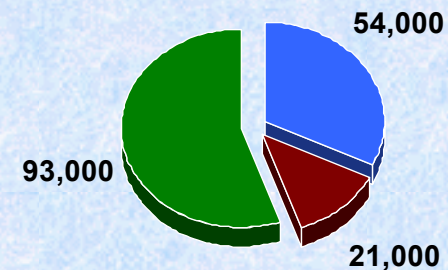
- **Multiple Barrier Strategy**
- **Contamination Prevention Programs**
- **Risk-based Public Health Standards**
  - **Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG)**
  - **Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL)**
  - ***Process Control Treatment Techniques***
- **Sound Science and Good Data**
- **Stakeholder Involvement and Outreach**



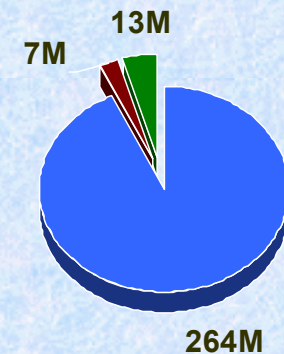
# Safe Drinking Water Act – Types of Public Water Systems

- **Public Water Systems include:**
  - Community Water Systems (CWS's)
    - 15 connections or 25 people serving year-round residents
  - **Non-Community Water Systems**
    - **Non Transient** -- serves 25 of same persons for 6 months/year (e.g., some schools, hospitals)
    - **Transient** -- serves 25 persons/day for 60 days/year (e.g., highway rest stops, restaurants)
  - **Providing drinking water is not the primary function of many small public water systems**

## 168,000 Public Water Systems



## Population Served



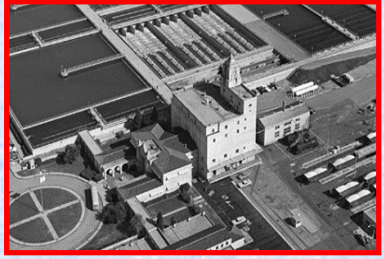


# SDWA's Multiple Barrier Approach to Public Health Protection

**Goal: Safe, affordable, and secure drinking water everywhere, every day, and Americans know it.**



**Prevention**



**Standards & Treatment**



**Distribution System**



**User -- Information**



# Contamination Prevention Programs

- Increased importance of prevention to supplement costly drinking water treatment
- Expanded emphasis on existing prevention programs
- 1996 SDWA source water assessment and prevention provisions
- Greater coordination and integration with other statutes & across Agencies

## SDWA

Source Water  
Assessment & Protection

Underground Injection  
Control

Other (Wellhead  
Protection, Sole Source)

## Coordination with Other Programs and Agencies

*Programs:* Clean Water Act,  
Hazardous Waste, &  
Pesticides programs

*Agencies:* Dept. of Interior,  
Dept. of Agriculture



# Source Water Assessment & Protection Program (SDWA Section 1453)

- ◆ Goal: Protect Public Health by **Avoiding** Contamination
- ✓ Build on existing programs
- ✓ Flexibility to address local problems
- ✓ 173,000 assessments for all public water systems must be completed by States by 2003 followed by appropriate management measures
- **Six Step Framework**
  - Delineation
  - Source Inventory
  - Susceptibility Determination
  - Public Availability
  - **Management Measures**
  - Contingency Planning





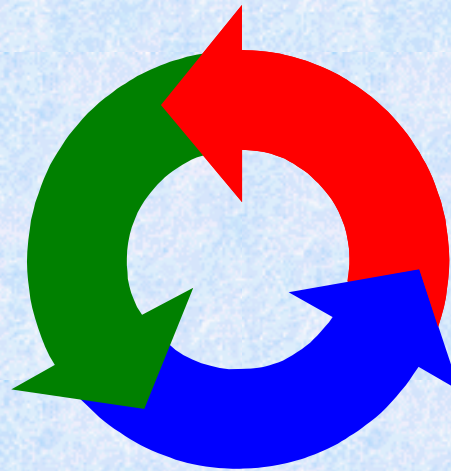
# SDWA Standard Setting Cycle

**Based on Sound Science and New Information**

## 1) SDWA Priority

### Contaminants:

- Microbials
- Disinfection Byproducts
- Ground Water Rule
- Radon



## 2) Six Year Review

Review and revise, as appropriate, existing NPDWRs every six years.

## (3) Future Contaminants:

Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) Process



# Research and Data Collection to Support Sound Public Health Decisions

- **Quality Information is Critical**
  - Health Effects Research
  - Methods Development
  - Treatment Effectiveness Studies
  - Occurrence Data
  
- **Overall Drinking Water Research**
  - ORD Multi-Year Strategic Plan
  - Drinking Water Research Information Network (DRINK)
  - **Partnerships** between programs, public institutions, countries and private organizations
  
- **Transparency**





# Stakeholder Involvement and Outreach

- **Consumers**
- **Public health professionals**
- **Environmental groups**
- **Technical experts**
- **Public water systems**
- **Researchers**
- **States as co-regulators**
- **Local government**
- **Watershed partners**



# Issues for Debate

- **Fools gold -- semantic brainwash**
- **Output -- input**
- **Due diligence -- codification**
- **Regulatory -- non-regulatory**
- **Technology based -- risk based**
- **Verification measures -- end of pipe limits**
- **Site-specific flexibility -- national approach**
- **Revolution – evolution**
- **What's in it for me?**



# Common Principles

- **Public health protection**
- **High quality water**
- **Public trust**
- **Consumer Confidence**
- **Prevention**
- **Transparency**
- **Public outreach and partnerships**
- **Catchment to Tap**



# Into the Future

- **Expand the Conversation**
  - Engage stakeholders and watershed partners in the application of HACCP principles to drinking water risk management
- **Support Pilot and Demonstration Projects**
  - Document successes and validate concepts at federal, state, and local levels
- **Evaluate HACCP Concepts**
  - Consider for inclusion in treatment technique regulations
- **Explore Opportunities**
  - Use HACCP- type approaches to strengthen existing source water protection and other prevention programs

**Turn Commitment into Action**