

**State of Kansas  
Capacity Development Strategy**

**for**

**Existing Public Water Supply Systems**

**Amendment 2**



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

**State Fiscal Year 2015**

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## **Introduction**

The Kansas Capacity Development Strategy for Existing Public Water Supply Systems was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 2000; the initial recommendations in the Strategy are now fully implemented. As part of ongoing implementation efforts, a periodic review and update is conducted to insure that the Capacity Development Program continues to support the development of new tools and programs that assist water systems in capacity building. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) plans to enhance the Capacity Development Program by adding two new programs to the Strategy. This Amendment adds the Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) and the Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP). The inclusion of these new programs in the Strategy will allow KDHE to use Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Set-asides for development and implementation activities, which in turn will help small systems achieve and maintain technical, financial and managerial capacity.

On June 3, 2014, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) convened the Capacity Development Stakeholder Group to review past Program activities and achievements, and to solicit advice on AWOP and DWPP development and implementation. Members of the Stakeholder Group in attendance included: Kansas Municipal Utilities, Wichita State University/Environmental Finance Center, Kanas Rural Water Association, League of Kansas Municipalities, Kanas Water Office, Ranson Financial Consultants LLC, USDA/Rural Development, KDHE Operator Certification Program, KDHE Revolving Loan Program, and KDHE Watershed Management Section. An overview of each program was provided and the group supported adding them to the Strategy.

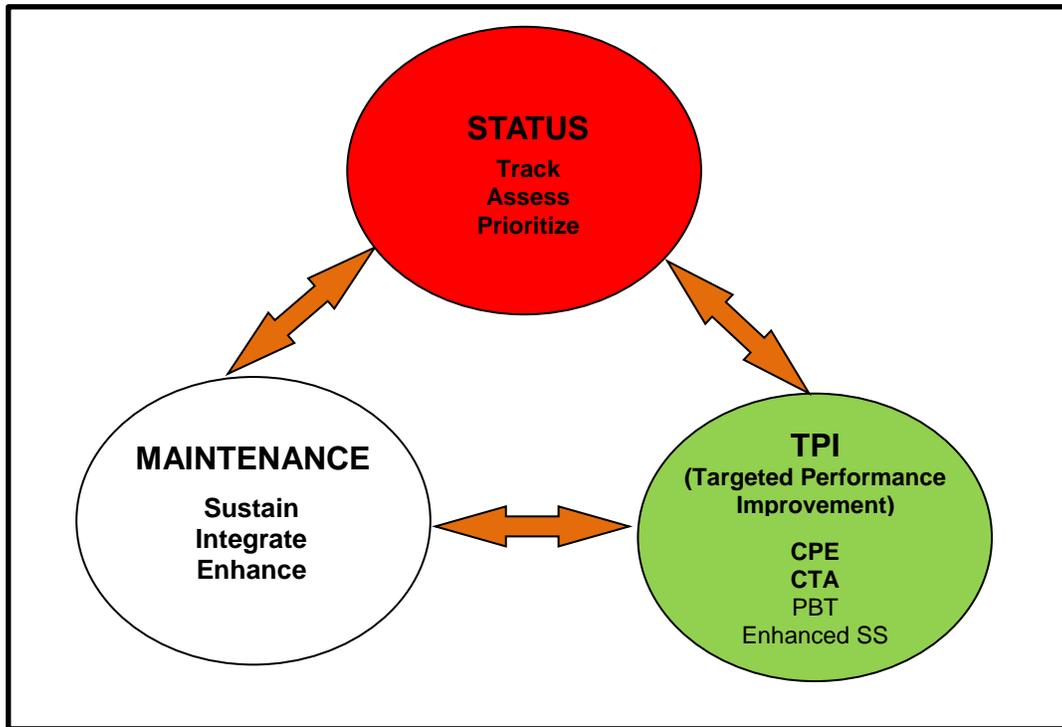
Addition of AWOP and DWPP help to address the Institutional, Regulatory and Financial impairments identified for state and local levels in the July 2000, *Report of Findings on Improving the Technical, Financial and Managerial Capacity of Kansas' Public Water Systems*. Development and implementation for both programs is scheduled to begin in State Fiscal Year 2015. A general description of each program is provided below.

### **Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP)**

The Area-Wide Optimization Program employs a unique approach that identifies higher risk water systems for state assistance to maximize the public health protection that water treatment plants provide. AWOP encourages water systems to move beyond simply complying with regulatory requirements in order to enhance public health protection. This is accomplished by establishing goals and measuring performance in achieving those goals.

In conjunction with establishing performance goals, a core of the program is the AWOP network. This network of states works to achieve optimization at water systems through transfer of skills during quarterly regional meetings and training sessions, national meetings and multi-state training events. KDHE will participate in the EPA Region 6 Network. Iowa, Missouri and EPA Region 7 are also included the Region 6 Network. The AWOP approach allows states to focus on systems with the greatest need and use appropriate tools for each one. The AWOP components are illustrated in Figure 1.

**Figure 1 – AWOP Components**



CPE – Comprehensive Performance Evaluation, CTA – Comprehensive Technical Assistance, PBT – Performance Based Training, SS – Sanitary Survey

The Status Component is the foundation of AWOP activities. Criteria determined by the State will be used to identify performance optimization goals, prioritize water systems relative to public health risk, and allocate resources to highest risk systems. The Status Component will also provide information to document impacts and successes.

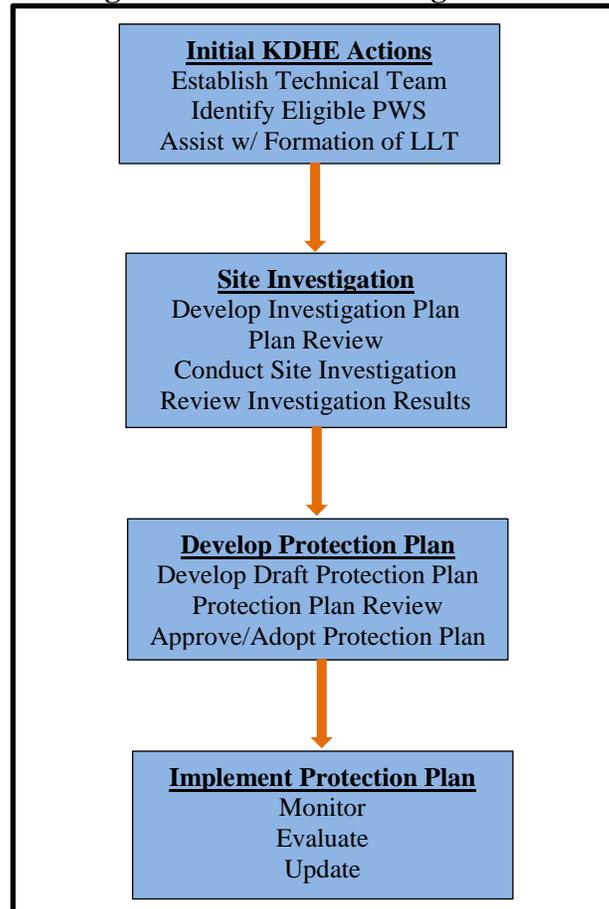
The Targeted Performance Improvement Component will identify specific activities for individual water systems using the information developed through the Status Component. Depending on the needs and identified risk, activities may include Comprehensive Performance Evaluation (conducted by State), Comprehensive Technical Assistance (conducted by State or State designated TA provider), Performance Based Training (conducted by State selected trainer), and/or Enhanced Sanitary Surveys and Inspections (conducted by State). Knowledge of these AWOP tools gained through State participation in the network will help target the appropriate tools to the right systems to maximize performance improvement.

The Maintenance Component will help sustain AWOP resources and integrity, integrate AWOP findings and approaches with other drinking water program activities, and will enhance overall effectiveness of Program activities through a commitment to continual improvement. A robust Maintenance Component is a characteristic of a mature Area-Wide Optimization Program.

## Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP)

The high capital cost along with the long-term operation and maintenance cost associated with installation of treatment facilities at small drinking water systems prompted KDHE to explore alternative approaches for compliance with drinking water regulations. One such approach is the Drinking Water Protection Program, previously known as the Source Water Protection Program. The DWPP is a joint project between the Public Water Supply and Watershed Management Sections. It will be designed to help water systems provide drinking water that complies with state and federal regulations through protection of the source water. The goal of the DWPP is to help water systems avoid expensive treatment alternatives by developing and implementing a long-term drinking water protection plan. Figure 2 illustrates, in general terms, the process for development and implementation of a drinking water protection plan. A more detailed description of the planning and implementation process will be developed and refined based upon the lessons learned during the pilot projects. KDHE anticipates completing 2 – 3 pilot projects during the first 2 years. Planning and implementation will be primarily driven by the Local Leadership Team with assistance and support by KDHE. Participation by the water systems will be voluntary.

**Figure 2 – DWPP Planning Process**



LLT – Local Leadership Team

KDHE will use compliance and TFM survey data to identify water systems eligible for financial and technical assistance under the Drinking Water Protection Program. Guidance documents will also be made available to water systems interested in developing a drinking water protection plan independent of KDHE assistance.