West Virginia SWAP Progress
January 9, 2003

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) expects to complete the majority of their source water assessments by their deadline of May 1, 2003. It is likely that not all of the small ground water CWS servicing less than 250 people, the transient, and non-transient systems will be completed by the May 2003 deadline. DHHR continues to make progress to complete the source water assessments. The biggest obstacle for DHHR to complete the assessments on-time has been the length of time to get contracts in place. In some cases, it has taken DHHR more then a year for contracts to go through DHHR purchasing, state purchasing, and the Attorney General's office. Another problem has been the loss of staff that has worked on the assessments. Currently there are three positions vacant and it does not look like they will be filled in the immediate future. These positions include a GIS Supervisor, a GIS Technician, and a geologist. The Source Water program is heavily dependent on GIS to complete the assessments. As a result of this, West Virginia may not complete the source water assessments until 2004.

Despite these problems DHHR is working on moving from assessment to the protection phase. Up until now West Virginia have not had resources to fund protection efforts. Starting this year DHHR is making grant funds available to municipalities and ground water systems to establish and develop local wellhead protection programs. The maximum amounts awarded for WHP grants are $5,000 with a project duration up to three years. The WHP grant program is a one-time grant and may not be renewed. The strategy can include the use of other funding sources and other existing grants. Eligible projects would include, public education activities, rigorous WHP area delineation, enhanced contaminant source inventories, programed promotion, support for pollution prevention methods, integration with land-use planning and restoration and conservation of the source water protection area.

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