



Distribution
\$247.7
billion



Treatment
\$72.5
billion

Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs \$384 Billion

EPA Survey Shows Improvements Necessary through 2030

In June 2013, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released results of a survey showing that \$384 billion in improvements are needed for the nation's drinking water infrastructure through 2030. The agency's fifth *Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment* identifies investments needed over the next 20 years for thousands of miles of pipes and thousands of treatment plants, storage tanks, and water distribution systems, which are all vital to public health and the economy. The national total of \$384 billion includes the needs of 73,400 water systems across the country, as well as American Indian and Alaska Native Village water systems.

"A safe and adequate supply of drinking water in our homes, schools and businesses is essential to the health and prosperity of every American," said EPA Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe. "The survey EPA released today shows that the nation's water systems have entered a rehabilitation and replacement era in which much of the existing infrastructure has reached or is approaching the end of its useful life. This is a major issue that must be addressed so that American families continue to have the access they need to clean and healthy water sources."

The survey, required under the Safe Drinking Water Act to be submitted to Congress every four years by EPA,

was developed in consultation with all 50 states and the Navajo Nation, and shows that improvements are primarily needed in:

- *Distribution and transmission:* \$247.5 billion to replace or refurbish aging or deteriorating lines.
- *Treatment:* \$72.5 billion to construct, expand or rehabilitate infrastructure to reduce contamination.
- *Storage:* \$39.5 billion to construct, rehabilitate or cover finished water storage reservoirs.
- *Source:* \$20.5 billion to construct or rehabilitate intake structures, wells and spring collectors

To address these needs, EPA allocates Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grants to states based on the finding of the assessment. These funds help states to provide low-cost financing to public water systems for infrastructure improvements necessary to protect public health and comply with drinking water regulations.

Learn more about EPA's infrastructure efforts, including the *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund* and the *Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment* by visiting: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/>.



Storage
\$39.5
billion



Source
\$20.5
billion



Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Earn a "D"

ASCE Grades Up from Previous Report Card

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) releases a report card assessing the nation's infrastructure. The latest, released in March 2013, shows the overall score improving from a D to a D+, while the water and wastewater infrastructure improved from a D- to a D.

"At the dawn of the 21st century," the ASCE report notes, "much of our drinking water infrastructure is nearing the end of its useful life. There are an estimated 240,000 water main breaks per year in the United States." Other costs noted include stricter regulations, nutrient removal, and new technology.

The report, available at www.infrastructurereportcard.org, provides background information and state-by-state data.