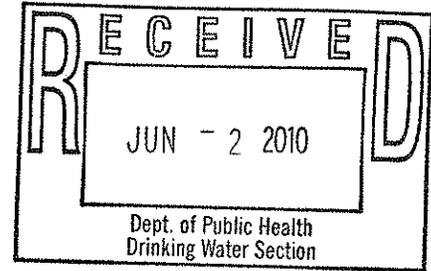




The Metropolitan District  
water supply · environmental services · geographic information



June 2, 2010

Good morning, I am Robert E. Moore, Chief Administrative Officer of The Metropolitan District in Hartford.

I am here today to testify in support of the priority list for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program and to encourage changes in the Department of Public Health's (DPH) priority points system to recognize and prioritize funding for water utilities that have undertaken measures to improve water system infrastructure through a comprehensive asset management plan for facility replacement or repair.

In the United States Congress, Representatives Waxman and Markey introduced H.R. 5320 to reauthorize the DWSRF program with some notable provisions including **giving additional weight to applications which will improve water system management and stability through an asset replacement schedule and will create a new project category to give increased priority for projects that anticipate needs before they lead to a violation or public health threat.**

MDC requests that similar concepts be instituted in Connecticut. We understand that other state's point systems (Massachusetts and New York) recognize the need to aid large, predominately urban water systems. Given that DPH considers "...the quality and adequate quantity of drinking water the highest priority", a ranking system that increases the competitiveness of urban systems for funding will better support these goals. The funding of projects to maintain and enhance MDC's treatment and distribution systems would benefit over 100,000 customers within the Greater Hartford area, including two of Connecticut's most distressed municipalities.

MDC submitted 28 DWSRF applications, totaling \$31.2 million for water main replacements and pump station improvements in accordance with our Asset Management Program and Phase III of our radio frequency automated meter reading system & meter replacement program. Only the radio frequency project scored high enough for approval of funding of \$3.0 million out of \$27.4 million available statewide, based upon DPH's priority points system. Based on the FFY 2010 DWSRF Draft Project Priority List, DPH received applications in excess of \$214 million; the \$27.4 available for 2010 will fund less than 13% of the applications. The need for increased funding by the State is evident in these numbers.

The District treats over 54 million gallons of water per day collectively at three water treatment plants in Bloomfield, West Hartford and Collinsville and operates a water distribution system of 1,600 miles of water mains and 17 water pump stations. The 1,600 miles of water main infrastructure have an average age of 56 years; approximately 105 miles of water mains are over 100 years old (some dating back to 1850). During the ten year period from 1999 to 2009,

over 1,700 water main breaks were experienced by the District with over 95% in the older, cast iron pipes.

MDC has developed a Water Distribution System Asset Management Program (AMP) to create a comprehensive capital improvement master plan for the replacement or rehabilitation of the District's potable water distribution system and raw water transmission mains (linear assets) as well as a plan for the replacement or rehabilitation of the point assets that include gate valves, pumping stations and water storage tanks to maintain water services to over 400,000 customers in perpetuity.

The AMP includes the following major components:

- An asset inventory of all linear and point assets including;
  1. Physical characteristics
  2. Age
  3. Break history
  4. Pressure / flow /water quality deficiencies
  5. Deterioration curves and service level
  6. Field testing data and soil conditions
  7. Criticality
  8. Paving management
  9. Interaction with other District's assets.
- A prioritization method for ranking the replacement / rehabilitation for each asset.
- A 45-year schedule for a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) broken down by phases in five and ten year durations through the use of the asset management program for water mains, transmission mains, gate valves, pumping stations and storage tanks.

The AMP shows a need of over \$2 billion over the next 45 years with over \$500,000,000 in the first five year phase of the program (Phase I -2009 – 2014) alone. The District has begun this program through its Capital Improvement Program for the design of 65 separate water main segments and is implementing replacement of several water mains in conjunction with its combined sewer abatement program. While these individual pipe segments do serve a major population, they are part of the much larger asset management program.

The MDC's 2010 approved Capital Improvement Program budget for all water projects is \$69 million based on the District's affordability. This includes land acquisition in and around watersheds, dam safety improvements, and various water treatment facility upgrades, in addition to the linear and point asset projects (water main, gate valves, pump stations and water tanks) for which DWSRF funding was applied for.

The support of a comprehensive asset management program will lead to a safer and more secure water distribution system for Connecticut and should be reflected in and supported by the State's DWSRF loan program through an adjustment of the priority system to provide incentive for implementing such programs.

 Paul Moran, CAO