



Business Plan 2006 – Division of Environmental Health - Florida Department of Health

Mission: “Promote and Protect Health”

Vision: “Healthier Floridians”

Goal: To prevent disease of environmental origin

Bureau of Water Programs – LIMITED USE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

Trends and Conditions:

In Florida, regulatory drinking water programs are jointly administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health (DOH). Under the Florida Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the DEP has primary authority over the supervision of the larger public drinking water systems (serving 25 or more people for 60 or more days per year) and has delegated that authority to the DOH in 10 approved county health departments (CHDs). Under Chapter 64E-8, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the DOH has authority over those drinking water systems that are not covered by the SDWA, known as 64E-8 systems, which include limited use public, multi-family and private water systems. It is estimated that 20% of Florida’s population is served by 64E-8 drinking water systems. Proper operation and water quality monitoring of these small water systems is an essential factor in achieving the Department’s goal of providing safe drinking water to the citizens and visitors of Florida.

Division Cost:	\$219,670
Division Positions:	3
County Program Cost:	\$3,086,297
County Positions:	55
Fees collected by CHDs and General Revenue support these expenditures.	

The “64E-8” or “Limited Use Program” program is implemented by the DOH at the local level by the CHDs. The CHDs issue construction and operating permits, conduct sanitary surveys and compliance inspections, investigate complaints, and collect and evaluate water quality samples for limited use systems. Sixteen CHDs have approved microbiology labs to test water samples. Headquarters’ role is to develop standards, guidelines, and strategies for the implementation of the Limited Use program as required under Chapter 64E-8, F.A.C. and Chapter 381.0062, F.S.; to provide training and quality assurance monitoring of CHD staff; and to provide drinking water related technical assistance to CHDs, other state and local agencies, and the public. Throughout 2006 and into 2007, revisions to Chapter 64E-8, F.A.C. have been drafted, a public workshop has been offered. A public hearing and rule promulgation is planned for the Spring 2007. In addition, Bureau staff is continuing to visit the CHDs in 2007 to perform formal Limited Use program evaluations for the 2006-2008 cycle. The purpose of the visits is to determine if the program is being satisfactorily implemented at the CHD level, to identify if there are any particular training needs at the CHD, and to provide any other program assistance the CHD may need.

There may be up to 7,000 unregistered limited use systems in Florida, most of which serve commercial establishments where the employees and/or the public have access to the water. From a public health perspective, it is important to ensure that the water in these establishments is safe for consumption. One important factor in achieving this goal will be outreach by the local CHDs and the department to educate local governments, businesses, system owners, and users that proper permitting or registration of these water systems will better protect the health of the public. Also of utmost importance is outreach to the public regarding routine testing of private well water. In 2007, the Bureau will develop an outreach campaign to educate the public about the importance of having their private well water tested on an annual basis. A Safe Water/Public Health Summit was conducted in January 2005 and a total of 5 trainings were offered to CHD staff in 2004 and 2005 focusing on all aspects of the drinking water program including interagency coordination, enforcement action, water system variances, waterborne disease epidemiology, chemical toxicology, and hydrogeology.

The primary performance measurement for the state’s limited use public drinking water program is the inspection frequency standard. Inspection completion rates are measured by dividing the number of annual inspections completed by the number of annual inspections required. As shown



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below, the goal of 100% inspection completion as described in Measure #1 was achieved in 2002 and again in the most recent year of 2006. In 2004 and 2005, much of the state was negatively impacted by hurricanes later in the inspection year. The achievement of over 100% in the past year of 2006 demonstrates that the less active hurricane season in 2006 allowed the CHDs to recover and regain lost momentum.

The statewide annual average rate of Limited Use public drinking water system inspections from 1998 to 2001 was 92%. Over the last five years from 2002 to 2006, the average completion rate has increased to over 98%. This improvement can be attributed to improvements in environmental health staffing, implementation of corrective action plans in counties with low completion rates, and routine training of environmental health staff.

<u>Year (Oct. - Sept.)</u>	Number of Inspections		<u>% Completion</u>
	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Required</u>	
1998	2351	2746	86
1999	3874	4124	94
2000	4603	4968	93
2001	4871	5125	95
2002	6188	5866	106
2003	6432	6788	94
2004	5927	6296	94
2005	5999	6193	97
2006	6243	6322	101

While CENTRAX reports are the primary tool used to determine these completion rates and furthermore used to evaluate individual CHD and overall state performance, the accuracy of the data and interpretation of the reports is a concern. Therefore, the Bureau has worked closely with the Centrax program staff to develop the most accurate reports available for use as statewide and county level performance tools.

Short Term Objectives

By July 1, 2007:

- Revise Chapter 64E-8, Florida Administrative Code.
- Provide drinking water program training (including training on changes to 64E-8) to all CHDs (May through November 2007).
- Develop a public education and outreach campaign regarding private well water testing and public health protection.

Long Term Objectives

By December 31, 2008:

- Conduct formal triennial program evaluations of the 67 CHDs limited use public drinking water programs.
- Continue to provide drinking water program guidance to CHDs.



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Measure #1: All CHDs will conduct 100% of their required annual inspections of permitted limited use public drinking water systems by September 30, 2007.

Division Strategic Plan	Strategy (Program level)	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date (up to 18 months)	Status
Objective 2: Use our data	Identify CHDs behind on inspections	Meet inspection frequency requirements and improve performance measures.			CHDs are identified and alerted of performance measures quarterly.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve CENTRAX reports to meet our data needs 		Kearney Doxford	12/31/05	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review CENTRAX data 		Kearney Vincent	Ongoing, quarterly	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct performance discussions with CHDs 		Kearney Vincent	Ongoing, as needed	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with CHDs still with low inspection rate 		Kearney Vincent	Ongoing	
Objective 1: Be the best communicators and educators	Conduct program evaluations	Evaluate the 67 CHD programs.			New tool developed in 2004.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise evaluation tool (conduct QA workgroup conferences, vote on tool changes, finalize tool) 		Kearney Vincent QA workgroup	3/1/05	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement CHD self-assessments using revised tool 	CHDs to evaluate their program internally using revised tool	EH Directors	Begin 3/1/05 End 12/31/05	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the CHDs 		Kearney	Begin 1/1/06 End 12/31/08	1/3 complete
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update tool as needed 		Kearney	as needed, before 2009-2011 cycle	



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Measure #2: 100% of all existing limited use public drinking water systems will be permitted or registered by the CHDs by September 30, 2008.

Division Strategic Plan	Strategy (Program level)	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date (up to 18 months)	Status
Objective 1: Be the best communicators and educators Objective 3: Promote and support training and innovation Objective 4: Support community outreach	Educate CHD staff and the community on program requirements and importance	As stated in strategy.			3 training provided in 2005.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training to CHDs on program implementation and upcoming rule changes 		Kearney Vincent	5/2007 8/2007 11/2007	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct conference calls to discuss program changes and policies 		Kearney Vincent	Ongoing	Held as needed to compliment email, memo, and verbal instructions.
	Permit or Register all existing Limited Use water systems	As stated in strategy.	CHDs		Systems have been identified, More to be found.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify systems 			Ongoing	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit or Register 			Ongoing	Ongoing
	Revise Chapter 64E-8, F.A.C.	Make needed changes/ corrections, address areas of concern and improve flow of rule.	Kearney Vincent		In draft form.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct workgroup conferences 			1/2006	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop draft rule 64E-8 			12/2006	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer public workshop 			1/2007	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer public hearing 			4/2007	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promulgate rule 			7/2007	



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Measure #3: Ensure that all private drinking water well owners have their water tested annually for bacteria and nitrate.

Division Strategic Plan	Strategy (Program level)	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date (up to 18 months)	Status
Objective 4: Support community outreach	Develop public education/outreach campaign	Encourage private well owners to test their water annually.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop statewide marketing plan. 		Kearney Vincent Bettinger Bibler Marketing Team	7/2007	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather existing educational materials 		Kearney	8/2006	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise brochure "Drinking Water: is Your's Safe" 		Kearney	2/2007	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training and educational materials to water well contractors, community leaders, real estate professionals, etc 		Kearney Vincent Bettinger	7/2007	