



Newsletter April 2013

What is the Arkansas Water Plan?

The Arkansas Water Plan is our comprehensive program for the orderly development and management of water and related land resources—the state policy for water.

The 1990 Water Plan was developed after the drought of 1980. The issues identified and the proposed solutions to water problems are still relevant today. We have made great strides building drinking water supplies, improving wastewater treatment, and reducing nonpoint source pollution, among other advances. It is now time to assess our progress and prepare for the future.

What is the Update?

Since the 1980s, we have developed years of new data on water use, groundwater declines, population changes, streamflows, and other water issues to update our planning documents. Advances in computer technology and science have given us new tools to analyze the data more effectively than ever before.

This update will bring the data, science, and public input together to define water demands, water supply, and potential solutions to meet our needs for the next 40 years.

Between now and the end of 2014 we will:

- Identify current and future needs.
- Quantify water supply available for use.
- Work with the public to create a portfolio of water supply and management actions. In some cases, specific projects and activities will be identified.

How Can You Get Involved?

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission has contracted engineering firms to assemble data and review demands and supplies for agriculture, industry, recreation, municipal water, navigation, fish and wildlife, power generation, etc. To make sure the update calculates demands and supplies as accurately as possible, we will need the help of the people of Arkansas.

In the early summer of 2013, we will hold several meetings around Arkansas to discuss the ways to calculate water demand and forecast future demand. Feedback from the public will be essential. Everyone is welcome to be involved or observe the process, and public comment is encouraged at any time.

For further information please see the Arkansas Water Plan Update website: www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov.

Upcoming Meetings:

Water Supply Availability Work Group

Date and Time: April 25, 2013 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Arkansas Rural Water Association, 240 Dee Dee Ln, Lonoke, AR 72086

Water Demand and Forecasting Work Group

Date, Time and Location: Week of May 6th – exact date, time and location to be announced soon

Detailed meeting information will be posted to www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov



Comments are welcome!

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