FY 2010 National Water Program End of Year Performance by Subobjective

The following chapters provide a summary of the progress made toward accomplishing environmental and program goals for each subobjective described in the FY 2010 *National Water Program Guidance*. Each subobjective chapter includes the following information:

- A brief summary of overall performance in 2010 and the previous four years for measures under each subobjective.
- A description of performance highlights, including what commitments were met and what factors contributed to success.
- A description of management challenges, if appropriate, identifying key factors that led to measures not being met and next steps to improve performance for the future.

Each subobjective section focuses primarily on measures with FY 2010 commitments. Indicator measures are discussed where trends significantly differ from previous year's results. Annual Commitment System (ACS) measure codes are provided in the text in parentheses.

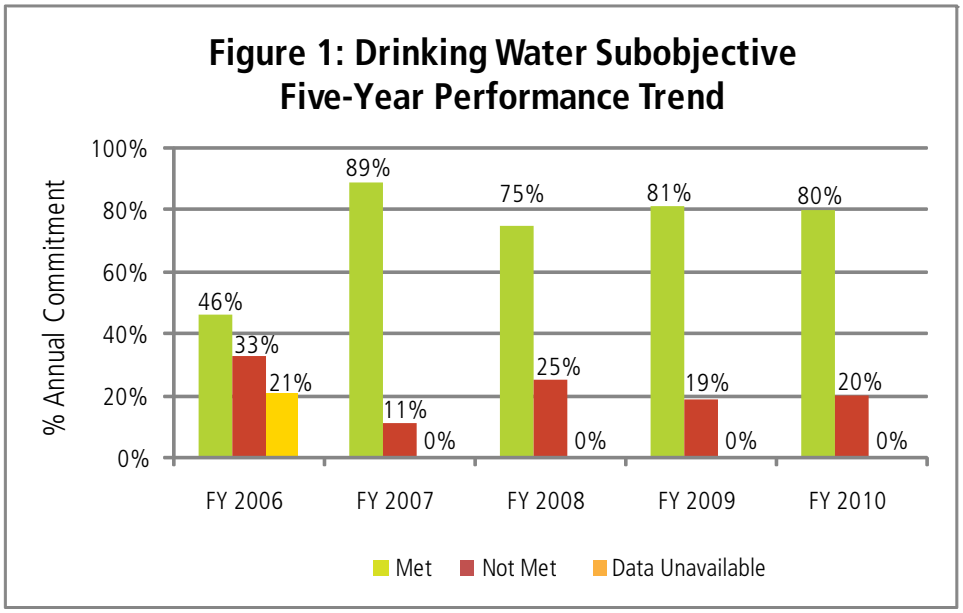
Key for Reading Performance Measure Charts and Tables

For all charts with national trend results, commitments are reflected by trend lines and results by vertical bars. For charts with regional FY 2010 results, a dotted line indicates the national FY 2010 commitment for that particular measure. Although regions use the national commitment as a point of reference in setting their annual commitments, regional commitments may vary based on different conditions. Green bars in both national and regional charts identify commitments met, and red bars identify measures not met.

For the measure summary tables in each subobjective chapter, a green "up" arrow means that a measure met its FY 2010 commitment, and a red "down" arrow indicates that the annual commitment was not met. The letter "I" means that the measure is an indicator measure and did not have an annual commitment for FY 2010. Measures without data or not reporting in FY 2010 are indicated by "Data Unavailable." An "LT" symbol notes that the measure has a long-term goal and does not have an annual commitment. A gold star (★) in the past trends column highlights that the measure has met its annual commitment 100% of the time over the past four or five years. And finally, the appendix number represents the page in Appendix D (D-00) on the website where additional details about the measure can be found, and the figure number is the number of the chart in the chapter.

Subobjective: Water Safe to Drink

Eighty percent (80%) (12 of 15) of all drinking water measures met their commitments in 2010. Twenty percent (20%) (3 of 15) of measures did not meet their commitments. EPA exhibited a slight decrease in the percentage of commitments met from 2009 to 2010 under the Water Safe to Drink subobjective. Data were available for all measures for the fourth consecutive year. (Figure 1)



FY 2010 ACS Code	Measure Description	Met/Not Met (I = Indicator) (Data Unavailable = No Data/Not Reporting) (LT = Long-Term Target)	Past Trends/ # of Years Met	Appendix Page Number (D-0)/ Figure Number
Subobjective 2.1.1 Water Safe to Drink				
2.1.1	Population served by CWSs	▲	4/5	D-1/Fig. 2
SP-1	CWSs meeting safe standards	▲	3/3	D-1
SP-2	"Person months" with CWSs safe standards	▲	3/3	D-2/Fig. 4
SP-3	Population served by CWSs Indian Country	▲	2/5	D-2/Fig. 46
SP-4a	CWSs and source water protection	▲	5/5★	D-3/Fig. 8
SP-4b	Population and source water protection	▲	3/3	D-3
SP-5	Tribal households safe drinking water	▼	0/5	D-3/Fig. 49
SDW-1a	CWSs with sanitary survey	▼	0/4	D-4/Fig. 6
SDW-1b	Tribal CWSs with sanitary survey	▲	1/5	D-4/Fig. 48
SDW-2	Data for violations in SDWIS-FED	I		D-5
SDW-3	Lead/Copper Rule data in SDWIS-FED	I		D-5
SDW-4	DWSRF fund utilization rate	▲	5/5★	D-6/Fig. 10
SDW-5	DWSRF projects initiated	▲	4/4★	D-6
SDW-7a	Class I wells with mechanical integrity	▲	3/3	D-6
SDW-7b	Class II wells with mechanical integrity	▲	3/3	D-7
SDW-7c	Class III wells with mechanical integrity	▼	2/3	D-7
SDW-8	High Priority Class V wells	▲	2/3	D-8
SDW-9	CWS intakes for source water assessed	I		D-8
SDW-10a	Waterbody impairments with CWS intake and TMDL	I		D-9
SDW-10b	Waterbody impairments with CWS intake and impairment causes removed	I		D-9

Notes: CWS=community water system; SDWIS= Safe Drinking Water Information System; SDWIS-FED=Safe Drinking Water Information System/Federal; DWSRF=Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

FY 2010 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

Compliance with Drinking Water Standards: The overall objective of the drinking water program is to protect public health by ensuring that public water systems deliver safe drinking water to their customers. EPA measures the compliance of drinking water standards in three ways: by population, by community water systems, and by "person months." EPA, states, and community water systems (CWSs)[1] work together to increase the percentage of the population served by CWSs that meet all health-based standards.

For the fourth consecutive year, EPA met its commitment (89.9%) of providing approximately 91% of the population that was served by community water systems with drinking water that met all applicable health-based drinking water standards

[1] A CWS is a public water system that provides water to the same population year-round. As of December 2010, there were 51,388 CWSs.

(Subobjective 2.1.1) (Figure 2). Nine of 10 EPA regional offices met their FY 2010 commitments (Figure 3). Although regions use the national target of the population served by CWSs receiving safe drinking water as a point of reference, regional commitments to this outcome goal might vary based on differing conditions in each region.

EPA met its commitment for the percent of community water systems meeting all applicable health-based standards (89.6% versus 87%) (SP-1). The program has been working with states over the past year to re-energize state capacity development programs as part of the small systems approach. Regions 8 and 9 did not achieve their commitment, but given past end of year outcomes, they were two of only three regions that committed to stretch performance commitments that matched or exceeded the previous years' outcomes.

Figure 2: Percent Population with Drinking Water Meeting Standards by Fiscal Year (2.1.1)

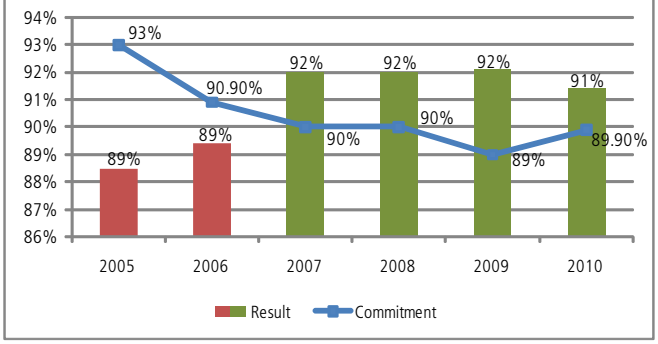
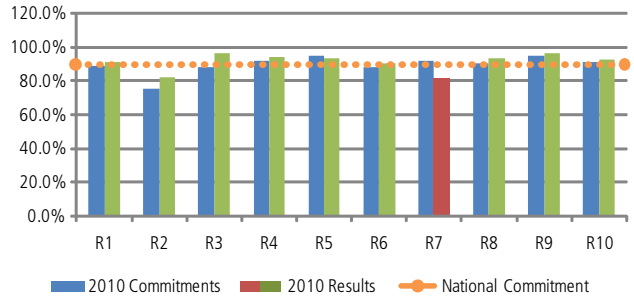


Figure 3: Percent Population With Drinking Water Meeting Standards by Region (2.1.1)



EPA also measures the percent of "person months"[1] during which CWSs provide drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards. The purpose of this measure is to capture the length of time a given population is served by a water system that is in violation with drinking water standards. In FY 2010, more than 97% of the population was served by CWSs over a 12-month period that was in compliance with drinking water standards (SP-2) (Figure 4). All EPA regions met their commitments for this goal (Figure 5).

Figure 4: "Person Months" with CWSs Safe Standards by Fiscal Year (SP-2)

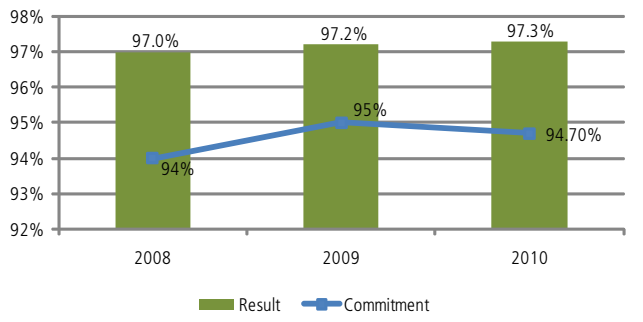
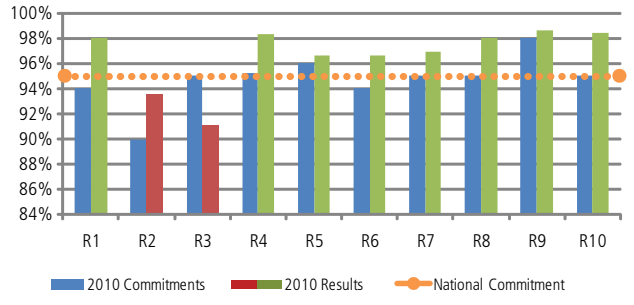


Figure 5: "Person Months" with CWSs Safe Standards by Region (SP-2)



According to EPA regulations,[2] CWSs are required to undergo a sanitary survey within three years of their last survey (five years for outstanding performers). Sanitary surveys are onsite reviews of the water sources, facilities, equipment, operation, and maintenance of public water systems. EPA estimates that in 2010, 87% of community systems underwent a survey (SDW-1a) (Figure 6). This is short of the Agency's commitment of 88.6%. Six of 10 regions met their commitments for this measure in FY 2010 (Figure 7). EPA has been faced with many challenges in attempting to meet its commitments for this measure over the past four years. Conducting sanitary surveys is a resource-intensive effort because state staff or contractors must physical-

[1] "Person-months" for each CWS is calculated as the number of months in the most recent four-quarter period in which health-based violations overlap, multiplied by the retail population served.

[3] Interim Enhanced and Long-Term 1 Surface Water Treatment Rules.

ly visit each community water system. State budget shortfalls and lack of resources (such as fuel and labor costs) have made it difficult for states to fill positions and undertake the necessary travel. Because states' resources may become more limited in the future, EPA regions are working with their states to help increase resources and propose further use of set-aside options available under the DWSRF program.

Figure 6: CWSs with Sanitary Surveys by Fiscal Year (SDW-1a)

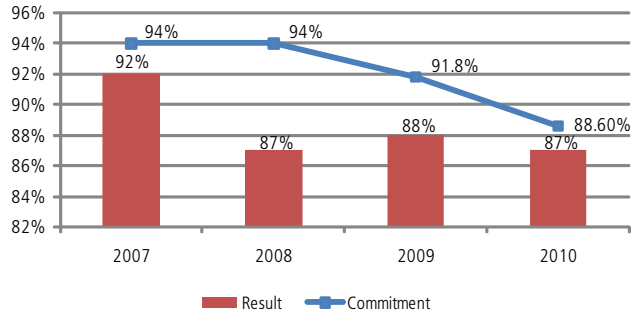
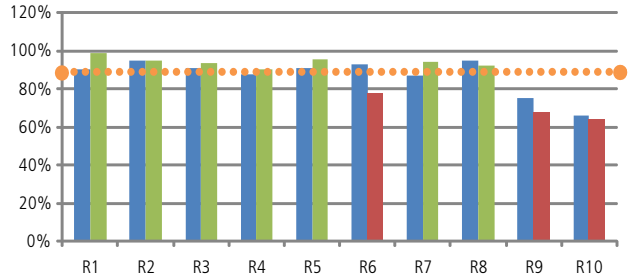


Figure 7: CWSs with Sanitary Surveys by Region (SDW-1a)



Source Water Protection: Community water systems minimized the risk[3] to public health for 37% of the nation's source water areas (both surface and ground water) (SP-4a) (Figure 8). This was slightly above the FY 2010 commitment of 35.4%. EPA met its commitment for this measure for the sixth year in a row and has made significant progress against the FY 2005 baseline of 20%. Nine of 10 regions met their commitment in FY 2010 (Figure 9).

Figure 8: CWSs and Source Water Protection by Fiscal Year (SP-4a)

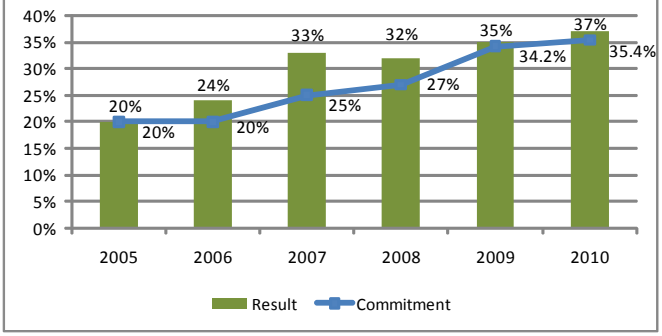
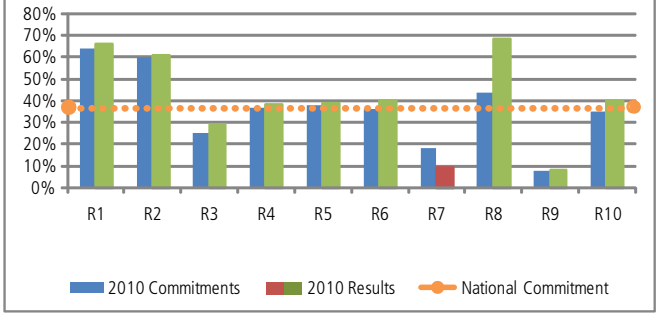


Figure 9: CWSs and Source Water Protection by Region (SP-4a)

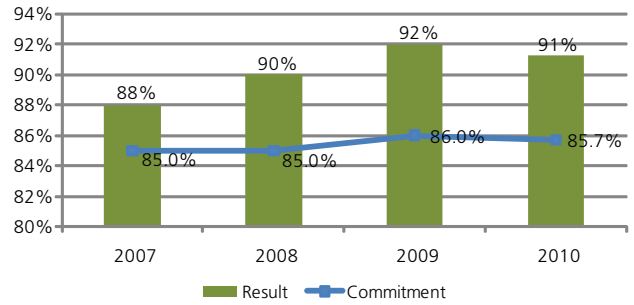


Water System Financing: Financing is a key component of the national drinking water program. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, in place since 1997, provides low-interest loans to communities for building and upgrading drinking water facilities. The SRF fund utilization rate—dollar amount of loan agreements per funds available for projects—is a valuable way to measure states' effectiveness in obligating grant funds for drinking water projects. EPA met its FY 2010 goal by establishing loan agreements for 91.3% of the cumulative amount of funds available (commitment of 85.7%). EPA has met its commitments for this measure for four consecutive years (SDW-4) (Figure 10). All 10 regions met their commitments in FY 2010, with a range of 85% to 104.6% of funds obligated (Figure 11). More than 5,236 SRF projects have initiated operations to date, which is up from 4,576 in FY 2009 and 4,082 in FY 2008 (SDW-5).

[3] "Minimized risk" is achieved by the substantial implementation as determined by the state of source water protection actions in a source water protection strategy.

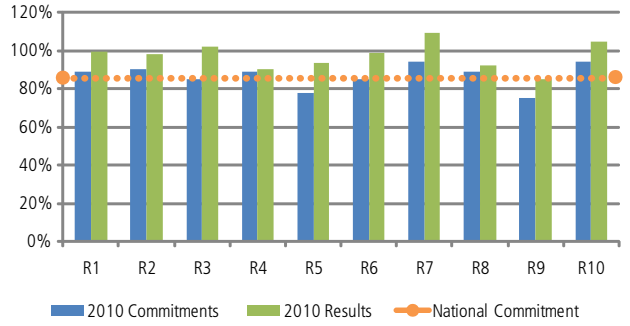
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided $2 billion to states for the DWSRF to finance high-priority infrastructure projects needed to ensure clean water and safe drinking water. Despite the significant increases in SRF funding through ARRA, the utilization rate showed only a slight drop (92% to 91.3% in FY 2010). For more information on the ARRA measures and results, see Appendix B.

Figure 10: DWSRF Fund Utilization Rate by Fiscal Year (SDW-4)



(Results included ARRA funds)

Figure 11: Fund Utilization Rate by Region (SDW-4)



(Region-specific results may not include ARRA funds)

Underground Injection Control: EPA works with states to monitor the injection of fluids—both hazardous and non-hazardous—to prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water. One way to prevent contamination is for states to maintain the mechanical integrity of underground injection wells. EPA met its FY 2010 commitments with 96% and 89% of its Class I and II wells, respectively (SDW-7a,b), that had lost mechanical integrity returning to compliance within 180 days. EPA fell short of its commitment of 90% for Class III wells, however, with 75% (two of three) of deep injection wells used for salt solution mining that have mechanical integrity returning to compliance within 180 days.

EPA also works with states to monitor the number and percentage of high-priority Class V wells identified in ground water-based CWS source water areas that are closed or permitted. High-priority Class V wells include motor vehicle waste disposal wells, cesspools, industrial wells, and other wells so designated by the state or regional program. Ninety-one (91%) of high-priority Class V wells were closed or permitted in 2010 (SDW-8). This was above the 2010 commitment of 71%. Although this measure is fairly complex, it is important to note that the data indicate that wells are being addressed at a faster rate than they are being identified.[1]

[1] For SDW-8, the 2008 and 2009 results are not directly comparable because the definition was modified. In 2008, sensitive ground water areas were defined as source water protection areas for community water systems. In 2009, states were allowed to expand this definition, and most chose to consider the entire state as "sensitive ground water." The revision had the effect of greatly increasing the universe (denominator), thus the reason for the slight decrease in the percentage.