

Appendix D

Proposed PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM for Drinking Water Projects

Proposed changes to the current Priority Rating System are shown in red font text, reflecting the latest proposal by the State Water Infrastructure Authority on February 19, 2025.

Proposed 2025 PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM for Drinking Water Projects				
<i>Instructions: For each line item, mark "X" to claim the points for that line item. Be sure that your narrative includes justification for every line item claimed. At the end of each category, provide the total points claimed for each program in the subtotal row for that category. Then add the subtotals from each category and enter the Total of Points for All Categories in the last line. Note that some categories have a maximum allowed points that may be less than the total of individual line items.</i>				
Line Item #	EC Line Item [†]	Category 1 – Project Purpose (Points will be awarded for <u>only one</u> Project Purpose)	Claimed Yes/No	Points
1.A		Project will consolidate a nonviable drinking water or wastewater utility		25
1.B		Project will resolve failed or failing infrastructure issues		22
1.C		Project will rehabilitate or replace infrastructure, including replacement by regionalization projects		12
1.C.1		Treatment units, pumps and/or pump stations to be rehabilitated or replaced are greater than 20 years old, OR lines, storage tanks, drinking water wells or intake structures to be rehabilitated or replaced are greater than 40 years old OR lead service lines		8
1.D		Project will expand infrastructure		2
1.D.1		Treatment units, pumps and/or pump stations to be rehabilitated or replaced are greater than 20 years old, OR lines, storage tanks, drinking water wells or intake structures to be rehabilitated or replaced are greater than 40 years old		8
1.E		Project will provide service to disadvantaged areas		20
1.F – 1.I		Reserved for other programs		

Proposed 2025 PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM for Drinking Water Projects				
1.J		Project addresses PFAS emerging contaminants		
1.J.1	EC	Sole purpose of the project is to address Emerging Contaminants (construction projects) where 100% of the costs are associated with this purpose OR		12
1.J.2	EC	At least 75% of the project costs are to address Emerging Contaminants (construction projects) OR		5
1.J.3		Reserved for EC-Study Program. Please use the appropriate guidance and the rolling application.		
Maximum points for Category 1 – Project Purpose				25
Subtotal claimed for Category 1 – Project Purpose				
Line Item #	EC Line Item [†]	Category 2 – Project Benefits	Claimed Yes/No	Points
2.A		Reserved for other programs		
2.B		Project provides a specific public health benefit		
2.B.1		Project addresses dry wells or contamination of a drinking water source; or resolves managerial, technical & financial issues		20
2.B.2		Projects that eliminate lead service lines		10
2.C		Reserved for other programs		
2.D		Project addresses promulgated but not yet effective regulations		10
2.E		Project directly addresses enforcement documents		
2.E.1		Project directly addresses an EPA Administrative Order for a local government Applicant located in a Tier 1 county, or addresses an existing or pending SOC, or a DEQ Administrative Order, OR		5
2.E.2		Project directly resolves a Notice of Violation or Notice of Deficiency		3
2.F		Project includes system merger or regionalization		
2.F.1		Project includes system merger OR		10
2.F.2	EC	Project includes system regionalization and/or system partnerships		5

Proposed 2025 PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM for Drinking Water Projects				
2.G		Project addresses documented low pressure		10
2.H		Project addresses contamination		
2.H.1		Project addresses acute contamination of a water supply source OR		15
2.H.2		Project addresses contamination of a water supply source other than acute OR		5
2.H.3	EC	Project addresses any PFAS compounds exceeding 10 ppt or State-established regulatory standards or limits OR		2
2.H.4	EC	Project addresses PFAS exceeding proposed or promulgated MCL or Hazard Index		5
2.I		Project improves treated water quality by adding or upgrading a unit process		3
2.J		Water loss in system to be rehabilitated or replaced is 30% or greater		3
2.K		Project provides a public water system interconnection		
2.K.1		Project creates a new interconnection between systems not previously interconnected OR		10
2.K.2		Project creates an additional or larger interconnection between two systems already interconnected which allows one system's public health water needs to be met during an emergency OR		10
2.K.3		Project creates any other type of interconnection between systems		5
2.L – 2.M		Reserved for other programs		
2.N		Project provides resiliency for critical system functions moves existing infrastructure from the floodplain or fortifies infrastructure within the floodplain		
2.N.1		Project relocates infrastructure to outside the 500-year floodplain Project relocates and/or improves infrastructure to assure continued operation during a 500-year flood event OR		8

Proposed 2025 PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM for Drinking Water Projects				
2.N.2		Project relocates infrastructure from inside the 100-year floodplain to outside the 100-year floodplain OR Project relocates and/or improves infrastructure to assure continued operation during a 100-year flood event		5
2.N.3		Project relocates infrastructure from between the 100-year and 500-year floodplains to outside a 500-year floodplain OR		3
2.N.4		Project fortifies or elevates infrastructure within floodplain, OR		4
2.N.5		Project improves ability to assure continued operation during flood events OR		4
2.N.6		Project downsizes infrastructure related to buyouts OR		4
2.N.7		Project provides redundancy/resiliency for critical treatment and/or transmission/distribution system functions including cybersecurity and/or backup electrical power source		3
2.O – 2.S		Reserved for other programs		
2.T		Project provides redundancy/resiliency for critical treatment and/or transmission/distribution system functions including cybersecurity and/or backup electrical power source		3
Maximum points for Category 2 – Project Benefits				35
Subtotal claimed for Category 2 – Project Benefits				
Line Item #	EC Line Item [†]	Category 3 – System Management	Claimed Yes/No	Points
3.A		Capital Planning Activities		
3.A.1	EC	Applicant has implemented an Asset Management Plan as of the date of application OR		10
3.A.2	EC	Applicant has a current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that spans at least 10 years and proposed project is included in the plan		2

Proposed 2025 PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM for Drinking Water Projects				
3.B	EC	System Operating Ratio is greater than or equal to 1.00 based on a current audit, or is less than 1.00 and unit cost is greater than 2.5% of MHI		5
3.C		Applicant has an approved Source Water Protection Plan and/or a Wellhead Protection Plan		5
3.D		Applicant has implemented a water loss reduction program		5
3.E		Applicant has implemented a water conservation incentive rate structure		3
3.F		Applicant has completed a local flood resiliency action plan with the proposed project included in the plan		5
Maximum points for Category 3 – System Management				15
Subtotal claimed for Category 3 – System Management				
Line Item #	EC Line Item [†]	Category 4 – Affordability	Claimed Yes/No	Points
4.A		Residential Connections		
4.A.1	EC	Less than 10,000 residential connections OR		2
4.A.2	EC	Less than 5,000 residential connections OR		4
4.A.3	EC	Less than 1,000 residential connections		8
4.B		Current Monthly Combined Utility Rates at 5,000 Usage		
4.B.1	EC	Greater than the 50 th Percentile OR		4
4.B.2	EC	Greater than the 70 th Percentile OR		6
4.B.3	EC	Greater than the 85 th Percentile OR		8
4.B.4	EC	Greater than the 95 th Percentile		10
4.C		Local Government Unit (LGU) Indicators		
4.C.1	EC	3 out of 5 LGU indicators worse than state benchmark OR		3
4.C.2	EC	4 out of 5 LGU indicators worse than state benchmark OR		5
4.C.3	EC	5 out of 5 LGU indicators worse than state benchmark OR		7

Proposed 2025 PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM for Drinking Water Projects				
4.C.4	EC	Project benefits disadvantaged areas		5
4.D – 4.G		Reserved for other programs		
Maximum points for Category 4 – Affordability				25
Subtotal claimed for Category 4 – Affordability[‡]				
Total of Points for All Categories				
Total Points for EC funding (if applicable)				

[†] Only line items marked with “EC” will be used in scoring eligible applications for DWSRF-EC funding. These applications will also be scored using the full PRS for all other drinking water funding sources.

[‡]Local government units under Local Government Commission’s fiscal control that have received an Emergency Operating Grant under NC GS 159G-34.5 in the current or prior fiscal year qualify for the maximum points for Category 4: Affordability.