

INDIANA DRINKING WATER AND
WASTEWATER UTILITIES
REGIONAL MEETINGS
LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR 2020

PREPARED BY: INDIANA FINANCE AUTHORITY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As required by IC 5-1.2-11.5-6 (“Act”), the Indiana Finance Authority (“IFA”) submits to the Indiana General Assembly the data gathered from the State’s 2020 regional water planning meetings. This report fulfills the reporting requirement set forth in Section 6(e) of the Act.

In 2020, eleven regional water planning meetings were held throughout the State of Indiana. An average of fifty unique attendees submitted responses to survey questions during each meeting, for a total of 551 responses. A minimum of 325 utilities and municipalities were represented (with some municipal attendees representing multiple drinking water, storm water, and wastewater utilities).

Responses gathered from the participating municipalities and utilities indicated the following priorities for current and future regional water planning:

- Intra-utility participation should be maintained and strengthened
- Where regions are still being established, utilities prefer county-oriented organization, followed by watershed
- Highest priority topics for future meetings include economic development, supply and demand, regulatory compliance, and water quality.

INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the Indiana Legislative Council convened the Water Infrastructure Task Force (“Task Force”) to study drinking water and wastewater utility needs and best practices in Indiana. One recommendation of the Task Force was for the State to assist utilities with long term planning by establishing Water Infrastructure Study Areas for the purpose of studying supply and demand, drought preparedness, infrastructure needs, and opportunities for utility collaboration within a region.

As a result of these recommendations, the 2019 Indiana General Assembly enacted Senate Enrolled Act 4 (“SEA 4,” now Section 6 of IC 5-1.2-11.5, the “Act”). The Act requires the IFA to conduct regional meetings throughout the State to enable drinking water and wastewater utilities to work together to address long term planning needs. The Act also requires drinking water and wastewater utilities to report their participation in the meetings to the IFA.

For 2020, the IFA conducted (or participated in) a series of regional water planning meetings held throughout the State of Indiana¹. Objectives established by the Task Force and the Act (such as establishing regional boundaries, identifying utility priorities, evaluating topics of regional interest, promoting cooperation and mutual assistance, and discussing prudent management of water resources) set the framework for meeting agendas. The IFA also collaborated with local utilities to set specific agenda topics tailored to the needs and interests of the attendees.

To meet the reporting requirements, the IFA implemented a browser-based survey for utilities to record their attendance and participation. A blank copy of the survey form is included in Appendix A. These responses are then tracked and publicly displayed on the IFA Regional Planning Meeting website,² allowing utilities and municipalities to confirm their participation prior to the release of the complete list in this bi-annual Report. The list of participating utilities

¹ Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, some meetings were held virtually.

² <https://www.in.gov/ifa/regional-planning-meetings/>

is included in Appendix B. As required by the Act, this Report is required to be submitted to the Indiana General Assembly on November 1 of every odd-numbered calendar year.

APPROACH

Where possible, the IFA attempted to hold meetings during previously established utility events (e.g., Alliance of Indiana Rural Water and Indiana Section of the American Water Works Association meetings and conferences, etc.). This approach served to reduce utility travel and reporting requirements, increase participation, and minimize duplicative efforts. When regional meetings were held in conjunction with these events, advance copies of agendas and schedules were made available to utilities to allow for targeted participation. Continuing Education Credits, or “CEUs,” were also offered in conjunction with the regional meetings, often as part of a larger block of available CEUs. When the meetings were the only item on the agenda, IFA offered CEUs at no cost to utility participants.

During the regional meetings, utilities were asked to complete a real-time, online survey to record their responses and feedback. Surveys were made available via a web browser, and the IFA ensured that all participants had the availability to access and complete the survey. Survey questions included: contact information; which meeting was attended; type of organization being represented; regional boundary preferences; current regional water planning meetings participants and topics, and future regional water planning meeting participants and topics.

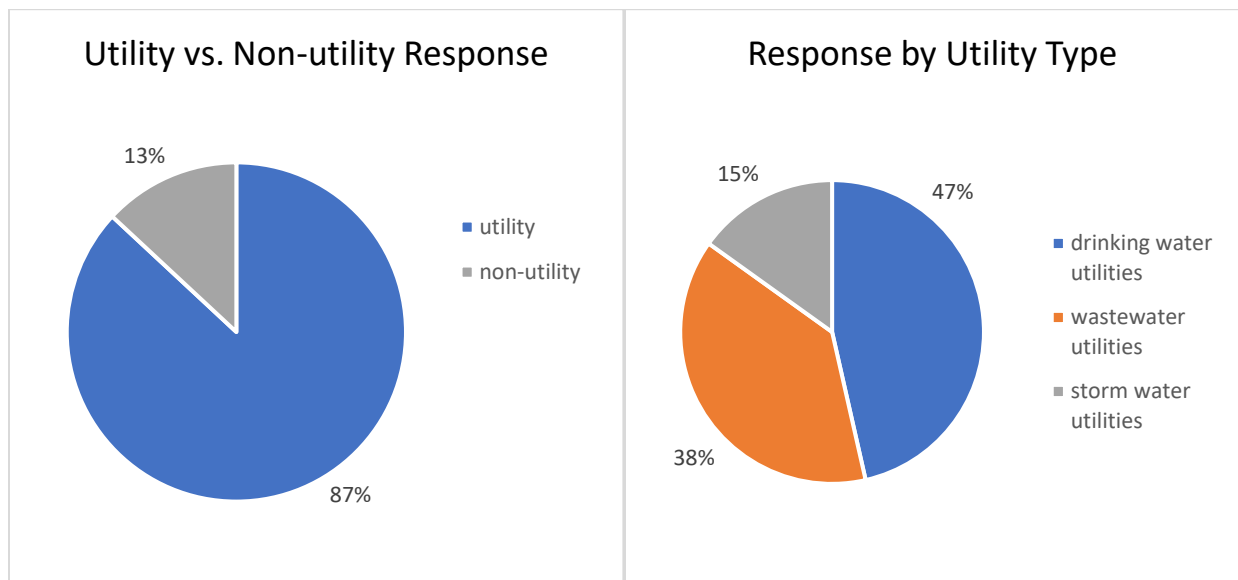
DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

For 2020, 551 unique responses were recorded from the eleven different regional meetings that were held. The first meeting was held in February 2020, and the last meeting of the calendar year was held in December; the IFA also held one additional regional water planning meeting in February of 2021 to allow utilities who had missed the earlier meetings to meet their reporting requirement for 2020.

Results: Demographics

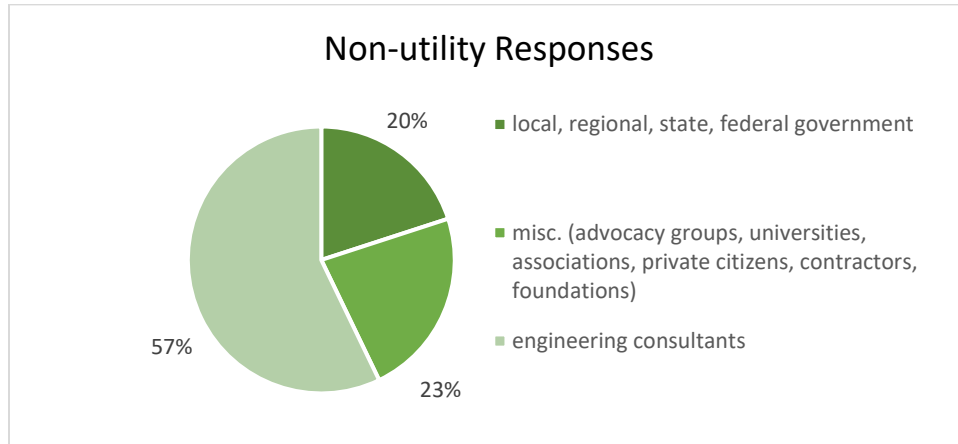
The IFA asked meeting participants to identify themselves as either representing a utility (as required by the Act) or non-utility. Participants representing a utility could record their attendance for any combination of drinking-, storm-, or wastewater. Non-utility participants were also asked to identify the type of organization they were representing. Of the respondents who completed the survey, 87% represented at least one utility, with drinking water utilities being the most frequently represented.

Figure 1: Utility Participation



Of those survey participants who were not utilities, more than half were engineering/consultants, with the remainder representing a variety of organizational entities.

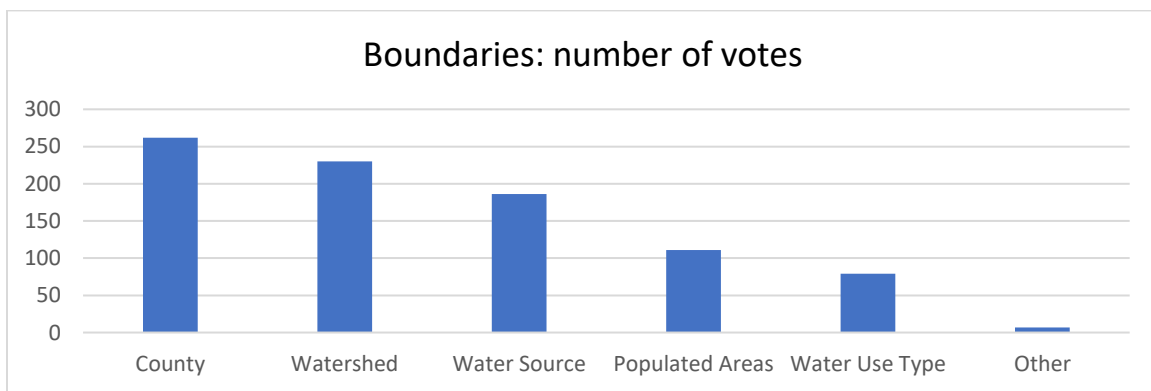
Figure 2: Non-utility Participation



Results: Regional Boundaries

The first question asked of respondents was their preference for how regional water planning group boundaries would be set; the predominant response was by county.

Figure 3: Regional Water Planning Boundary Preferences



Based on these preferences, an initial proposal for Indiana’s Water Planning Regions is presented below as Figure 4:

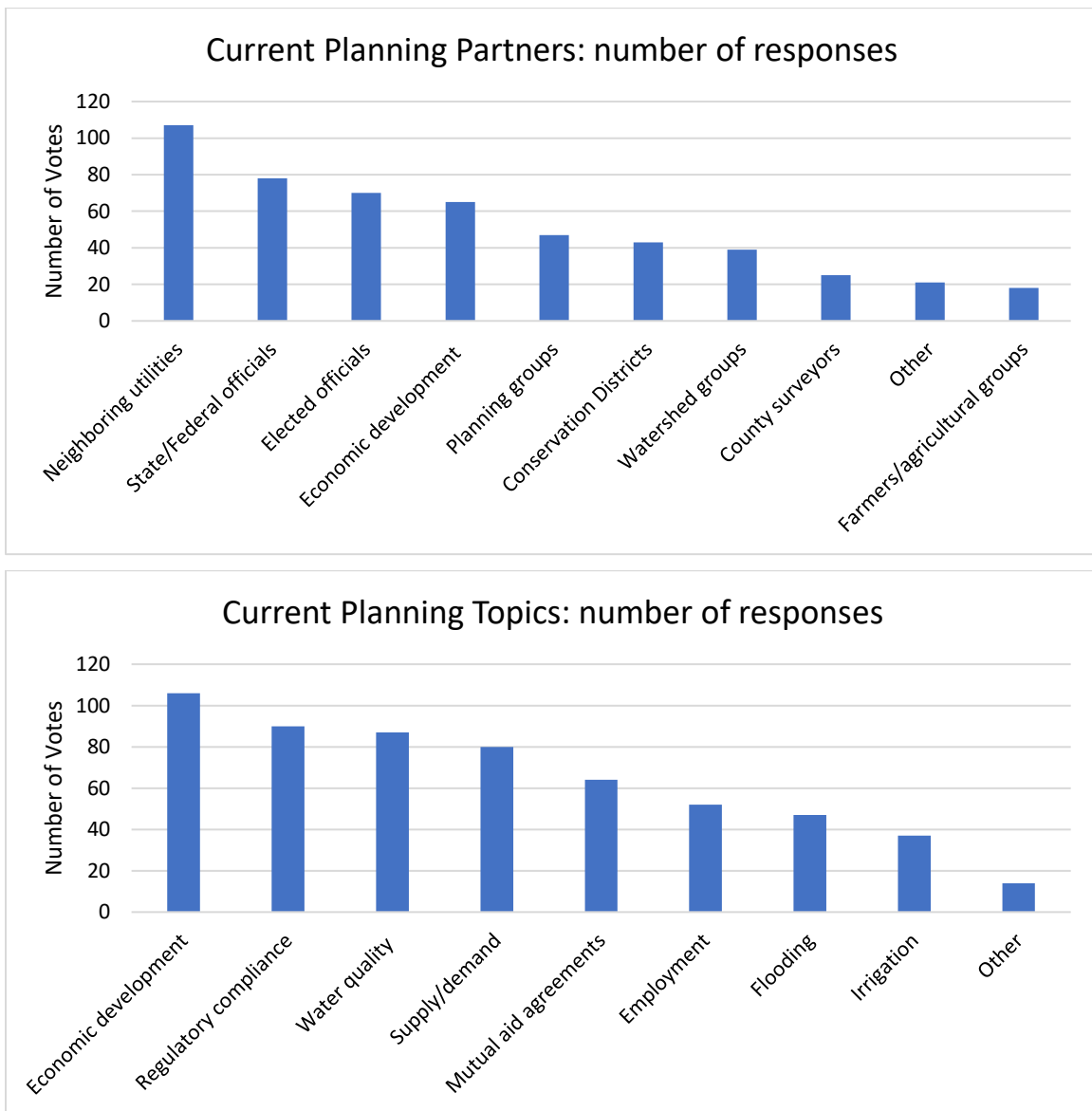
FIGURE 4: Map of Proposed Water Planning Regions



Results: Current Regional Meetings

Survey participants were also asked to identify who they viewed as their current planning partners, and which planning topics are the most discussed. Currently, other utilities are the most reported planning partners, and the most-discussed topic for regional meetings has been economic development.

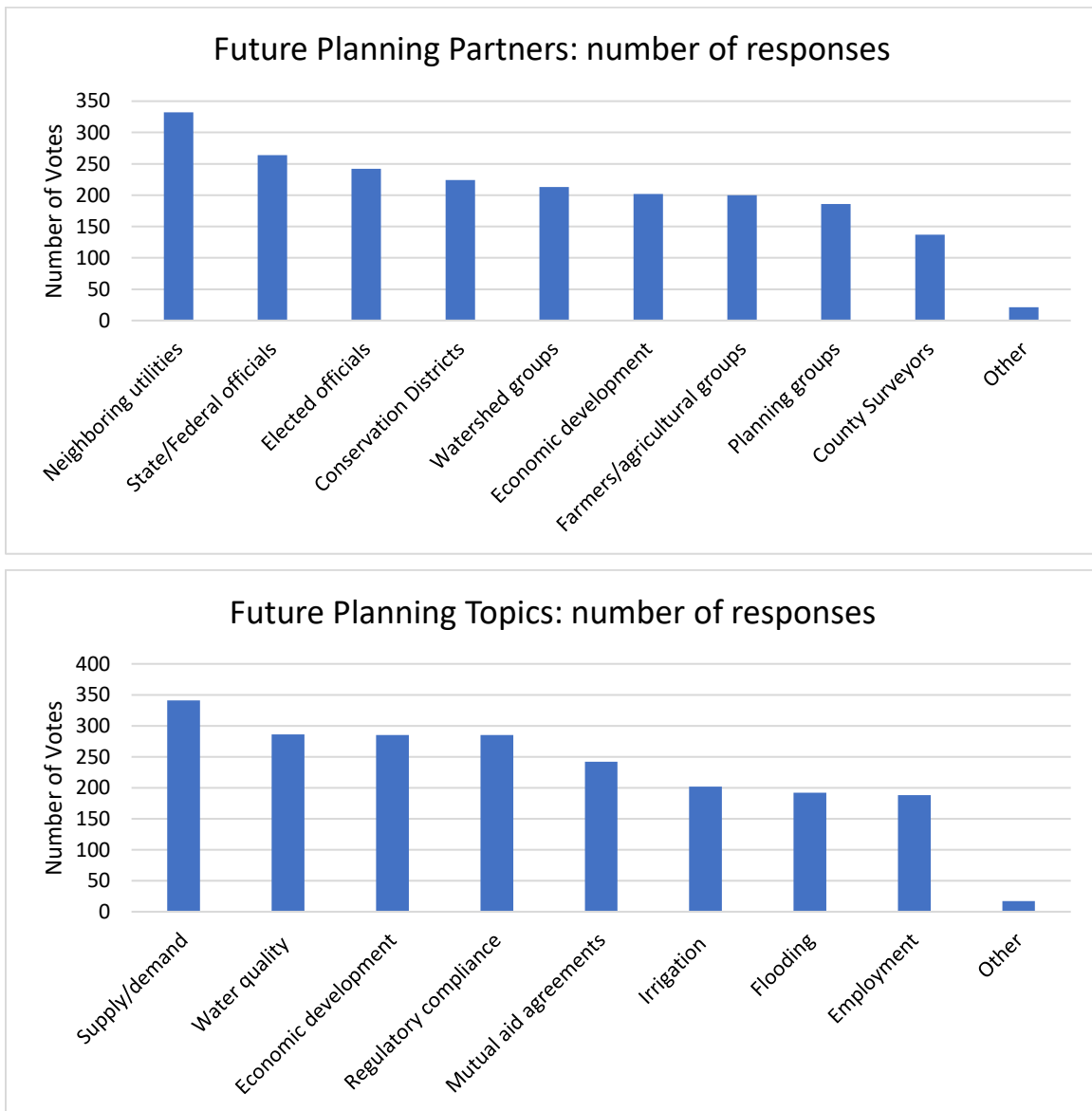
Figure 5: Current Regional Water Planning



Results: Future Regional Meetings

The survey also asked participants who future planning partners should be, and which topics are the most important to address for future meetings. While other utilities were still viewed as the most important planning partners, survey responses indicate that supply/demand was the most critical topic for future meetings (with three other topics-- water quality, economic development, and regulatory compliance-- viewed as nearly equal secondary topics).

Figure 6: Future Regional Water Planning



ESTABLISHING NEW REGIONAL PLANNING GROUPS

At the start of 2020, only two utility groups (Central and Southeastern) had fully established into specific regions. As new regions continue to form, some utility groups may need to adjust topic priorities to address logistical concerns (e.g., when and where to meet, how to organize themselves, who will lead, etc.). The IFA can assist in these transition efforts (e.g., securing meeting locations, sending out invites, running registration, providing CEUs) until the regions are more fully established. The IFA expects to finalize the map of the regions in 2022. The IFA also expects utility participation will increase as each of the regions become fully established.

CONCLUSION

Regional water planning meetings for 2020 were attended by predominantly utility representatives, with drinking water utilities having the largest representation, followed by wastewater utilities.

Of the options presented for establishing regional boundaries, the most-preferred boundary type was county-based, followed by watershed. This stated preference aligns with the two regions that have already been formed by utility groups. Consequently, a map of the proposed state's water planning regions was included in this report.

Survey responses indicated that utilities would like to maintain and strengthen intra-utility relationships, and that the topics of economic development, supply & demand, regulatory compliance, and water quality are the most critical for upcoming regional water planning.

APPENDIX A: 2020 REGIONAL MEETING SURVEY

2020 IN Regional Meetings

Contact Information

Contact Info

First Name*: _____

Last Name*: _____

Title: _____

Email Address*: _____

Phone Number*: _____

Please add my email address to the IFA Regional Meeting contact list

Yes

No

IFA Meeting Attendance

Which IFA Regional Planning meeting are you attending?*

Name of town/city/county represented*: _____

What type of utility do you represent?*

drinking water

storm water

waste water

Utility Identification Number - PWSID: _____

Utility Identification Number - NPDES: _____

Regional Boundaries

1) In your opinion, what is the best to divide up the state into regions for water planning?

Check all that apply.

County

Populated Areas

Water source

Water use

Watershed

Other - Write In: _____

Current Regional Planning

2) If you currently participate in regional planning, who/what other groups currently participate with you?

Check all that apply

County Surveyors

Elected officials

Economic development/Chamber of Commerce

Farmers/agricultural groups

Neighboring utilities

Planning groups

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

State/Federal officials (IDEM, DNR, USGS, FEMA, etc.)

Watershed groups

Other - Write In: _____

3) If you currently participate in regional meetings, what topics are discussed?

Check all that apply.

Economic development

Employment (recruitment, retention, etc.)

Flooding

- Irrigation (agricultural & residential usage)
- Mutual aid agreements
- Regulatory compliance
- Supply/demand (population growth, drought planning, etc.)
- Water quality (PFAS, algal blooms, fluvial erosion, etc.)
- Other - Write In: _____

Future Regional Planning

4) Who/what groups should be invited to participate in future regional planning that may not currently participate?

Check all that apply.

- County Surveyors
- Economic development/Chamber of Commerce
- Elected officials
- Farmers/agricultural groups
- Neighboring utilities
- Planning groups
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- State/Federal officials (IDEM, DNR, USGS, FEMA, etc.)
- Watershed groups
- Other - Write In: _____

5) What topics should be discussed at future regional planning meetings?

Check all that apply.

- Economic development
- Employment (recruitment, retention, etc.)
- Flooding
- Irrigation (agricultural & residential usage)
- Mutual aid agreements
- Regulatory compliance

[] Supply/demand (population growth, drought planning, etc.)

[] Water quality (PFAS, algal blooms, fluvial erosion, etc.)

[] Other - Write In: _____

Thank You!

APPENDIX B: LIST OF UTILITIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN IFA REGIONAL MEETINGS

2020 reporting timeframe is January 2020 – February 2021

Aberdeen Pate Water Company	Borden Tri County Regional Water District
Adams County Regional Sewer District	Brazil, City of Utilities
Adams Lake Regional Sewer District	Bremen Water Department
Advance, Town of Utilities	Bristol, Town of Utilities
Akron Water Department	Brookston, Town of Utilities
Albany, Town of Utilities	Brookville Lake Regional Waste District
Albion, Town of Utilities	Brookville Utilities
Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District	Brown County Water
Anderson Township RSD	Brownsburg, Town of Utilities
Anderson, City of Utilities	Brownstown Wastewater Utility
Andrews, Town of Utilities	Burlington, Town of
And-Tro Water Authority	Butler Water Department
Angola Utilities	Campbellsburg, Town of Water
Arcadia, Town of Utilities	Cannelton, City of Utilities
Ashley, Town of Utilities	Carlisle Water Department
Auburn, City of Utilities	Carmel, City of Utilities
Aurora, City of Utilities	Cayuga Water Department
B&B Water Project	Cedar Lake Water
Bainbridge Municipal Utilities	Chalmers, Town of Utilities
Bargersville, Town of Utilities	Chandler, Town of Utilities
Bass Lake Conservancy District	Charlestown River Ridge
Batesville Water & Gas Utility	Chesterfield Utilities
Battle Ground Conservancy District	Chesterston, Town of Utilities
BBP Water Corporation	Chrisney Water Department
Bedford, City of Utilities	Citizens Energy Group
Berne, City of Utilities	Clarksville Wastewater
Bicknell Utilities	Clay City, Town of Utilities
Bloomington, City of Utilities	Clayton, Town of Utilities
Boonville Utilities	Clinton Township Water

Clinton, City of Utilities
Cloverdale, Town of Utilities
Colfax, Town of Utilities
Columbia City Utilities
Columbus City Utilities
Connersville Utilities
Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District
Crawford County Water Company Inc.
Crawfordsville Utilities
Cromwell Municipal Utilities
Crothersville, Town of Utilities
Crown Point, City of Utilities
Daleville, Town of Utilities
Dana, Town of Utilities
Danville Utilities
Decatur, City of Utilities
Delaware County Regional WW District
DeMotte, Town of Utilities
Dillsboro Utilities
Dubois Water Utilities
Earl Park, Town of Utilities
East Chicago, City of Utilities
East Enterprise Sewage District
East Washington Rural Water
Eastern Bartholomew Water Corporation
Eaton, Town of Utilities
Edgewood, Town of Utilities
Edinburgh, Town of Utilities
Edwardsville Water Corporation
Elberfeld, Town of Utilities
Elizabeth, Town of Utilities
Elkhart, City of Utilities

Ellis Water Company
Elwood Utilities
Evansville Utilities
Fairways Regional Water District
Fall Creek Regional Waste District
Farmersburg WWTP
Fayette Township Utilities
Ferdinand, Town of Utilities
Fishers, City of Utilities
Flora Water Works
Florence Regional Sewage District
Floyds Knobs Water Company
Fort Branch Utilities
Fort Wayne, City of Utilities
Fortville, Town of Utilities
Fountain City Utilities
Fowler, Town of Utilities
Fowlerton, Town of WWTP
Frankfort, Town of Utilities
Frankton, Town of Utilities
Freelandville Regional Sewer District
Fremont, Town of Utilities
Galveston Water Works
Garrett Utilities
Gary Sanitary District
Gaston, Town of Utilities
Geneva Water Works
Glenwood Municipal Utilities
Goodland Utilities
Goshen, City of Utilities
Grandview, Town of Utilities
Greencastle Utilities

Greendale, City of Utilities
Greenfield Utilities
Greensburg Water Works
Greenville Water Utility
Greenwood Utilities
Griffith, Town of Water Utility
Hamilton Lake Conservancy District
Hammond, City of Utilities
Hartford City WWTP
Haubstadt, Town of Utilities
Highland Water Works
Holton Community Water Corporation
Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy (Rush Co)
Hudson, Town of Utilities
Huntertown Utilities
Huntingburg, City of Utilities
Huntington, City of Utilities
Indiana American Water
Ireland Utilities
Jackson County Water - Reddington
Jackson County Water Utility, Inc.
Jasonville Utilities
Jasper Municipal Utilities
Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities
Jennings Water Inc.
Kent Water
Kewanna Water Works
Kingsbury Utility Corporation
Kirklin, Town of Utilities
Kokomo, City of Utilities
Koontz Lake Regional Sewer District
L&M Regional Water District
La Fontaine, Town of Utilities
La Porte, City of Utilities
La Crosse, Town of Utilities
La Grange County Regional Utility District
La Grange, Town of Utilities
Lagro, Town of Water Department
Lake Bruce Conservancy WWTP
Lake Santee Regional Waste & Water District
Lakeville, Town of Utilities
Lanesville Utilities
LaOtto RSD
Lapel Utilities
Lawrence, City of Utilities
Lawrenceburg Municipal Utilities
Leavenworth Water
Lebanon, City of Utilities
Ligonier Utilities
Linton Municipal Utilities
LMS Conservancy
Logansport Municipal Utilities
Loogootee, City of Utilities
Madison Utilities
Mapleturn Utilities (Morgan County)
Marengo, Town of
Marion Utilities
Markle Utilities
Marshall Water Works
Marysville Otisco Nabb Water
Matthews, Town of WWTP
Maysville Regional Water & Sewer District
McCordsville, Town of Utilities
Michigan City Water Works

Michigantown Sewage Utility	North Lawrence Water Authority
Middlebury, Town of Utilities	North Manchester, Town of Utilities
Middletown WWTP	North Vernon Water
Milford, Town of Utilities	Northwest Jasper Regional Water District
Mishawaka Utilities	Norwood Regional Water & Sewer District
Monon Utilities	Nyona/South Mud Lakes Conservancy District
Monroe City Utilities	Oakland, City of Utilities
Monroe, Town of Utilities	Oolitic Water Works
Monroeville, Town of Utilities	Orestes, Town of Utilities
Monrovia, Town of Utilities	Osgood, Town of Utilities
Monticello, City of Utilities	Ossian, Town of Utilities
Montpelier, City of Utilities	Otterbein, Town of Utilities
Mooresville Wastewater	Owensville, Town of Utilities
Morgan County Rural Water Corporation	Oxford Utilities
Morgantown Utilities	Palmyra, Town of Utilities
Mount Summit Water	Patoka Lake Regional Water & Sewer District
Mount Vernon Utilities	Pennville Water Department
Mulberry, Town of Utilities	Peru Utilities
Napoleon Comm. Rural Water Corporation	Pierceton, Town of Utilities
Nappanee Utilities	Pike-Gibson Water
Nashville Utilities	Plainfield, Town of Utilities
New Albany, City of Utilities	Plymouth, City of Utilities
New Castle Utilities	Portland Utilities
New Chicago Utilities	Posey County Regional Sewer District
New Haven, City of Utilities	Poseyville, Town of Utilities
New Market Water	Princes Lakes Utilities
New Richmond Utilities	Ramsey Water Co. Inc.
Newburgh Wastewater Facility	Reelsville Water Authority
Ninestar Connect Utilities (Hancock County)	Rensselaer, City of Utilities
Noblesville, City of Utilities	Reo Water, Inc.
North Dearborn Water Corporation	Richmond, City of Utilities
North Judson, Town of Utilities	Ridgeville, Town of Utilities

Rising Sun Municipal Utilities	Sullivan-Vigo Rural Water Corporation
Roann, Town of Utilities	Swayzee Utilities
Roanoke Utilities	Syracuse, Town of Utilities
Rochester, City of Utilities	Tell City Utilities
Romney Regional Sewer District	Terre Haute Wastewater Utility
Rossville, Town of Utilities	Thorntown Utilities
Rural Membership Water Corporation	Tipton Water
Santa Claus Utilities	Topeka, Town of Utilities
Schererville, Town of Water Department	Trafalgar, Town of Utilities
Seelyville Water	Tri-County Conservancy District
Sellersburg Water	Tri-Lakes Regional Sewer District
Shamrock Lakes WWTP	Tri-Township Water Corporation
Shoals, Town of Utilities	Turkey Creek RSD
Silver Creek Water Corporation	Twin Lakes RSD
South Bend, City of Utilities	Universal Water Co
South Harrison Water	Valley Rural Utility Co.
South Henry Regional Waste District	Valparaiso, City of Utilities
South Whitley, Town of Utilities	Van Buren Utilities
Southern Monroe Water Authority	Veedersburg, Town of Utilities
Southwestern Bartholomew Water Corporation	Vermillion Rise Mega Park
Speedway Utilities	Vernon, Town of Utilities
Spencer, Town of Utilities	Versailles, Town of Utilities
Spencerville SWD	Vincennes Water Utilities
Spurgeon Water	Wakarusa, Town of Utilities
St. Anthony Water Utilities, Inc.	Warren, Town of Utilities
St. Bernice Utilities	Warsaw, City of Utilities
St. Joe, Town of Utilities	Washington Township Water Authority
St. John, Town of Utilities	Washington, City of Utilities
St. Joseph County RWSD	Watson Water
St. Paul Water	Wells County RSD
Stilesville, Town of Utilities	West Central Conservancy District
Sullivan Utilities	West Central Schools (Francesville, IN)

West Lafayette Utilities

West Lakes RSD

West Terre Haute Waste Water

Western Wayne RSD

Westport Utilities

Whiteland, Town of Utilities

Whitestown, Town of Utilities

Williamsport, Town of Utilities

Winchester WWTP

Wolcottville Utilities

Zionsville Wastewater Department