



August 1, 2023

Dear Asset Owners:

RE: Asset Management Plan Template and Schedule

Why am I receiving this letter?

You are receiving this letter as the person on record with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for future compliance with recent infrastructure legislation. If you believe another person or position in your organization is responsible for asset management reporting, and should receive future instructions, please contact us at EGLE-WAMC@michigan.gov.

What is the statutory requirement?

Part 50, Water Asset Management Council, 2018 PA 324, required the Water Asset Management Council (WAMC) to develop a template or templates by October 1, 2019, that contain requirements for information to be included in an Asset Management Plan (AMP)) submitted under section 5004. The statute also establishes a schedule for submission of AMP templates that ensures 1/3 of asset owners submit an asset management plan each year. Submittal for round 3 will be starting October 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024. There was a webinar explaining the data requirements and the submittal process. You can view a recording of the webinar and the webinar slides at www.michigan.gov/WAMC.

In plain language, what do I have to do?

In simple terms, the requirement mentioned above for an AMP and template submittal will be considered fulfilled by you after completing a short Survey Monkey form that is being used as the submittal portal. The remainder of this letter will refer to your submittal obligation as “the AMP survey.”

WAMC has worked diligently with several stakeholders to develop three separate AMP surveys for water, wastewater, and stormwater asset owners. WAMC has identified over 850 asset owners that are required to submit AMP surveys under the WAMC legislation. On August 22, 2019, WAMC approved the survey questions and identified which systems would be required to submit AMP surveys each year. If you are receiving this letter, your community water, sewer, or storm system(s) is required to submit your survey by January 31, 2024. The survey questions are very short answer or multiple choice. Questions such as total miles of infrastructure, available condition information, and estimated replacement value, to name a few. Average cost tables will be provided for the estimated replacement value, with guidance documents for those who do not have their own methodology.

No detailed data or information uploads are necessary, and system operators who are members of the WAMC found that it took 1-2 hours to complete the survey, depending on system size and uniformity of data collected in their AMP. The approved surveys are available on the WAMC website (www.michigan.gov/wamc). The number of questions on the survey range from 21 to 27 depending on the utility type.

We understand that this is a new process, and we will continue to take input and communicate adjustments. If you have any questions please reference our website for posted material which will include webinar materials or contact us at EGLE-WAMC@michigan.gov.

How do I benefit?

The benefit or value proposal to you is based on the WAMC's statutory obligation to provide high level summary information on the current state of water infrastructure, spending patterns and funding needs, as well as other support needed at the local level. The initial audience is the Governor's office, the Legislature, and applicants will also be able to access the annual report on the website. You may further benefit by sharing you own responses with your budget decision makers – for example, do they know the replacement value of your infrastructure or what you do and don't know about the condition of your system?

The WAMC was specifically set up, like the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) for roads and bridges as a non-partisan information clearing house in order to present facts and needs to those responsible for our state's budget. Local agencies started implementing asset management to also help demonstrate risks, plans of action, and needs to local decision makers. Over time, this information will be relied upon as the best source and will greatly assist the organizations your community may work with to advocate for supplements to local resources.

Beginning October 1, 2023, the process for submitting AMP surveys will begin for the final third of systems. The WAMC will use the information derived from these AMP surveys to annually submit to the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) a report each summer (starting in 2022) on asset condition and investment that includes a summary analysis of the AMP surveys received from drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater asset owners. The report shall also include recommendations on drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater condition goals with an analysis of how the utilities are meeting these goals and similar to the TAMC, what training and support should be provided to system operators in the coming year.

What will happen next?

A January 31, 2024, deadline is anticipated for the final 1/3, with October/January milestones anticipated for future years. Once you have done your part, the AMP surveys must be reviewed by the council within six months of receipt. As noted above, WAMC will then issue an annual report. Based on the AMP surveys, WAMC is also obligated to determine if the AMPs are in compliance with the statute, notifying any entities of deficiencies, patterns, or general issues affecting multiple communities with compliance in the annual report. As previously mentioned, training is planned to review guidance documents, survey instructions, and questions that may arise.

If you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to bring them to the attention of any member of the WAMC or to the contact email noted at the top of this letter so we may issue you a response. We thank you for your continued efforts in asset management.

Sincerely,
Sue McCormick, Chair

Cc: WAMC Members and Asset Owners