



THE STATE OF WYOMING

Water Development Office

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NEWS

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WWDC Operating Criteria Changes and New Application Deadlines

Cheyenne, WY – Following a public comment period and adoption by the Wyoming Water Development Commission, the Operating Criteria for the Water Development Program has been changed. The changes affect both planning and construction projects. **Effective immediately, the next deadline for applications from sponsors seeking a Level I or Level II planning study is March 1, 2018.** These applications are for studies commencing in 2019 after legislative approval. Moving the deadline up 5+ months will facilitate conducting the consultant selection process prior to seeking funding approval for the projects. **The next deadline for applications from sponsors seeking a Level III construction project is September 1, 2018.**

Other substantive changes to the Operating Criteria include reducing the minimum acreage to 1,000 or more water righted acres for acceptance of an agricultural project into the Program; expanding the list of project priorities and descriptions for each of the Program accounts; adding language to define the circumstances which may warrant the use of the Sponsor's Contingency Funds; allowing design build and construction manager at risk construction alternative delivery methods for Level III projects; adding additional clarification for applicants that are not public entities at the time of application; and setting application fees at \$1000 for all project applications with the exception of those projects advancing in the Program for which WWDC studies were completed in the last 5 years. The new WWDC Operating Criteria may be found at: http://wwdc.state.wy.us/opcrit/final_opcrit.html

The Small Water Project Program Criteria were also changed by the WWDC through the same process and yielded several significant changes. Of note is the elimination of the requirement that small water project applications only be accepted for areas where a WWDC watershed study or equivalent had been conducted. The program is now statewide, although small water projects must still adequately demonstrate public benefits. Other changes to the Small Water Program criteria include: removing small reservoir size limitations; updating language regarding unproven aquifers; adding two new eligible project categories (supply and storage projects for rural community fire suppression; and recreational projects); and establishing new Account I and Account II project priorities lists. The new WWDC Small Water Project Program Criteria may also be found at the same web address listed.