



**The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations**

TACIR



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MEMORANDUM

TO: TACIR Commission Members

FROM: Harry A. Green *Harry*
Executive Director

DATE: February 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Regional Water Supply Planning Pilots—Preferred Alternatives and Next Steps

Prompted in part by the 2007 drought, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) established the Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee authorized by the Tennessee Water Resources Information Act in 2008. TACIR is among the agencies represented on the committee (see Attachment A for a list of members) and has been actively involved in its work.

The committee immediately identified two major tasks to improve the state's ability to manage drought and other water supply challenges. The first task was to update the state's drought management plan, last issued in 1987. The committee completed the update, and TDEC reissued the plan in February 2010. The second task, addressed concurrently, was to develop a framework for regional water supply planning. The committee decided that the best way to develop a workable planning framework was to "put a patient on the table." Two areas were chosen for pilots:

- the north central area of Middle Tennessee centered on Portland in Sumner County and
- the southern end of the Cumberland Plateau, mainly Grundy County.

Utilities in both areas had difficulty meeting their residents' water needs in 2007 and 2008. The North Central pilot region has been one of the fastest growing areas in the state. The South Cumberland pilot area is one of the slowest growing areas, in part, because of its limited water supply sources. Each study area lies on a watershed divide, which generally have small streams and limited water supply sources that constrain growth and development.

A multi-disciplinary team formed by the committee began working on the pilot studies in 2008. Commission members were briefed on the committee's progress at its last meeting and asked that it be updated on the completion of the committee's work. The committee is drafting reports on the two pilot studies, and the results of its work—identification of preferred water supply source alternatives and the steps that need to be taken to implement them—will be presented at the Commission meeting by Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan (TDEC) and Ben Rohrbach, Chief of Hydrology and Hydraulics for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville district office.

The committee will issue a third report describing the planning framework developed through these two pilots. The committee's goal is to provide an effective approach to regional water supply planning for use in all areas of the state facing water supply challenges. The committee expects to issue the report in the spring of 2011.

Representation	Member
Center for the Management, Utilization and Protection of Water Resources (Tennessee Tech University)	Dennis George
Former Director of the Water Authority of Dickson County and the Former Director of the TDEC Water Management Division	Elmo Lunn
Memphis Ground Water Institute (University of Memphis)	Brian Waldron
Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations	Lynnisse Roehrich-Patrick
Tennessee Association of Utility Districts	John Brown
Tennessee Department of Agriculture	John McClurkan
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development	Dan Hawk
Tennessee Duck River Development Agency	Doug Murphy
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	Dave McKinney
The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee	Scott Davis
Tennessee Valley Authority	Michael Eiffe
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Bob Sneed
U.S. Geological Survey	W. Scott Gain
USDA Rural Development	Brian Sutherland
Watauga River Regional Water Authority	Michael Hughes