

# **Session 1: Issues, Challenges and Science Needs of Small Drinking Water Systems: Perspectives from States & Utilities**

Alan Roberson

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA)

EPA ORD-Region 4 Small Drinking Water Systems Meeting  
October 14, 2020

# REGION 4 SMALL SYSTEM CONCERNS

1. Aging infrastructure
2. Training
3. Cost-effective treatment technology options
4. Emerging contaminants
5. Compliance Issues

# GOOD TIMES...



# SMALL SYSTEM CHALLENGES

- Small systems have been problematic for many years
  - 55% of CWSs serve 2% of the population (<500 people)
  - 82% of CWSs serve 9% of the population (<3,300 people)
- Funding for both system maintenance and for appropriately paying staff
  - Staff - keeping good staff, getting the right training, etc.
- Compliance with existing regulations
  - 56% of all violations of health-based standards are for systems serving <500 people
    - 84% for systems serving <3,300 people
  - Most small systems are groundwater - potential arsenic and nitrate compliance issues
  - Also iron and manganese – secondary MCLs and aesthetic issues
- DBPs for a purchased water system