



Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**



**Region 4 AWOP Meeting  
Virtual Knoxville, TN  
August 11-13, 2020**

# Maintaining the Program

## Internal Support

- Upper management is supportive of the idea for drinking water optimization.
  - No changes since last region meeting.
  - Currently have a contract with TAUD (Tennessee Rural Water ) for targeted technical assistance under TN H2O initiative.
  - Staff participation in optimization is voluntary basis as long as primary work assignments are being completed.
    - Same for wastewater nutrient optimization program.

# Maintaining the Program

## Institutional Barriers

- Viewing optimization as a secondary assignment.
- Engage Data Management Assistance Input in tracking.
  - Start receiving data from water systems and track goal adherence.
  - Possibly add data into electronic reporting process???
  - Current Status Component Tracking System would require individual staff to track input so there may not be full buy-in for the extra work.

# Maintaining the Program

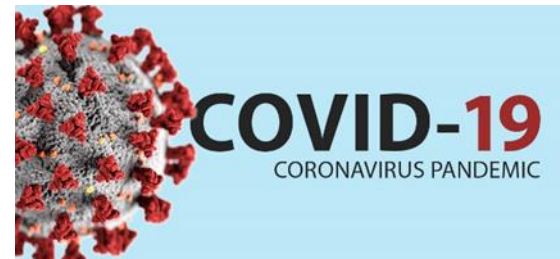
## Core Team Structure & Capacity

- AWOP participation is voluntary in addition to Sanitary Surveys and other regulatory job assignments
- Currently three core team members
  - David Money, AWOP Coordinator
  - Lonnie McCloud, Cookeville Field Office
  - Erich Webber, Knoxville Field Office
- Adding key staff members in each regional field office across the state.
  - Staff in each field office except our Memphis field office are copied on AWOP events or topics

# Maintaining the Program

## Program Assessment

- Still a work in progress, some what hinder by this thing called COVID 19.
- Developed a draft status component
  - Used Alabama and North Carolina as examples for developing a rating system for water systems.
  - Excel spreadsheet that tracks individual water treatment plants and systems.
  - Looks at items reviewed during MOR submittals (turbidity, chlorine), DBP data, ETT scores.



# Targeted Performance Improvement Implementation

## Activities

- Web-site has been created detailing TN AWOP goals, tools, and contact information at:
  - <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/tn-plant-optimization-programs/tn-area-wide-optimization-program--awop-.html>
- Created a TN AWOP Logo

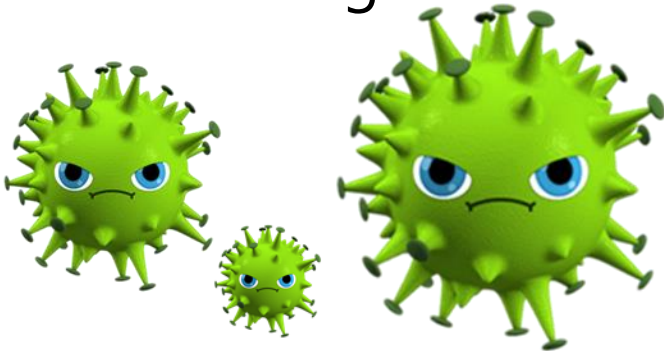


- Worked with our Tennessee Conservationist magazine Art Director to develop an AWOP certificate for systems that participate in AWOP.
- TN AWOP staff are working with Tennessee Association of Utility Districts in implementing AWOP.
- Constructed hydrant samplers and purchased new UV 254 meters for field use.

# TPI Implementation

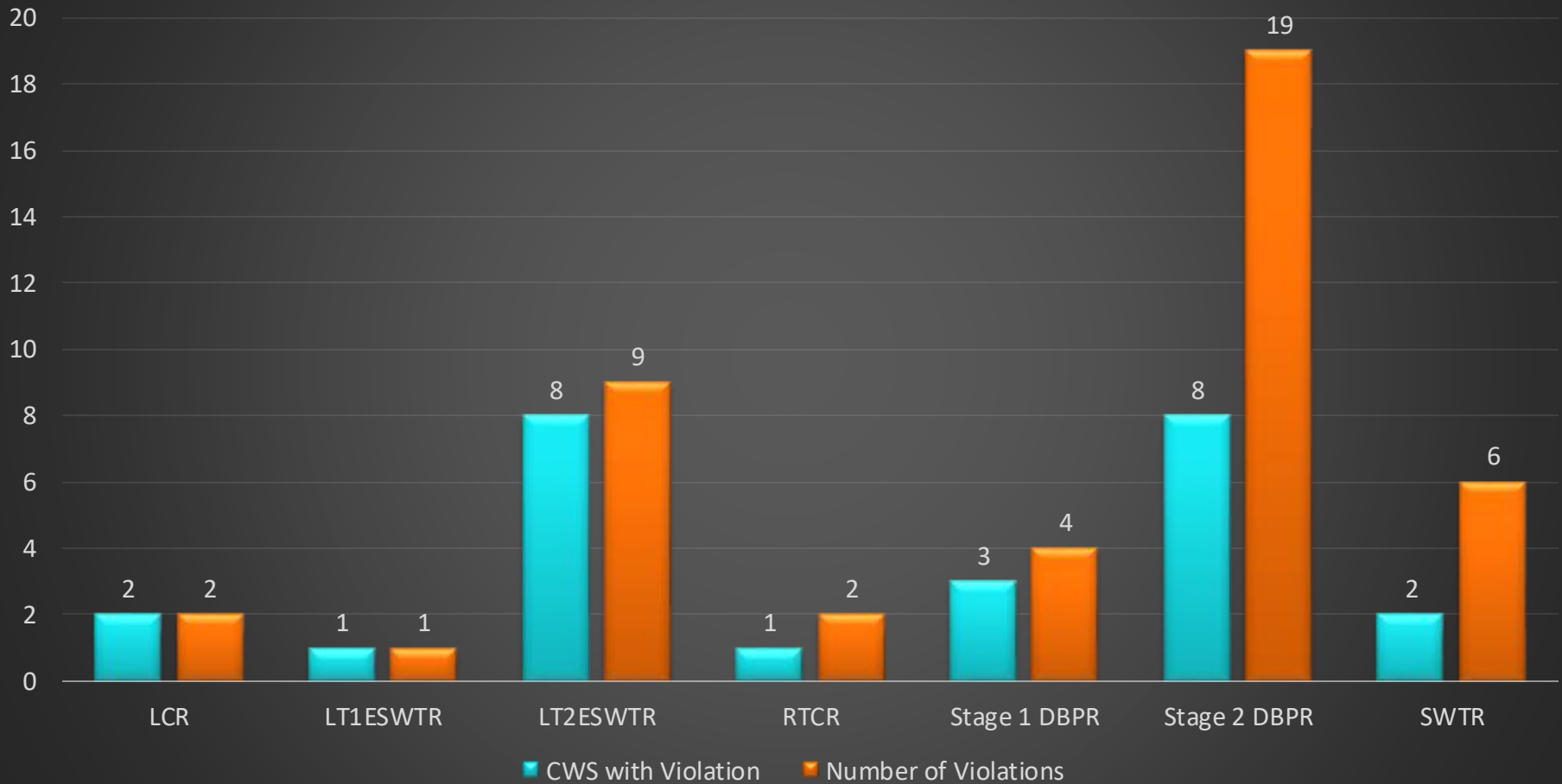
## Building Awareness

- Implementing AWOP principles into survey process discussing participation in program or implementing optimization practices with water systems.
- Plan on continued participation in Kentucky / Tennessee Performance Based Training.
- Planned introductory seminar on AWOP for Middle Tennessee region Summer 2020.



# AWOP Impacts

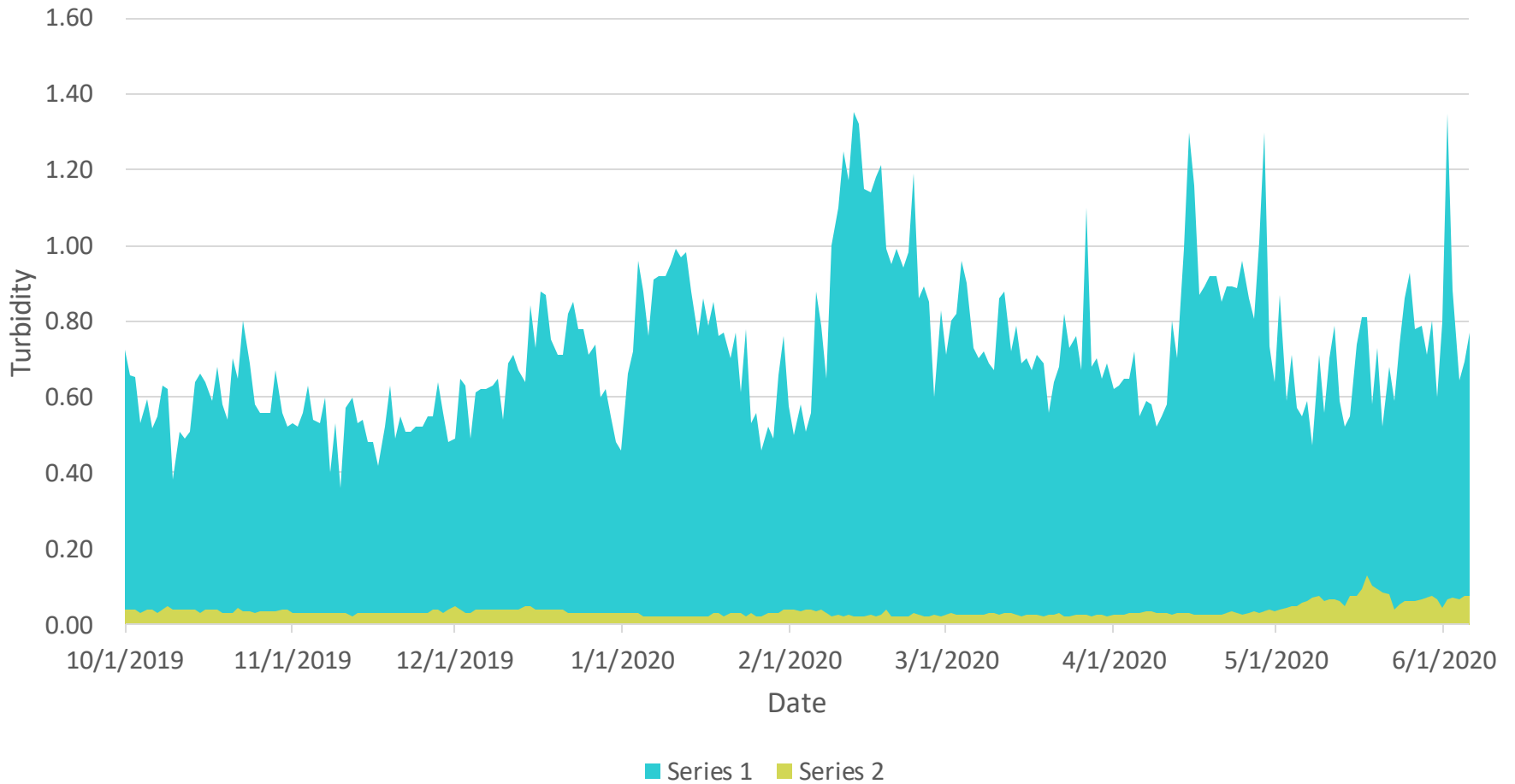
## Tennessee Health Based Violations - 2nd Qtr 2020





# AWOP Impacts

## First UD of Knox County Settled Vs. Finished Turbidity



# Lessons Learned

- Learning new ways to keep the program moving forward during the pandemic.
  - Opportunity to work on program.
  - Adding in optimization discussions to surveys.
    - More time to review reports and look closer at data reported on MOR.
    - Roane County systems high (0.2 NTU) finished water turbidity.