

## Case Study 1: Providing Water and/or Wastewater Services for Small Communities

### Regional Water System A and Community 001

**Issue:** An Iowa community with a population of less than 1000 needed a secondary backup water supply. The town used two wells to operate their treatment plant. One of the two wells was becoming suspect and a single well would not be able to meet the community's water needs.

Making much-needed repairs to the well would be very costly and would take several years to complete.

**Solution:** The community considered the option of digging a third well. The costs of digging a third well were prohibitive. The city decided to contract with a rural water system to provide a backup water supply. The city and the rural water system developed a contract that connected the city to the rural water system and established a maximum contract of 4 million gallons per month for 20 years. The rural water system allowed the connection fee to be paid over a four-year period.

If the city desired a full-service water purchase agreement, the rural water system would provide the rate charged to similar bulk rate customers in the area.

**Benefits:** A seamless, backup water supply is critical in the event of an emergency or if one of the wells becomes dry or polluted. The backup system will allow city leaders to meet the current and future water needs of the community.