

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Central Asian Republics Regional
Program Title:	Water and Energy
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	176-0161
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,658,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$435,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,200,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's water and energy activities are focused on improving the capacity of institutions and specialists within Central Asia to better manage natural resources and energy. Activities include: well-directed technical assistance on policies and practices; the introduction of improved technologies along with associated training; and targeted public outreach program. On the regional level, USAID goals are to improve regional cooperation and to mitigate conflict over transboundary water and energy resources.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Regional Cooperation in Water and Energy (\$400,000 FSA, \$434,622 FSA carryover). The Transboundary Water and Energy Project (TWEP) assists Central Asian leaders develop and agree on measures to improve water and energy cooperation. The program will focus on two key issues: helping the Syr Darya Basin countries agree to adopt and implement a set of operating rules (developed by USAID) for the Toktogul Reservoir as a means of making the operation of the reservoir more responsive to the demands of Uzbekistan, and promoting a multi-year fuel delivery protocol that would set an average annual level of fuel to be supplied to Kyrgyzstan from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Activities will include operating rule training, an associated decision support system, and negotiation facilitation for the development of a long-term agreement. These two activities have been identified as crucial in helping solve potential conflict between downstream nations who use the water for irrigation and Kyrgyzstan, which uses the water for winter power needs. TWEP will continue to provide a limited amount of technical assistance to the International Fund for the Aral Sea as this regional organization begins to implement a strategic five-year plan for activities related to the Aral Sea Basin. Principal contractor/grantee: PA Government Services (prime).

Regional Communication Systems (\$0 FSA). Activities improving regional weather and water data collection and transmission systems will wind down over the next year with the completion of the installation of the USAID-funded meteorburst communication system. Training on the system will continue as specialists within the region look to expand the number of stations and take the measures required to assure the system is fully operational. Continued technical training is critical to the sustainable operations of improved communications systems and the development of regional agreements on expanded data sharing. Principal contractor/grantee: PA Government Services (prime).

Training, Transfer of Best Practices, and Public Outreach (\$1,258,000 FSA). USAID will publicize the lessons learned from work on resource management in Central Asia throughout the region. Examples include: market reforms and energy loss reduction in Kazakhstan that can be applied to Kyrgyzstan; regulatory reform in oil and gas in Turkmenistan applicable to Kazakhstan's efforts to put its offshore oil and gas regulations into a coherent package; and the interest of Uzbekistan in energy efficiency work that was completed in Kazakhstan and in the small hydropower development activity that is being undertaken in Kyrgyzstan. Some limited regional training and public outreach activities on natural resource successes will be carried out in association with this activity. Principal contractor/grantee: PA Government Services (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Regional Cooperation in Water and Energy (\$300,000 FSA). Water programs will focus on the use of critical water data as part of a solution to develop trust between countries over shared resources. Work also will continue on bilateral and multilateral agreements for regional energy markets and water sharing. Although the information technology infrastructure projects will have come to an end, USAID will continue region-wide training and public outreach activities that showcase successful demonstrations and other resource management lessons learned. USAID will continue to take advantage of opportunities to improve regional cooperation, mitigate conflict, and bring specialists together over critical water and energy issues. Principal contractors/grantees: PA Government Services (prime).

Training, Transfer of Best Practices, and Public Outreach (\$900,000 FSA). USAID will continue to use regional money to support regional training programs and public outreach on water and energy programs that are ongoing in other countries. There will be a greater emphasis on water related programs as the energy portfolio is reduced. The regional funds will also be used more to support training activities in the area of Water User Association development.

Performance and Results: Regional funding, in addition to country-specific support, has enabled USAID to implement transboundary programs. The Transboundary Water and Energy Program (TWEP) and upgrades to regional water data collection and communication systems are examples. As a result of TWEP, joint work with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan related to financing of the long-time proposed Kambarata hydroelectric dam has finally convinced Kyrgyz resource managers that market reforms in the domestic electric sector are required before any financing for such a facility could be realistically explored. This change in viewpoint is due to the quality of the technical analysis and presentation prepared by USAID. Kazakhstan officials have now agreed to assist Kyrgyzstan in this process. Recent work on the potential long-term solutions to energy and water sharing in the region has been embraced by the international finance institutions and heralded as the direction in which they would like to push regional cooperation. USAID has played an important role in creating a dialogue among water specialists in the region and increasing their capacity to make decisions based on collected data as a way to address transboundary issues. During the past year, there was also significant advancement in the installation of the USAID-financed meteorburst communications system in Central Asia. Central Asia water management agencies now are able to automatically collect water and weather data at key remote sites and transmit that data via meteorburst technology to a central site near Almaty, Kazakhstan. The data is then relayed to regional weather and water forecasting agencies for processing. The system installed in Central Asia consists of a master station, 29 remote stations, 3 receiving stations, and associated computers and software to receive and store information. The result is greater transparency and accurate decisions on water planning and allocations.

Water and energy pilot demonstration models are ongoing in each of the Central Asia republics, along with associated training and public outreach programs. Regional funds allow for training participants to attend courses in neighboring countries or put training materials into use, as appropriate. Over 8,000 people have been trained on every aspect of the program under USAID's energy and water strategic objective. Similarly, USAID's public outreach programs continued to build the capacity of media professions and thereby improve reporting. Media coverage increased by 27% during FY 2003, with over 550 news stories aired as a direct result of regular meetings with the press at all demonstration model sites throughout the Central Asia republics.

By program completion the region's shared water basin and energy resources will be under a regulatory system that leads to more transparency and reduces the potential for conflict. An improved system of collecting, analyzing, and transmitting water and weather data will also be implemented throughout most of the Central Asia region.