

**Activity: Water Resources Investigations**

**Subactivity: Cooperative Water Program**

	2006 Actual	2007 CR	2008			Change From 2007 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Cooperative Water Program (\$000)	62,833	62,171	+2,410	-2,200	62,381	+210
Total FTE <sup>a/</sup>	716	694	0	-18	676	-18

<sup>a/</sup> The FY 2008 decrease of 18 FTE is matched by a decrease ranging from -18 to -36 FTE in the reimbursable program, for a total decrease ranging from -36 to -54 FTE.

**Summary of 2008 Program Changes for Cooperative Water Program**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Cooperative interpretive studies	-2,200	-18
<b>TOTAL Program Changes</b>	<b>-2,200</b>	<b>-18</b>

**Justification of 2008 Program Changes**

The 2008 budget request for the Cooperative Water Program is \$62,381,000 and 676 FTE, a program change of -\$2,200,000 and -18 FTE from the 2007 President's budget.

**Cooperative Interpretive Studies (-\$2,200,000 / -18 FTE)**

This decrease is proposed to offset the \$1,400,000 increase proposed for the National Streamflow Information Program and other higher priority USGS programs. The decrease would result in 13 fewer interpretive studies of water resources issues that are conducted through the Cooperative Water Program. Studies that were scheduled to conclude at the end of FY 2007 will be targeted. About 263 new studies would begin at this funding level.

Since the cooperators provide about two-thirds of the funding for the program, the content of projects is determined in consultation with those cooperators, and specific focus areas are often not known until workplans and joint funding agreements are established during the fiscal year. Thus, the USGS cannot say which specific studies would be stopped in 2008. However, likely topical areas to be reduced include —

- Water quality issues such as determining the effects of land use practices on water quality,
- Water availability and use,
- Wetlands, lakes, reservoirs, and estuaries,
- Water resources issues in the coastal zone, and

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- Environmental effects on human health.

Other impacts of the reduction include the loss of 18 FTE associated with the appropriated program.

### Program Performance Change

	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 CR <sup>1</sup>	2008 Base Budget (2007 PB + Fixed Costs)	2008 Plan	Program Change Accruing in 2008	Program Change Accruing in Outyears
					A	B=A+C	C	D
X% of studies validated through appropriate peer review or independent review ( <b>SP</b> )	100%	100%	100%	100% (137)	100% (126)	100% (113)	0 (-13)	0
# systematic analyses & investigations delivered to customers	UNK	138	137	137	126	113	-13	0
Total Projected Cost (\$000)	UNK	\$23,460	\$23,460	\$23,290	\$21,420	\$19,210	-\$2,210	
Projected Cost per scientific report or other product (whole dollars)	UNK	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	
Comments	<p>Difference between 2007 CR column and 2008 Base column is due to a \$2 million difference in funding between the 2007 President's Budget and the 2007 CR.</p> <p>Cost per scientific product is an average that includes the annual cost of writing, editing, peer review, and publication of each product, as well as the cost of the studies from which the products are derived. Non-Federal matching funds are included in the calculation.</p>							
% of U.S. with ground-water availability status and trends information to support resource management decisions ( <b>PART</b> ) (denominator = 65 principal aquifers)	5% (3.5)	7% (4.5)	8% (5.5)	9% (6)	7% (4.5)	6% (4)	-1% (-0.5)	0
Total Projected Cost (\$000)		\$1,575	\$1,925	\$2,100	\$1,688	\$1,500	-\$188	
Projected Cost per regional ground-water availability project (national average) (whole dollars)		\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	
Comments	<p>Change in 2008 results from decrease proposed for the Cooperative Water Program.</p> <p>Measure indicates the number of regional ground-water evaluation projects (status and trends in ground-water availability) that coincide with total number of the Nation's 65 principal aquifers, as designated in the National Atlas. Average cost per project is \$350,000, though actual costs range from &lt;\$100,000 to &gt;\$500,000 per project, depending on the scope and location of the study. Project costs include salaries, travel, training, vehicles, supplies, report production, and printing.</p> <p>Contributing programs: Cooperative Water Program (appropriated and non-Federal matching funds), Ground-Water Resources Program, and reimbursable studies funded by other Federal agencies. Average cost per project is \$350,000–\$375,000, though actual costs range from &lt;\$100,000 to &gt;\$500,000, depending</p>							

## Cooperative Water Program

	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 CR <sup>1</sup>	2008 Base Budget (2007 PB + Fixed Costs)	2008 Plan	Program Change Accruing in 2008	Program Change Accruing in Outyears
					A	B=A+C	C	D
on study scope and location. Project costs include salaries, travel, training, vehicles, supplies, report production, and printing.								
<sup>1</sup> The performance and cost data in the 2007 CR column is presented at the 2007 plan level, which is based upon a projection of 2007 likely enacted made during the first quarter of 2007. The 2008 plan builds on the 2007 plan. To the extent Congress enacts a 2007 appropriation that is different from the 2007 projection, the 2008 plan may require revision.								
Note: Projected costs may not equal program change as these are full costs, which may include funds from other sources and (or) use averages.								
Column A: The level of performance and costs expected in 2008 at the 2007 President's budget level plus funded fixed costs. Reflects the impact of prior year funding changes, management efficiencies, absorption of prior year fixed costs, and trend impacts, but does not reflect the proposed program change.								
Column D: Outyear performance beyond 2008 addresses lagging performance — those changes occurring as a result of the program change (not total budget) requested in 2008. It does <u>not</u> include the impact of receiving the program change again in a subsequent outyear.								

### Program Overview

As the primary Federal science agency for water-resource information, the USGS monitors the quantity and quality of water in the Nation's rivers and aquifers, assesses the sources and fate of contaminants in aquatic systems, develops tools to improve the application of hydrologic information, and ensures that its information and tools are available to all potential users. The contributions of the Coop Program help to achieve this broad, diverse mission. For more than 100 years, the Coop Program has been a highly successful cost-sharing partnership between the USGS and water-resource agencies at the State, local, and tribal levels. The Coop Program has been successful because it —

- Combines Federal and non-Federal resources in addressing many of the Nation's most pressing water resource issues, resulting in great cost savings to both the Federal Government and the States,
- Conducts studies across the country in each of the 50 States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Trust Territories, allowing the USGS to form a national picture of important water-resources issues and potential solutions,
- Uses standardized methods of data collection and analysis across the country, so that information and results of studies are comparable from one State to another, and so that

#### Use of Cost and Performance Information

Two recent external reviews of the USGS Cooperative Water Program were conducted under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on Water Information. The most recent, in 2004–05, was a 5-year progress review on implementation of recommendations from the first review, conducted in 1999.

The review Task Force found that "Significant progress has been made by the USGS since the release of the 1999 Cooperative Water Program Task Force report. Although the total number of water monitoring stations is slightly lower now than in past years, the number of stations across the country for which real-time water resources monitoring data are available is significantly higher, which has been of great benefit to water users, water managers and the general public. Furthermore ... data quality has improved, due in part to the ability of the new telemetry equipment to help identify faults in a timely manner and the advent and use of acoustic technology."

In choosing budget offsets for 2008, the USGS opted to reduce the number of interpretive cooperative studies, rather than reduce cooperative data collection activities. This will continue the trend of preserving and improving the monitoring activities that are so vital to the program's stakeholders.

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knowledge gained from one study contributes significantly to understanding the hydrology in other parts of the country,

- Helps resolve inter-jurisdictional disputes by assessing conditions at State boundaries and by assuring all parties that the data and results of investigations are objective and are equally available to all parties, and
- Combines the utilization of USGS offices within the State with the much larger national infrastructure of the USGS. This infrastructure includes the National Water Quality Laboratory, the National Water Information System, the National Research Program (which provides new methods and consultation on difficult scientific issues), instrumentation testing facilities, and a national system of quality assurance.

The goals of the Coop Program support the Department's strategic plan, specifically the goal of improving the understanding of national ecosystems and resources through integrated interdisciplinary assessment. In conjunction with NSIP, Hydrologic Networks and Analysis, and an array of reimbursable projects funded by partner agencies, the Coop Program contributes to the outcome measures and PART program performance measures shown in the table at the end of this section.

In addition to providing information responsive to State or local needs, the Coop Program provides information that supports the activities of many Federal agencies. Some of these activities are —

- Forecasting floods,
- Managing surface-water supplies,
- Monitoring hydroelectric power production,
- Setting waste disposal limitations,
- Regulating industrial discharges,
- Designing highway structures,
- Measuring the downstream transport of pollutants or nutrients,
- Determining total maximum daily loads,
- Evaluating mine permits,
- Planning and evaluating land reclamation,
- Evaluating fish habitat,
- Quantifying Indian water rights, and
- Quantifying Federal reserved water rights.

## 2008 Program Performance

The 2008 budget request for the Cooperative Water Program subactivity is \$62,381,000 and 676 FTE, a program change of -\$2,200,000 and -18 FTE from the 2007 President's budget. The program includes three major components:

### Data Collection Activities

(Estimates for FY 2006, \$31.4 million; FY 2007, \$32.1 million; FY 2008, \$34.4 million)

Cooperatively funded hydrologic data collection activities are underway in every State, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Over the past few years, the Coop Program has provided sole support or partial support for well over half of the sites where the USGS collects data on surface-water levels and flow, ground-water levels, and ground-water quality. In addition, the Coop Program supports collection of data on surface-water quality, which is becoming increasingly important to the States as they monitor total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), to comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

All these data provide resource managers with the information they need to determine the suitability of water for various uses, identify trends in water quality, and evaluate the effects of

various stresses on the Nation's ground water and surface water resources. Much of the data collected at USGS monitoring sites is provided free of charge on the Internet. This includes historical data, as well as real-time data, which are generally less than 4 hours old. The real-time data are used routinely by emergency management agencies, State and municipal agencies, businesses, irrigators, and recreational boaters and fishers.

Most of the USGS data collection stations serve multiple purposes and many are funded, wholly or in part, through joint-funding agreements. Normally, these stations, though funded by various organizations, are operated as part of an integrated network rather than as stand-alone entities. For this reason, cooperating organizations are billed on the basis of average station cost, rather than actual cost, which rarely can be precisely known. This procedure benefits these organizations and the USGS in at least two ways: administrative costs are reduced because financial transactions are simplified, and definitive cost information is available to all parties for planning purposes at the beginning of the fiscal year. This arrangement also assures that data collection in remote areas or areas which may be otherwise problematic (due to vandals, extreme flooding, lightning strikes) during a given period of time do not become so expensive that they must be dropped from the network.

#### **Interpretive Studies**

(Estimates for FY 2006, \$25.1 million; FY 2007, \$23.7 million; FY 2008, \$21.6 million)

In addition to data collection activities, the Coop Program supports about 750 hydrologic studies each year. Water resource studies define, characterize, and evaluate the extent, quality, and availability of water resources. The results of these investigations are published and provided to State agencies, which use them as the basis for managing the water resources for which they are responsible. Also, these investigations provide information that can be synthesized and applied to a variety of hydrogeologic and climatic settings across the Nation, greatly expanding the usefulness and transferability of USGS study results nationwide.

#### **Technical Support**

(Estimates for FY 2006, \$6.3 million; FY 2007, \$6.4 million; FY 2008, \$6.4 million)

The USGS has a long tradition of providing national and regional technical support for its geographically distributed water resources studies. This support provides quality control to assure the technical excellence of water resources field programs and provides a structured way of transferring new technology to USGS investigative and data activities that are primarily conducted in Water Science Centers in each State. Technical support also includes a formal way of establishing priorities for water resources research by the USGS and provides a mechanism to make water resources information available to other agencies, the scientific community, and the public.

In July 2005, Congress modified, clarified, and finalized report language that has a significant impact on the Coop Program. Accordingly the Program's 5-Year Plan is being updated and reviewed to conform to the new outline, format, and internal/external team approach.

Topical areas that will receive special attention in 2008 include the following:

The availability of water to meet the needs of growing communities, agriculture, energy production, and critical ecosystems continues to be a nationwide challenge. The Cooperative Water Program provides essential hydrologic information needed to assess the quantity of water available to communities to support water supply planning and allocation to a wide range of

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users. In 2008, the Coop Program will support thousands of streamgages and ground-water observation wells that define the availability of surface and ground waters, and will conduct numerous hydrologic investigations needed to evaluate the quantity of available ground water. A recent example of this work includes completion of a sophisticated computer ground-water flow model of the Virginia Coastal Plain, an important water supply for more than 2 million people. This work includes detailed characterization of the newly discovered Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater and its influence on the regional ground water system. For more information, see <http://va.water.usgs.gov/projects/va089.html>.

Providing clean-safe drinking water to citizens is a high national priority, and the Coop Program works with State and local governments to assess the quality of the Nation's drinking water supply. In 2008, the USGS will work with the California Water Resources Control Board to continue an assessment of 116 of California's priority ground-water basins. With many partners, the USGS is developing an understanding of natural and human factors that affect ground-water quality, providing early indications of potential water-quality problems, and contributing to the long-term management and protection of ground-water resources affecting one in eight Americans. For more information, see <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/gama/>.

One of the most pressing ecosystem questions that the Nation faces is how to preserve and enhance the quality of aquatic and riparian ecosystems in the face of increasing pressure to withdraw surface water and ground water. Through the Coop Program the USGS is working with State and local agencies to evaluate the instream flow requirements of aquatic ecosystems. This effort entails the development of both new information and new techniques. A recent notable example includes the USGS effort to develop a Hydroecological Integrity Assessment Process for New Jersey, which should provide a prototype for broad applicability nationwide. A report describing this new tool can be found at <http://www.fort.usgs.gov/products/publications/21598/21598.pdf>.

**Program Performance Overview**

There are no performance measures that can be tied exclusively to the Coop Program; however, in conjunction with the NSIP, Hydrologic Networks and Analysis, and an array of reimbursable projects funded by 800 partner agencies, the Coop Program contributes to all the measures listed below.

<b>End Outcome Goal 1.4: Resource Protection: Improve the understanding of national ecosystems and resources through integrated interdisciplinary assessment</b>									
<b>End Outcome Goal End Outcome Measure / Intermediate or PART Measure / PART Efficiency or other Outcome Measure</b>	<b>2004 Actual</b>	<b>2005 Actual</b>	<b>2006 Plan</b>	<b>2006 Actual</b>	<b>2007 President's Budget</b>	<b>2007 Plan</b>	<b>2008 Plan</b>	<b>Change from 2007 Plan to 2008</b>	<b>Long-term Target 2012</b>
<b>GPRA End Outcome Measures</b>									
% targeted science products that are used by partners for land or resource management decisionmaking <b>(SP)</b>	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	≥90%	≥90%	0	≥90%
<b>Intermediate Outcome Measures and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures Ensure availability of long-term environmental and natural resource information, data, an systematic analyses needed by land and resource managers for informed decisionmaking</b>									
Content and expanse of knowledge base — % of proposed streamflow sites currently in operation that meet one or more Federal needs (denominator = 4,425) <b>(PART) (SP)</b>	64% (2,832)	61% (2,700)	62% (2,742)	62% (2,742)	62% (2,742)	62% (2,742)	64% (2,832)	+2% (+90)	64% (2,832)
Comments:	The change from the 2007 plan is a result of the proposed increase for NSIP streamgange operations and the proposed increases for Hazards Assessment and Mitigation (see page I - 31-33).								
Contributing Programs:	NSIP, Hydrologic Networks and Analysis, Cooperative Water Program (USGS and State/local contributions), reimbursements from other Federal agencies.								
% of U.S. with ground-water quality status and trends information to support resource management decisions <b>(PART)</b>	0	39%	45%	58%	51%	51%	54%	+3%	54%
Comments:	Target was exceeded in 2006 because work planned for 2007 in the NAWQA Program was moved into 2006, to ensure smoother field operations in the long term. Change in 2008 planned (not due to budget changes).								
% of U.S. with ground-water availability status and trends information to support resource management decisions <b>(PART)</b> (denominator = 65 principal aquifers)	5% (3.5)	7% (4.5)	8% (5.5)	8% (5.5)	7% (4.5)	9% (6)	6% (4)	-3% (-2)	9%
Total Projected Cost (\$000)	\$1,575		\$1,925		\$1,575	\$2,100	\$1,500	-\$600	

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<b>End Outcome Goal 1.4: Resource Protection: Improve the understanding of national ecosystems and resources through integrated interdisciplinary assessment</b>									
<b>End Outcome Goal End Outcome Measure / Intermediate or PART Measure / PART Efficiency or other Outcome Measure</b>	<b>2004 Actual</b>	<b>2005 Actual</b>	<b>2006 Plan</b>	<b>2006 Actual</b>	<b>2007 President's Budget</b>	<b>2007 Plan</b>	<b>2008 Plan</b>	<b>Change from 2007 Plan to 2008</b>	<b>Long-term Target 2012</b>
Projected Cost per regional ground-water availability project (national average) (whole dollars)		\$350,000		\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	
Comments:	Change in 2008 results from decrease proposed for the Cooperative Water Program. Measure indicates the number of regional ground-water evaluation projects (status and trends in ground-water availability) that coincide with total number of the Nation's 65 principal aquifers, as designated in the National Atlas. Average cost per project is \$350,000–\$375,000, though actual costs range from <\$100,000 to >\$500,000 per project, depending on the scope and location of the study. Project costs include salaries, travel, training, vehicles, supplies, report production, and printing.								
Contributing Programs:	Cooperative Water Program, Ground-Water Resources Program								
% of States with Web-based Streamflow statistics tools to support water management decisions (PART) (denominator = 50 States)	4%	10% (5)	18% (9)	14% (7)	20% (10)	20% (10)	25% (12.5)	+5%	30% (15)
Comments:	Cooperative Water Program funding limitations have slowed progress on jointly funded streamstats projects at the State level, causing USGS to not meet the 2006 target for this measure. See <a href="http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/ssonline.html">http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/ssonline.html</a> for current national status. Changes in 2008 and 2012 planned (not due to budget increase).								
Contributing Programs:	NSIP, Hydrologic Networks and Analysis, Coop Water Program.								
<b>Intermediate Outcome Measures and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures</b>									
<b>Ensure the quality and relevance of science information and data to support decisionmaking</b>									
X% of studies validated through appropriate peer review or independent review (SP)	100%	100% (138)	100% (138)	100% (137)	100% (126)	100% (137)	100% (113)	0 (-24)	100% (113)
<b>PART Efficiency and Other Output Measures</b>									
# systematic analyses & investigations delivered to customers	UNK	138	138	137	126	137	113	-24	113
Total Projected Cost (\$000)	UNK	\$23,460		\$23,460	\$21,420	\$23,290	\$19,210	-\$4,080	
Projected Cost per scientific report or other product (whole dollars)	UNK	\$170,000		\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	
Comments:	Decrease in 2008 is due to reduction proposed in the number of interpretive cooperative studies (-13) and to the \$2 million difference in funding between the 2007 President's Budget and the 2007 CR (-11). Cost per scientific product is an average that includes the cost of writing, editing, peer review, and publication of each								

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<b>End Outcome Goal 1.4: Resource Protection: Improve the understanding of national ecosystems and resources through integrated interdisciplinary assessment</b>									
<b>End Outcome Goal End Outcome Measure / Intermediate or PART Measure / PART Efficiency or other Outcome Measure</b>	<b>2004 Actual</b>	<b>2005 Actual</b>	<b>2006 Plan</b>	<b>2006 Actual</b>	<b>2007 President's Budget</b>	<b>2007 Plan</b>	<b>2008 Plan</b>	<b>Change from 2007 Plan to 2008</b>	<b>Long-term Target 2012</b>
	<p>product, as well as the cost of the studies from which the products are derived. Non-Federal matching funds are included in the calculation.</p> <p>Difference between 2006 plan and 2006 enacted is due to the lag time at year's end in entering data in the reports tracking system, which shows how many scientific publications have been distributed to customers. Since year-end reporting is required before the end of September, publications distributed in the last few days of the month were missing from the year-end report. A later check of the reports tracking system showed that the year-end target was met and exceeded. (Additional publications that caused USGS to ultimately exceed targets included 34 products from the water programs that were provided to reimbursable customers as a result of additional work that was not factored into performance targets because the receipt of reimbursable funds occurred after performance targets were set.)</p>								
<b># real-time streamgages reporting in NWISWeb (PART)</b>	5,978	6,246	6,165	6,496	6,195	6,195	6,297	+102	6,297
<b>Total Projected Cost (\$000)</b>	\$80,703	\$84,321		\$83,227	\$83,632	\$83,633	\$88,158	+\$1,428	
<b>Projected cost per streamgage (national average) (whole dollars)</b>	\$13,500	\$13,500		\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$14,000	+\$14,000	
<b>Comments:</b>	<p>Target was exceeded in 2006 due to receipt of additional reimbursements from partner agencies. Change in 2008 is due to increase in NSIP (see page I - 31-33).</p> <p>The +103 change from the 2007 base is a result of the proposed increase for NSIP streamgage operations (+100) and the proposed increases for Hazards Assessment and Mitigation (+3).</p> <p>Cost is a national average that includes operation and maintenance, salary and transportation for technicians who perform site visits, salary for records management and validation, and a small amount for replacement of equipment when a gage is disabled by lightning strike or other event. This replacement of equipment does not include replacement of gages that are lost in large numbers during floods or hurricanes. In practice, the cost of an individual streamgage varies depending on the size of the stream, type of terrain, need for cableways or other specialized equipment at the site, and distance of each site from the nearest USGS office.</p> <p>Most of the +103 streamgages will be reactivated, rather than completely new gages. A completely new gage incurs construction costs ranging from \$25,000–\$30,000, plus 6 months of operation (average of about \$7,000); after the first year the new streamgages reverts to the national average cost of \$14,000.</p>								
<b>% of WRD streamflow stations with 30 or more years of record (PART) (denominator = number of streamgages reporting in NWISWeb)</b>	60% (baseline)	58% (3,622 / 6,246)	62% (3,822 / 6,165)	59%	63% (3,902 / 6,195)	63% (3,902 / 6,195)	62% (3,913 / 6,297)	-1% (+11)	66% (4,165 / 6,297)
<b>Total Projected Cost (\$000)</b>		\$48,897		\$51,597	\$52,677	\$52,677	\$54,782	+\$154	

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<b>End Outcome Goal 1.4: Resource Protection: Improve the understanding of national ecosystems and resources through integrated interdisciplinary assessment</b>									
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Projected cost per streamgage (national average) (whole dollars)		\$13,500		\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$14,000	\$14,000	
Comments:	<p>Decrease due to NSIP increase (reactivating or establishing new streamgages causes a drop in % of stations with 30 years of record) (see page I - 31-33).</p> <p>Denominator changes every year because it reflects the number of streamgages reporting in real time in NWISWeb. For this measure, the denominator changes annually (or in some cases daily) because the measure represents the number of 30-year streamgages as a percentage of the total number of streamgages in operation. Since the total number of streamgages changes constantly throughout the year, the denominator must change if this measure is to reflect the state of the streamgaging network accurately.</p>								
<p>Note: The 2007 plan is the performance level based upon a projection of 2007 likely enacted made during the first quarter of 2007. The 2008 plan and 2012 long-term targets build on the 2007 plan. To the extent Congress enacts a 2007 appropriation that is different from the 2007 projection, the 2008 plan and 2012 targets may require revision.</p>									