



1940 – 1980: Post War industrial development

New reservoirs were added to keep up with the new growth in automobile and heavy manufacturing. Morse reservoir was built in the 1950s and Eagle Creek was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s. New wells were added to existing well fields in the industrial center of the city.



2010 – 2020: New ownership of the Indianapolis water system and drought of 2012

Suburban growth brings new groundwater use and new utility ownership in 2011 followed by the drought of 2012. The state reconsiders water supply planning and management by beginning a series of data collection efforts to inform new policy. Shifts in energy production reduce surface water diversions for cooling water. Regional collaboration among water utilities begins.

Pre-WWII: Dust Bowl droughts of the 1930s and 40s

This was a period of rapid population growth and industrialization with repeated serious droughts. Several well fields were constructed, and a new reservoir was added to expand supply near Indianapolis (Geist 1940s).

1930

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

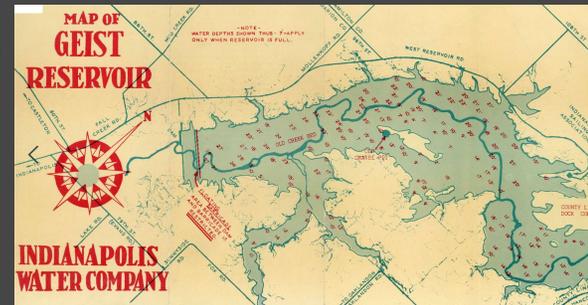
2020

1980 – 2000: Industrial peak production in the 1980's

Drought and water shortage renew interest in groundwater as an alternate supply. Indianapolis experiences slower growth and new competition for water. There is some limited State government action (e.g., Water Resources Management Act of 1983) that calls for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Basin Studies program (1990 – 2000)

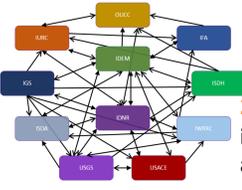
2000 – 2010: New owners of the largest water utility

Indianapolis water utility is acquired – twice. Fiscal austerity reduces water resource monitoring investments; DNR basin studies program is terminated for lack of funding. The Water Shortage Task Force begins meeting again.



2011 - Water Resources Legislative study committee heard testimony that suggests the state is unprepared for drought. Indianapolis sells water utility to another new owner of the largest drinking water system in the state.

2016 - IFA conducts another survey of all community water utilities (a total of 532 systems) to determine how much water they lose in conveyance and estimate how much more money drinking water systems would require to keep up with their infrastructure needs. The survey showed that approximately 50 million gallons per day (MGD) is lost each year between the treatment plants and the customers, and utilities would need to spend about \$17B over the next 20 years to maintain infrastructure (mostly water main replacement). Central Indiana drinking Water Collaborative was first established as a forum for utilities in the 9-county region centered on Indianapolis.



2017 - IFA conducts another investigation of the feasibility of a regional water system that could move new water from a source of supply along the Ohio River Northward into the rapidly growing counties in southeast Indiana that have adequate transportation and power infrastructure but have perennial water supply problems.

2019 - IFA selects the nine-county area of Central Indiana Region as the first region to be investigated for water supply planning. The project includes multiple phases including: Phase 1 – water demand forecasting for the region, Phase 2 – new data collection on flows and aquifer levels, and Phase 3 – modeling water availability to help determine alternatives for future water supply to meet the needs identified in the forecast.

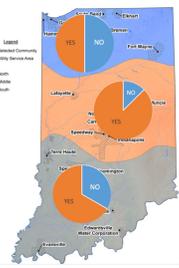
2011 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



2012 - Intense summer drought causes central Indiana utilities to ask for reductions in use. Sources of water supply and regional infrastructure need improvement.

2013 - Water Resources Legislative study committee asks IURC to assess water utility planning to use existing data to consider source of supply planning.

2014 - Indiana State Chamber of Commerce publishes a statewide water investigation that shows water needs in Central Indiana may be growing relative to the available supplies.



2015 - Water Resources Legislative study committee directs the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) to survey the water utilities in the 15 largest communities and 5 others (15+5) to determine their best practices for planning. Report shows all utilities have a hard time investing enough in infrastructure, but they were more concerned about their source water and they do more monitoring of their water supplies than elsewhere. Nearly all utilities suggested that they would like the state to help them become informed about how their neighbors are planning and using water.

2018 - Citizens Energy Group, the utility that supplies drinking water to Indianapolis and sections of all 9 counties in the region, develops an innovative storage solution by the purchase of a rock quarry pit near Geist Reservoir. This new storage system will be able to release water to a new intake that will expand supplies by up to 30 MGD.

