pollution through voluntary practices installed by producers at the local level. DEQ, as primacy agency for Source Water Protection in Oklahoma, attends and advises at the *Source Water Protection Workshop* hosted by the Oklahoma Rural Water Association. The primary objective of the workshop is to identify high priority Source Water Protection areas in the state and coordinate input from:

- DEQ
- OWRB
- Oklahoma Corporation Commission
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Rural Water Districts

E. The ***Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP)*** was piloted in April 1999 in Oklahoma for EPA Region 6. This program started as a multi-state effort to optimize particle removal and disinfection capabilities of filtration water treatment plants. The goal of AWOP is to maximize public health protection from disease-causing microbial contaminants by identifying performance problems in the water system. Following the AWOP model is one of the most cost-effective, economical ways a drinking water system can improve their ability to produce safe drinking water. Water systems having the most trouble with their filtration treatment are identified and prioritized in terms of their need for assistance.

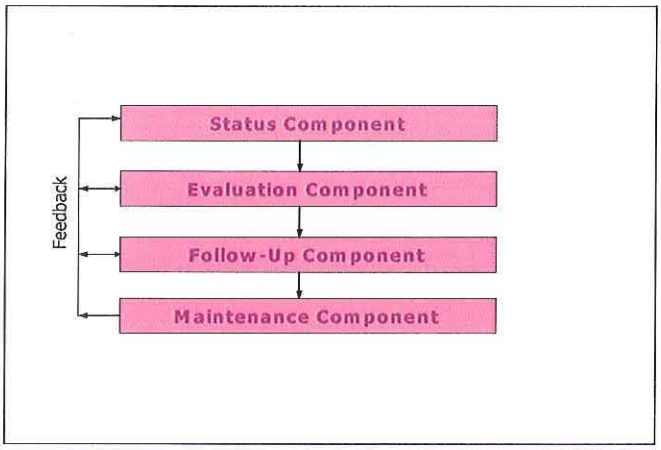

Figure 3 – AWOP model.

As demonstrated in *Figure 3*, the AWOP model consists of four components: status, evaluation, follow-up, and maintenance. The AWOP model provides a framework for each individual state to develop and sustain a meaningful optimization program. The national AWOP has modified this model to combine the Evaluation and Follow-Up components into one component called Targeted Performance Improvement.

As part of the follow-up component strategy of AWOP, Targeted Technical Assistance (TTA) is being implemented in Oklahoma. TTA is an approach designed to help water systems comply with the Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products (DBP) Rule, which became effective in 2004. DBP ingestion by humans has been shown to cause cancer and to adversely affect the liver, kidney and central nervous system. TTA was piloted nationally in Nowata, OK in October of 2004. To-date, TTA has been conducted at twelve water systems in Oklahoma.

The most recent approach being promoted by AWOP in lieu of TTA is performance based training (PBT). PBT is a transfer of priority setting and problem solving skills to plant staff to initiate changes at a water plant.

PBT is presented in six sessions:

Session 1: Performance Goals and Monitoring.

- Session 2: Problem Solving Skills Development & Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Removal.
- Session 3: Distribution System Assessment and Related Special Studies.
- Session 4: Performance Trending and Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP) Control Strategies.
- Session 5: Application of D/DBP Control Strategies and Special Studies.
- Session 6: Reporting on Success.

The Oklahoma PBT program was conducted over a 12-to-15 month period with up to six