

Message

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Sent: 3/14/2018 7:47:25 PM
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Subject: Rural Water request for EPA to allow for regulatory/unfunded-mandate relief to rural and small communities

Romel, Neal, Chloe, Mykel and Brooks: Thank you for your assistance with our request for EPA to allow for regulatory/unfunded-mandate relief to rural and small communities.

History: This Senate effort was initiated in 2015 by Senator Wicker who initially inquired to EPA (6/11/15), subsequently with Senator Hatch (1/11/18), and the electronic mail correspondence from Senators Burr and Rubio. We are very appreciative.

Recently, the Agency has replied that, *"EPA will continue to discuss the important issue of electronic delivery of certain public notices... as resources allow,"* (3/13/18, EPA to Senator Hatch).

We wanted you to know that it appears the Agency has previously determined that the relief we are requesting is authorized. In the EPA response to Senator Wicker (8/5/16), EPA finds that, *"Tier 2 requires mail or direct delivery with the bill and a method to notify those who do not receive a bill or do not have service connection addresses (such as renters, apartments, nursing homes, etc.). Posting on the internet is allowed as one of the methods to reach those consumers."*

However, the relief is not being realized by small and rural communities because the Agency has not updated their January 3, 2013 Policy Memorandum which is the declaratory federal document that state regulators use to extend reporting relief and for public notice regulations interpretation.

We believe the resources required to allow for the relief are minimal. Thank you for your very helpful assistance.

Mike Keegan, Analyst
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