



National Rural Water Association
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January 3, 2013

Small and Rural Water Supplies Laud EPA Policy to Improve Drinking Water Quality Communication with Their Citizens

(Washington, DC) The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) supports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) January 3, 2013, Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule Memorandum clarifying delivery options for delivering CCRs.

NRWA supports providing the public with all drinking water quality information. However, advances in information technology, namely the internet, allow for more cost effective methods of delivery and the ability to provide enhanced drinking water information to consumers. Today, EPA clarified that water suppliers may use the electronic delivery option for CCRs (including deliver of the report's URL) to comply with the requirement to "directly deliver" the CCR.

A recent study by NRWA Regulatory Committee Chairman John Sasur from Three Rivers Water Department in Massachusetts found the annual savings to U.S. consumers could total over a hundred million dollars annually – and greatly reduce the amount of paper ending up in the trash, reduce the amount of energy used to produce the CCRs, and provide consumers with enhanced and more timely information.

NRWA Analyst, Mike Keegan said, *"Water supplies are grateful for the EPA policy and the agency's efforts to finalize this important consumer benefit. It will result in: additional drinking water quality information for consumers, improved accessibility and constantly available consumer information, and greatly reduce the cost of distributing the reports. This option would improve public access to the CCR information by allowing the information to be available constantly on the internet (not only once a year), make it easier for water systems to timely update the content of the information, and would not be cost-prohibitive to include additional drinking water information."*

EPA's initiative has been occurring simultaneously with the Congressional effort to change the law to allow for similar electronic delivery of the CCRs. Congressman Young (FL) and Senator Toomey (PA) have sponsored legislation, "The End Unnecessary Costs Caused by Report Mailing Act of 2011," in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 to allow for this CCR distribution option.

NRWA's Sasur said, *"Water supplies are grateful for Congressman Young and Senator Toomey's leadership and support."*

There are approximately 51,651 community water systems in the country that are currently publishing and distributing the CCRs to their consumers.

- **2012 Sasur CCR Cost Study:** www.ruralwater.org/ccrcostssasur.pdf
- **EPA (1/3/2013) Memorandum:** www.ruralwater.org/ccreparamemo.pdf

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The National Rural Water Association represents over 30,000 small and rural community members, dedicated to drinking water quality, environmental protection and public health improvement.