

Water & Wastewater Details American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan Proposed Infrastructure Spending

The goal of Congress is to have the final version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan to the President by February 13. One of the President's priorities for the bill includes funding for water and wastewater infrastructure.

In regards to funding that might be available for water and sewer infrastructure; the draft bill includes:

- Funding for Rural Development programs to include money for rural water and waste disposal loan and grants (The funds may be distributed to states according to existing formulas and states will make funds available to localities for water and wastewater projects),
- \$6 billion to capitalize the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF),
- \$2 billion to capitalize the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF), and
- the draft bill calls for 50% of the funds from either Revolving Fund to be provided in the form of grants.

At this juncture, we do not have details on how the Rural Development Funds might be made available. But, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has recently said:

Funds for drinking water will be limited to construction projects that are **ready-to-proceed**. To facilitate the awarding of funds, if any become available, VDH intends to **use the current DWSRF Program framework** for the submission and evaluation of projects and may extend the application period and use alternate evaluative criteria, if required.

If funds from the economic stimulus package are made available, VDH may have the ability to fund additional projects that would not normally be on the project priority list. Therefore, **utilities may want to consider evaluating immediate and long-term needs and submit applications for the 2010 funding cycle.**

Further, utilities may wish to re-submit updated applications for projects that were not funded by the DWSRF in previous years. Eligible projects that did not receive funds for a previous application may have an improved chance of funding if more funding is available.

For More Info



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We will provide updates and details on the status of the stimulus funding as more information becomes available.

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