The Impact of COVID-19 on Rural and Tribal Water and Wastewater Systems

DELWARE

FINANCIAL VIABILITY
How long respondents can continue to pay for all system expenses under the current financial circumstances due to COVID-19:

- N/A: Already could not cover all costs
- Less than 2 months
- 2 to 6 months
- 7 to 12 months
- More than a year
- Don’t know/too early to tell
- Don’t want to answer

60% of respondents are not sure how long they can cover all costs under current financial conditions

Challenges faced because of financial conditions:
- Paying back existing debt
- Paying bills
- Maintenance
- Delays/limitations to capital improvement

About the survey: In early May, the RCAP Network surveyed communities to understand the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural and tribal water and wastewater systems. Results are from systems the RCAP Network serves and are not representative of all small systems. These results, however, provide an important snapshot of rural and tribal experiences so policymakers can make informed decisions on how to address these issues during COVID-19 recovery.

The Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP), the Southeast RCAP, provides accessible and affordable water and wastewater facilities, promotes community development, and helps residents become fully self-sufficient. SERCAP’s staff administer long-term technical assistance to Water/Wastewater Utilities, Rural Communities, Public Service Authorities, and Planning District Commissions in order to improve compliance, efficiency, capacity, and long-term sustainability. Visit sercap.org for more info.