FINDINGS FROM THE RCAP NETWORK NATIONAL COMMUNITY SURVEY

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

MAINE

100% of respondents were small systems

≈ 2,532 residents
Average system size of respondent

FACILITIES TYPE:
12.5% water | 87.5% both
0% wastewater

5-6: Average full-time staff size
Many supplement with part-time, contract or volunteer staff

Has the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted your system’s financial position, or do you anticipate negative impacts?

75% : Yes
12.5% : No
12.5% : Not sure

4 respondents answered they are collaborating with other utilities or organizations to help fill gaps and/or resolve any issues

Three respondents answered detailed financial questions; their revenue did not change from April 2019 to April 2020.

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

13% of all ME respondents cannot sustain losses for more than six months of current financial conditions

Challenges faced because of financial conditions:
- Maintaining their system
- Compliance
- 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.

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