

TO: Senate Committee on Environment  
FROM: Ken M. Blomberg – WRWA Executive Director  
DATE: June 29, 2010  
RE: Comments on Clearinghouse Rule 09-073

On behalf of the Wisconsin Rural Water Association and our 558 member systems, I would like to provide comments on the issue of proposed requirements for continuous disinfection of municipal public water supplies in Wisconsin.

I would first like to say that our association recognizes the responsibility given to the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Drinking Water & Groundwater in protecting the health and safety of those served by public water systems in Wisconsin. We also recognize the commitment to public health and safety by water systems in our state and the thousands of dedicated & certified people who operate them.

At the same time, we've long been an outspoken opponent of costly, unfunded, "one-size-fits-all" mandates, especially in those cases where they may not be warranted. As such, we oppose the requirement of continuous disinfection for those water systems that have consistently proven their ability to provide water to their customers that is safe and free from microbiological contaminants.

Since continuous disinfection of public water supplies is not mandated under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) which governs all public water systems in the United States, we believe that Wisconsin communities should have the right by majority vote to decide what approved treatments, if any, they provide for their drinking water to meet federal requirements.

In those situations where communities decide against providing continuous disinfection, we ask that the state of Wisconsin allow them to choose practical alternative measures which can still offer a reasonable assurance that the water they're providing to their customers is of the highest quality and safety possible.