



TDEC Water Infrastructure Investment Plan – Funding of Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Infrastructure with America Rescue Plan Funds

October 13, 2021

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has released a draft of its Water Infrastructure Investment Plan which details how the State plans administer its American Rescue Plan funds for water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure improvements. TDEC has requested input on the Plan from interested parties and stakeholders. TDEC will be accepting written comments on this Draft Water Infrastructure Investment Plan through Friday, October 29, 2021.

Funding Plan Basics:

- TDEC will distribute funds directly to county governments for projects at the county, municipal, or system level (utility districts and utility authorities) depending on the specific structure of the utility providers in the county.
- County governments will be given the opportunity to accept their grant allocation with the expectation that counties will coordinate with local utilities to identify required co-funding (local match) and will coordinate with water and wastewater utilities and stormwater systems serving customers in their county to identify potential projects for proposed use of the funding.
- TDEC is seeking input from the public on several subjects including: (1) whether counties are the proper sub-recipient of these funds, acting as a pass-through entity to municipalities and/or utility systems included in a respective county's proposal; and (2) suggestions on alternative approaches to distribution of funds to counties that balance state and local government and other sub-recipient administrative and compliance burdens.

The draft plan can be found in its entirety at: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/arp/tdec-funding-plan.html>.

All comments must be submitted by Friday, October 29, 2021, to TDEC.ARP@tn.gov. Submitting comments on this Draft Plan is the best opportunity water and sewer utilities will have to help direct how these funds are spend and administered. Your input is important.

TAUD would appreciate you sending a copy of any comments you submit to TDEC to to me at johngreer@taud.org. Once comments are received from its members, TAUD will be submitting formal comments as an association by the October 29, 2021 deadline.

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