

In making a determination, the Primacy Agency should consider if the property has certain characteristics, such as a limited distribution system with no known backflow or cross connection issues; the majority of its plumbing is within a structure instead of underground; and property ownership is a single/individual (or association of property owners, in the case of co-ops or condominiums). Of course, for any system to be excluded under section 1411, it must receive all of its water from a regulated public water system.

In general, the scope of this policy is not intended to extend where the property in question has a large distribution system, serves a large population or serves a mixed (commercial/residential) population (e.g., many military installations/facilities or large mobile home parks).

Although EPA is not requiring that submetered systems be regulated, each State has the flexibility to determine whether, and how, to best track properties that submeter. For example, in Alabama, the State defines a submetered property as a "segmented public water system" and requires that it have access to a certified operator. Texas requires that submetered properties allow access to the property by the public water system that provides it with water, register with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and follow regulations for submetering.

While submetering and billing for water usage may positively induce water conservation actions, States may still want to take other steps to ensure that property owners and others convert to water efficient fixtures and appliances. For example, Texas requires that apartment buildings have water-efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances as a condition of approval of a submetered billing system.

Ratio Utility Billing Systems (RUBS) and Hybrid Billing Systems (HWH)

Several commenters raised the issue of ratio utility billing systems (RUBS)⁴ and other allocation billing systems. Some commenters suggested that EPA

should include this type of billing in the revised policy because it would have no negative effect on water quality. Other commenters encouraged EPA to exclude RUBS, stating that RUBS may not result in water conservation, and may, in fact, reduce incentives to install submeters and charge on the basis of actual water usage. Water savings, if any, from RUBS and hot water hybrid billing systems (HWH) are uncertain. At this time, EPA believes that RUBS or other allocation billing systems do not meet the definition of submetering, as used in this policy, and do not encourage water conservation. Therefore, a property using these billing systems is not addressed by this policy. Primacy Agencies will need to determine whether such properties are "selling" water within the meaning of SDWA section 1411.

This memorandum clarifies EPA's policy change and reconfirms our strong interest in advocating water conservation. Any previous EPA statements or policy memoranda on this issue are superceded by this memorandum.

B. How Can I Get Copies of This Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. OW-2003-0065. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426.

2. *Electronic Access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>. An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to view

public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in section I.B.1. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

Dated: December 17, 2003.

G. Tracy Mehan III,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Water.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission for Extension Under Delegated Authority

December 11, 2003.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written Paperwork Reduction (PRA) comments should be submitted on or before February 23, 2004. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by

⁴ A ratio utility billing system (RUBS) or an allocation formula, divides a property's water bill among its residents based on a ratio of floor space, number of occupants, or some other quantitative measure. With RUBS, a price signal based on actual use is not sent to the tenant as with submetering, and the amount of water saved by these systems is unclear. A hot water hybrid (HWH) billing system is a combination of submetering and allocation where hot water is submetered and a formula is applied to estimate the resident's total water use based on the volume of hot water metered. HWH systems provide more of a price signal than RUBS but less than that for submetering.