

**Responses to Questions for the Record  
From  
Mr. Kirby Mayfield  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Rural Water Association  
On Behalf Of  
The National Rural Water Association  
For The Hearing Entitled  
“Technical Assistance for Rural Water Systems: S. 611, the Grassroots Rural and Small Community  
Water Systems Assistance Act”  
Held  
October 22, 2015**

**The Honorable John Shimkus**

**1. Does limiting disinfection use in some small Delta communities- in order to comply with the Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBP)—actually increase public health risks?** *Yes, it is very possible, by limiting the amount of chlorine added to the water to comply with this rule, if the operator is not careful, then he/she may not have an adequate chlorine residual throughout the entire distribution system thus putting the public at risk. Also by limiting the amount of chlorine added there could possibly not be enough chlorine in the water to inactivated any bacteria that may be in the drinking water. Chlorine is often increased in water with color or tanning to bleach the color out of the water. The increased chlorine can result in the formation of disinfection byproducts. However, when the chlorine concentration is decreased the color returns. Additionally, many communities will decrease the amount of treated drinking water they keep in storage to reduce the contact time of the chlorine (and DBPs), this can reduce the availability of water storage during an emergency. Also, many communities are increasing the flushing (opening lines to discharge treated water) in their distribution system which could be wasting treated water and energy.*

**A. Would the technical assistance provided by S. 611 help you address these collateral concerns?** *Yes, very much so, through training and on-site technical assistance, the operator can be taught, trained and shown how to properly keep a safe residual throughout his system by means of flushing his system on a regular basis, however, when doing this, most of the time the color in the water does return. Also, circuit riders can train operators on proper use of chemicals to be added to the water treatment process to reduce the precursors of DBP formation.*