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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

December 10, 2013

John Spirito, Jr.
Chief Legal Services
Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

RE: Proposed Rule Making - Rules & Regulations
Prescribing Standard for Water Utilities Docket D-13-147

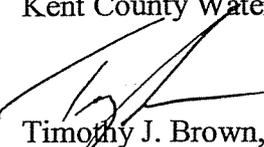
Dear Mr. Spirito,

The Kent County Water Authority has reviewed the proposed language regarding Section IV(c), proposing language to require timely notification to the public, municipal officials, the Rhode Island Department of Health, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and Division of Public Utilities and Carriers when water quality emergencies occur. We have been working closely with members of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, Rhode Island Department of Health, and Members of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers in a coordinated effort to set a standard notification protocol that will be applicable to all of the six member public utilities based on a notification concept envisioned by the Governor.

With this in mind, we respectfully request that the rule making consider revising the last sentence of Section C, Water Quality paragraph 2, to reflect the protocol collectively established by committee stakeholder members currently engaged in this endeavor. Currently by committee, it has been established that the most appropriate avenue for notification is for all Public Water Utilities to utilize RIEMA as the primary agency or mechanism for notifying all municipal officials, cities, towns and the general public during periods when water quality emergencies occur. The Division and Rhode Island Department of Health will be notified directly by the Public Water Utility as discussed during the December 9th, 2013 RIEMA meeting on the subject of improving the notification process. All parties were in agreement that this type of notification protocol best exemplifies the notification process envisioned by the Governor and in the best interest of all affected parties in retrospect of the events concerning the KCWA boil water incident.

Please feel free to call should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,
Kent County Water Authority



Timothy J. Brown, P.E.
General Manager/Chief Engineer

Cc: Board Members
Thomas Ahern, Administrator
June Swallow, Chief of Drinking Water Quality
Jamia R. McDonald, Director RIEMA
Thomas F. Kogut, Associate Administrator