



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

October 25, 2022

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

Dr. Kevin M. Morley  
Manager, Federal Relations  
American Water Works Association  
1300 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Morley:

Thank you for your letter of September 7, 2022, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), requesting an extension of the comment period for the Risk Management Program (RMP) Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention proposed rule. After considering your request, the agency is unable to grant your request to extend the comment period beyond the current deadline of October 31, 2022.


The EPA was tasked to review the RMP rule by Executive Order 13990: *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*. As part of this review, the agency held public listening sessions on June 16 and July 8, 2021, as well as an open comment period from May 28 to July 31, 2021. During the development of the proposed rule, the EPA met with a broad range of stakeholders, including those in the regulated community. The rulemaking process includes analyzing impacts to a variety of stakeholders, including small businesses, and state and local governments. The EPA considered all this input, and any additional comments received through official correspondence, prior to publishing the proposed rule.

In addition to the proposed rule's 60-day public comment period, the EPA made a prepublication version available on our website on August 19, 2022, nearly two weeks before publication in the *Federal Register* on August 31, 2022. We also made critical supporting documents available on our website, including the regulatory impact analysis and the technical background document. Additionally, the prepublication version of the proposed rule contained numerous footnote references to supporting documents that are otherwise available, including reports of the Chemical Safety Board, EPA accident investigation reports, technical reports, and journal articles. After the proposed rule was made available, the EPA continued to have outreach meetings with various stakeholder groups to discuss the proposed provisions and listen to comments. The agency also held three public hearings during the public comment period on September 26, 27, and 28, 2022.

Considering the significant outreach efforts described above, as well as the substantial amount of supporting material in the public domain prior to publication of the proposed rule, the EPA believes that the comment period's current closing date is sufficient. We feel that no extension of the comment period is necessary to provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to comment.

Again, thank you for your letter. We look forward to receiving your comments on the proposal and the continued collaboration with you and other stakeholders on this important effort. If you have further questions, please contact Deanne Grant on my staff at [grant.deanne@epa.gov](mailto:grant.deanne@epa.gov) or at (202) 564-1096.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator