



# KMUA



## Lingering Effects of COVID-19 on Municipal Utilities and Suggested Assistance

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*Chase Azevedo, GM, Georgetown Water and  
Wastewater System*



**KMUA**  
KENTUCKY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION

- **44 Members across the Commonwealth**
- **Providing Essential Services: Electricity, Water, Wastewater, Natural Gas and Telecommunications**
- **Hopkinsville Electric System & energynet Est. 1942**
- **Municipal, Not-for-Profit, Hometown Utility**



# OVERVIEW

- **Hopkinsville Electric System Provides Essential Services: Electricity and Telecommunications to City of Hopkinsville and surrounding communities**
- **Total Negative Financial Impact of Moratorium \$660K**
- **Reduced to \$105K with Payment Plans/Assistance**
- **Loss of Late Penalty Fees**
- **Overall, City Owned Electric Systems have seen a decrease in Commercial Business sales**
- **Customers Still in Need of Assistance in Paying Utility Bills**
- **\$152 Million is still available in state programs unused**

# **Lingering Effects of COVID for Municipal Utility Systems**

## **Significant slow down on supply shipments – Weeks to Months**

- High voltage equipment (especially transformers) that used to take weeks now takes 6-9 months in some cases.
- Bucket Trucks out of service due to computer chip and parts availability
- Pipes, electrical equipment, parts and supplies.

## **Employees Absences:**

- Sick and Vacation leave are utilized: Increased likelihood of working sick.
- Sick, Exposed or Quarantined 14 days
- Leave Assistance needed

## **Man Power Shortage**

- Difficulty in Hiring Qualified People
- HES Actively Recruits New Hires

# **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

## **Lingering Effects of COVID for Municipal Utility Systems**

### **Kentucky's Municipal Water and Wastewater Systems**

- Supply Chain Disruptions Result in Slowdown of Capital Projects – PVC Pipes, etc.  
(National Issue)

### **Employees Absences:**

- Additional Leave Assistance needed in the Short Term (State Issue – Request Short Term Leave Benefits similar to the federal program)

### **Man Power Shortage**

- Difficulty in Hiring Qualified People at Contractor Level and at Utility Level  
(State Issue - Requests Incentives for Municipal Utility Hires)



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## Questions???

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