



STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Invites Public Comments on Proposal to Expedite Infrastructure Projects

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23, 2018 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today issued a proposal to complete USDA-financed infrastructure projects more quickly.

Under the plan, USDA would be able to set aside financing for certain types of telecommunications, energy and water projects before an environmental review is completed. The Department’s current policy prohibits the approval and distribution of funds before these reviews are done.

This change will help assure rural communities that funds will be available for them to proceed in implementing infrastructure projects that are critical to community health, safety or economic development.

USDA is accepting comments on the proposed changes through Dec. 24. For additional information, see page 59269 of the Nov. 23, 2018, [Federal Register](#).

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