April 24, 2020

Dear Members,

IAMU staff continues to work hard to advocate on behalf of our members at both at the state and federal levels. We have been asked by both for data to help them understand the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the related restrictions. This data will directly impact the amount of aid and assistance that is available for municipal utilities.

Please take some time to fill out the attached data collection template as soon as you can. Unfortunately, as there are many looking for assistance, in order to ensure we are at the front of the line to advocate on your behalf time is of the essence. If for some reason you have the data in other forms and feel you need assistance putting it into the spreadsheet, please contact us and a staff member will assist you. If it is easier to print the pages and fill them in by hand, please feel free to do that and fax or email it in.

There are four tabs in the spreadsheet: Utility, Revenue, Commodity, and Financial comparisons. Each tab has tables for electric, natural gas, and water. You only need to fill out the tables for the utility services you provide. The first tab is your utility name and contact information in case we need to follow up with questions.

The second tab is for revenue data, and is seeking your latest monthly and year to date (be sure to specify if that’s calendar year or some other fiscal year) revenue data by rate classification for both 2020 and the same periods in 2019. Please try to note which month or period your data is for. So for example if your data is only up through the end of February 2020, please note that. Since that is before the most severe COVID related restrictions and impacts it may not tell the same story as say data from March or April. Feel free to use custom ranges if you can do that for both years. Say for example some may want to show data for the last four weeks, or from a custom period like March 15, 2020 – April 15, 2020 versus the same period for 2019. Those dates would be more likely to show the impact of the COVID restrictions. Whatever you use, please note the period.
The third tab is for similar data, but in a commodity basis. Basically how much of the service have you sold in MWH, MBTU, or gallons? Again please note the units you are using, and provide it by rate classification if possible.

The four tab is for financial data primarily relating to past due accounts, cash reserves, and debt obligations. We are looking for this data in both terms of the percentage of accounts currently past due, and in terms of the total dollar amount currently past due versus those numbers at the same time last year. We have been specifically asked about your ability to manage a long term restriction on disconnection or non-payments and thus the questions related to cash reserves and bond covenants are important.

For all of these questions if you do not have these particular rate classes, or you only have the ability to easily get to the total data (by utility type), please choose the rate classes that closest reflect your rate classes, or submit just the total data. This collection at this point is more art than science. If your data is not clear someone from staff can follow up with you. Please send your completed spreadsheet, or questions to coviddata@iamu.org. Please return this as soon as you can. If you could return it by May 1, 2020 we plan to do our first summary with the data that has been returned as of that day. This allows us to provide data to the state and federal agencies that are asking. If you do not believe that you have data yet that shows any impact of COVID, please let us know that as well.

Thank you for your assistance with this important project. Your participation will ensure that we can aggressively advocate on your behalf as assistance is being determined at both the state and federal levels. We are

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Troy DeJoode
Executive Director