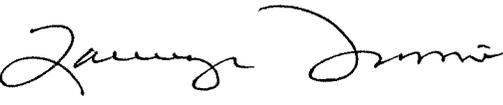




United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

JAN 10 2013

TO: Jim Nordlund
Alaska State Director
Rural Development

FROM: Tammye Treviño 
Administrator
Housing and Community Facilities Programs

SUBJECT: Minimum Property Standards
Acceptance of Alternative Water Supply Systems

This memorandum affirms a discussion on November 26, 2012, between National Office program staff with Deborah Davis, the Alaska Rural Housing Program Director, and Karen Lamouria, an Alaska Loan Specialist. The discussion revolved around alternative water supply systems for certain boroughs of Alaska.

Because of concerns under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. section 300F et. seq.) and the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. section 1251 et. seq.), USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing instructions do not permit the use of water holding tanks or cisterns which require water to be hauled to the dwelling site by truck or other means of transportation. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a similar standard, however, HUD has waived the standard until March 27, 2013. The waiver is applicable to limited areas of Alaska, was issued by HUD on March 29, 2012, and will expire on March 27, 2013.

This communication affirms that USDA Rural Development will honor the same provisions of the HUD waiver for Single Family Housing loans or guarantees under the same criteria defined in HUD's March 29, 2012, waiver. Should HUD extend the waiver beyond its expiration date of March 27, 2013, Single Family Housing programs will continue to accept properties under any waiver extensions.

Any further questions regarding this communication may be addressed to the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Division at (202) 720-1452, or the Direct Loan Division at (202) 720-1474.

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