§ 142.305 When can a small system variance be granted by a State?

No small system variance can be granted by a State until the later of the following:
(a) 90 days after the State proposes to grant the small system variance;
(b) If a State is proposing to grant a small system variance to a public water system serving 3,300 or fewer persons and the Administrator objects to the small system variance, the date on which the State makes the recommended modifications or responds in writing to each objection; or
(c) If a State is proposing to grant a small system variance to a public water system serving a population more than 3,300 and fewer than 10,000 persons, the date the Administrator approves the small system variance. The Administrator must approve or disapprove the variance within 90 days after it is submitted to the Administrator for review.

§ 142.306 What are the responsibilities of the public water system, State and the Administrator in ensuring that sufficient information is available and for evaluation of a small system variance application?

(a) A public water system requesting a small system variance must provide accurate and correct information to the State or the Administrator to issue a small system variance in accordance with this subpart. A State may assist a public water system in compiling information required for the State or the Administrator to issue a small system variance in accordance with this subpart.
(b) Based upon an application for a small system variance and other information, and before a small system variance may be proposed under this subpart, the State or the Administrator must find and document the following:
(1) The public water system is eligible for a small system variance pursuant to §§142.303 (i.e., the system serves a population of fewer than 10,000 persons) and 142.304 (i.e., the contaminant for which the small system variance is sought is not excluded from variance eligibility);
(2) The public water system cannot afford to comply, in accordance with the affordability criteria established by the State (or by the Administrator in States which do not have primary enforcement responsibility), with the national primary drinking water regulation for which a small system variance is sought, including by:
   (i) Treatment;
   (ii) Alternative sources of water supply;
   (iii) Restructuring or consolidation changes, including ownership change and/or physical consolidation with another public water system; or
   (iv) Obtaining financial assistance pursuant to Section 1452 of the Act or any other Federal or State program;
(3) The public water system meets the source water quality requirements for installing the small system variance technology developed pursuant to guidance published under section 1412(b)(15) of the Act;
(4) The public water system is financially and technically capable of installing, operating and maintaining the applicable small system variance technology; and
(5) The terms and conditions of the small system variance, as developed through compliance with §142.307, ensure adequate protection of human health, considering the following:
   (i) The quality of the source water for the public water system; and
   (ii) Removal efficiencies and expected useful life of the small system variance technology.

§ 142.307 What terms and conditions must be included in a small system variance?

(a) A State or the Administrator must clearly specify enforceable terms and conditions of a small system variance.
(b) The terms and conditions of a small system variance issued under this subpart must include, at a minimum, the following requirements:
(1) Proper and effective installation, operation and maintenance of the applicable small system variance technology in accordance with guidance
Environmental Protection Agency

§ 142.308

What public participation is required before a State or the Administrator proposes to issue a small system variance?

(a) At least fifteen (15) days before the date of proposal, and at least thirty (30) days prior to a public meeting to discuss the proposed small system variance, the State, Administrator, or public water system as directed by the State or Administrator, must provide notice to all persons served by the public water system. For billed customers, identified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, this notice must include the information listed in paragraph (c) of this section. For other persons regularly served by the system, identified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the notice shall include the information identified in paragraph (d) of this section. Notice must be provided to all persons served by:

(1) Direct mail or other home delivery to billed customers or other service connections, and

(2) Any other method reasonably calculated to notify, in a brief and concise manner, other persons regularly served by the system. Such methods may include publication in a local newspaper, posting in public places or delivery to community organizations.

(b) At the time of proposal, the State must publish a notice in the State equivalent to the FEDERAL REGISTER or a newspaper or newspapers of wide circulation in the State, or, in the case of the Administrator, in the FEDERAL