



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment in the SRF Programs

FROM: Kiri Anderer, P.E., Acting Associate Branch Chief
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TO: SRF Branch Chiefs
Regions 1-10

Effective August 13, 2020, recipients and subrecipients of EPA funded assistance agreements, including borrowers under EPA funded revolving loan funds, must comply with regulations at [2 CFR 200.216](#), *Prohibition on certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment*, implementing section 889 of [Public Law 115-232](#). The regulation prohibits the use of Federal funds to procure (enter into, extend, or renew contracts) or obtain equipment, systems, or services that use “covered telecommunications equipment or services” identified in the regulation as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. Prohibitions extend to the use of Federal funds by recipients and subrecipients to enter into a contract with an entity that “uses any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services” as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. Certain equipment, systems, or services, including equipment, systems, or services produced or provided by entities subject to the prohibition are recorded in the [System for Award Management](#) exclusion list.

As described in section 889 of Public Law 115-232, covered telecommunications equipment or services includes:

- Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
- For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
- Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.

- Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

Applicability in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs

Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF (CWSRF and DWSRF) programs may not expend equivalency funds for these products on or after August 13, 2020. States must ensure that equivalency assistance agreements include the telecommunications prohibition condition [provided by EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment](#) (OGD) in OGD's most recent EPA General Terms and Conditions. The condition must also be in construction contracts associated with equivalency assistance agreements.

There is no exhaustive list of components and services that fall under the prohibition. State SRF managers and local assistance recipients should exercise due diligence and be particularly mindful of project components with internet or cellular connections. For example, recipients should be mindful of automatic meter reading (AMR) technology and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), instrumentation control systems (e.g. process control systems, distributed control systems and programmable logic controls), and security cameras and other electronic security measures to ensure that those items are procured from a non-excluded entity. Items included in the prohibition are not eligible SRF costs, and the SRF programs cannot reimburse borrowers for these costs.

The prohibition also applies to the CWSRF administrative funds (if states are billing those costs to the federal CWSRF capitalization grant) and the four DWSRF set-asides. States should be mindful of items such as cell phones, computers, and mobile WiFi routers or hotspots funded by those accounts.

If you have questions on the implementation of this grant condition, please contact Michael Deane at Deane.Michael@epa.gov or Kiri Anderer at Anderer.Kirsten@epa.gov.