



USDA Engineers' Training

Engineering Rural Water Projects: Navigating New USDA Rules and Regulations

April 9, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM ET

Presented by: Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

Timed Agenda	
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Welcome and Introduction Jes Eckerlin, Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center
9:15 - 10:15 AM	USDA-RD Funding and Application Updates Discussion Brenda Smith and Kimberly Wildman, USDA Rural Development
10:15- 11:15 AM	Updates to USDA-RD Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) John Helgren and Jessica DiDomineck, USDA Rural Development
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Break
11:30 - 12:00 PM	Discussion of USDA-RD environmental regulations Thomas Lacko, USDA Rural Development
12:00-1:15 PM	Updates to USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-26 Engineering Requirements, John Helgren and Jessica DiDomineck, USDA Rural Development
1:15-1:30 PM	Wrap-up / Questions
1:30	Lunch