

with a possible way to do it which is contained primarily in Section 2 of the bill, and this involves at this point in time borrowing some money from the state Revolving Loan Fund, the SRF Wastewater Treatment Fund, and over a period of time paying that money back out of the Petroleum Release Action Cash Fund, Title 200 Funds. By doing it this way and in the manner that we propose in the bill, we will save a great deal of interest, we will save administrative expenses of issuing bonds, if we were to go that route. We will get people paid in perhaps as short as two months from now while we're speaking, that they will be able to do this. The municipalities were very cooperative in trying to find a way to do this without hurting them. One of the conditions of using this fund I did not want to have happen was that we would find municipalities were hurt and that they could not access funds for wastewater treatment needs. And the way it's being done will actually be bringing in more federal monies to the SRF Fund. It will result in additional monies eventually being available for accessing by municipalities for their needs. Through cooperation with DEQ and some advice from EPA, we have...we were able to broaden the parameters of what the SRF Fund can be accessed for by the municipalities slightly so that they can access the monies for nonpoint source problems, which gives them a little more flexibility. In addition, in return for the cooperation of the municipalities in allowing us to use this fund in the short run we have said that municipal applications that are on file as of January 1 of '96, the backlog of payments due municipalities will be paid first out of this SRF loan money and then other applications would be paid after that. It won't result in much of a difference in time between payment, but a slight difference and it's just a small amount of consideration for municipals' cooperation in letting us utilize this method of payment of the back bills. Other major changes after the passage of this legislation, that DEQ will require cost estimates for all phases of remedial action so we'll have an idea of what our obligations are at any point in time versus the monies that we have on hand. It also requires DEQ to make...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ..an estimate at the beginning of remedial action for all estimated costs at a site which would help chart a course for us in knowing what our obligations are out there. It does raise the ceiling when the motor fuel tax is suspended