



Division of Taxation Advisory

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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Department of Revenue

Rhode Island offers tax relief for storm victims

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation is granting a one-week extension for the filing of tax returns that would normally be due September 15. The new deadline will be September 22.

Rhode Island Tax Administrator David M. Sullivan extended the deadline as a result of the impact from Tropical Storm Irene. "Many taxpayers and small businesses – and their tax preparers – have suffered through extended power outages or other effects of the storm," he said. "We are therefore extending the deadline in order to give these individuals and businesses some extra time to file the required returns. It's the least we can do."

Although the one-week extension is for all returns that would normally be due on September 15, it will mainly affect Rhode Island corporate returns that are themselves on extension. In general, such returns were originally due March 15, but taxpayers took advantage of the usual six-month filing extension, to September 15. With the Tax Administrator's announcement today, those returns will now be due September 22.

Sullivan stressed that it is a one-week extension of the time for filing, not for paying. Any payments that would normally be due September 15 – including quarterly estimated payments for individuals, and final payments that might accompany a corporate return, for example – still must be made by September 15, Sullivan said. Otherwise, the taxpayer could be subject to penalty plus interest.

Extending the Rhode Island filing deadline will also make filing more convenient for taxpayers and their preparers because the Internal Revenue Service has extended the federal filing deadline by a week, Sullivan pointed out. The IRS on September 1 announced that it is granting taxpayers whose preparers were affected by the storm until September 22 to file returns normally due September 15.

Anyone planning to file a Rhode Island tax return by the new September 22 deadline should file electronically, said Peter McVay, associate director of revenue services. E-filing is convenient, results in fewer errors, and generates refunds more quickly, he said.

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