Rural Area Flexibility Analysis for Small Businesses and Local Governments for the amendment of 12 NYCRR Sections 324.1 and 324.3.

1. Types and estimated numbers of rural areas: The proposed regulation should not affect employers, as defined in WCL § 2(3), in rural areas, including municipal corporations, fire districts, public authorities and political subdivisions, who appear before the Board on matters relating to Workers' Compensation claims. In the unlikely event that a self-insured employer or medical provider operating in a rural area does not have internet access, he or she will be able to continue to submit and respond to variance requests as is done today.

2. Reporting, recordkeeping and other compliance requirements; and professional services: The proposed regulation does not require any action whatsoever by small businesses or local governments in rural areas. The proposed regulation does not impose or require any reporting requirements or additional paperwork on the part of small businesses or local governments in rural areas. Small businesses and local governments in rural areas will not have to engage any professional services as a result of the proposed regulation.

3. Costs: Small businesses and local governments in rural areas will not incur any capital costs, annual operating costs or any compliance costs as a result of the proposed regulation.

4. Minimizing adverse impact: The proposed regulation will have no adverse economic impact on small businesses or local governments in rural areas.

5. Rural area participation: Because the proposed amendment should have no impact on rural areas, the Board has not conducted outreach regarding the proposed amendment.