

Appropriations Deadline Looms: Congress returns this week and lawmakers will be racing to complete a spending package for the rest of the current fiscal year by April 29. The President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Mick Mulvaney says he believes the Trump Administration and Republican leaders in Congress will be able to avert a government shutdown even as the Administration says it will insist on money to build a wall on the Mexico border ([news](#)).

NRWA to Respond to Trump Request for EPA Rules to Repeal: EPA published [a notice in the April 13th Federal Register](#) requesting public comments on regulations that may be appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification. This request follows President Trump's [February 24th Executive Order](#) that, among other things, requires federal agencies to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force ("Task Force") to make recommendations targeting specific federal regulations for elimination or modification. The NRWA Regulatory Committee plans to review a package of EPA rules in need of reform on Friday.

Trump's Infrastructure Plan to Rely on Private Sector: OMB Director Mulvaney said Thursday that the Administration's plan will spend approximately \$200 billion in taxpayer dollars on an infrastructure development plan that would leverage private financing for a total investment of \$1 trillion over 10 years. The budget director said the plan won't be ready until this fall and that there might be a "5-to-1 sort of leverage ratio ([news](#))."

The Power of An Association Comes to North Dakota: Last week, North Dakota Rural Water met with their Senator John Hoeven, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee in charge of all USDA funding including all water funding that was proposed for cuts in the Administration's budget. The Senator told the rural water delegation that he expects USDA funding to remain consistent for the next fiscal year (2018).

Vermont Department of Natural Resources Tells VT Senators: "Rural Water is an invaluable resource to the state; no other group fills this vital need in Vermont ([letter](#))."

Utah's Water Quality Board Selects Utah Rural Water's Dale Pierson for Prestigious Sudweeks Water Award for Outstanding Leadership and Achievement in Water Quality ([award](#)).

Wyoming Senator Barrasso Attends Rural Water Conference and

Tweets About It ([Twitter](#)).

Cyber-Seriousness: Department of Homeland Security Secretary and retired General John Kelly said last week that hackers are "a tremendous danger to our American way of life" yesterday in his first public speech as secretary. "They target our critical infrastructure," he warned. "Systems throughout America are being bombarded on a daily, even hourly basis — our water treatment plants, our transportation systems, our electric grid, our financial sectors and everything in between." The Secretary asked audience members to think about "what would happen if a major American city lost power," navigation systems went dead or the stock market crashed under pressure from a sophisticated cyberattack.

Idaho Researchers Trace Nitrate Drinking Water Contamination to Septic Systems rather than Agriculture (more): Also detected were personal care products that would originate from a septic system ([study](#)).

Trump's Pick for OMB Regulation Czar has Environmentalists Worried ([Wash Post](#)).

Nearly 18,000 Households in Detroit are at Risk for Water Shutoffs ([newspaper](#)).

National Rural Water Association

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