

**Congress Averts Government Shutdown with Week-long Continuing Resolution:** House leaders plan to release a bill as early as Sunday night (April 30th).

**Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana Work Capitol Last Week:**

Representatives from the three state rural water associations provided briefings to their Congressional delegations, mainly on the urgency for Congress to restore the proposed elimination of the USDA water initiatives. All three state rural water associations reported positive responses from their delegation for restoring the cuts in the Congressional appropriations process that will continue this summer and into the fall.

**Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) Urges Congress to Open-up Clean Water State Revolving Fund to Non-profit Wastewater**

**District:** Many rural water wastewater utilities are not technically organized as "municipalities," thereby limiting their access to state Clean Water Funds. On April 26th, LRWA briefed Congressman Graves (LA), chairman of the Clean Water Act Subcommittee in the House of Representatives on merits of the change and asked for his support.

**EPA May 2, Listening Session on Water Regulations that Could Be Repealed, Replaced or Modified:** The [telephone and web conference](#) will be held May 2. NRWA will be attending the event. NRWA participated in a similar event with local government organizations on April 26th at EPA headquarters. The new EPA political team for intergovernmental affairs gave the presentation. They are *sincerely* asking for a wide range of EPA policies that affect local government for reform, repeal, and modification. Proposals must be submitted by May 15. The EPA Task Force team plans to review all the proposals and assemble them for further action by the end of the month. NRWA is focusing on approximately 19 specific requests for EPA policies to be repealed, replaced or modified listed below. The NRWA Regulatory Committee convened by conference call on Friday and gave tentative approval to the recommendations to EPA and will convene again next week to decide on final approval of the NRWA EPA reform package:

- 1 Tier 2 public notices eligibility for e-reporting
- 2 Mandatory health effects information
- 3 Arsenic Rule review
- 4 Positive regulatory determination for strontium
- 5 Public notice requirements for detects of unregulated contaminants
- 6 Small system variance technology affordability
- 7 Enforcement Response Policy
- 8 Total organic carbon percentage removal

- 9 Point of use technology availability
- 10 Unreasonable risk level
- 11 Safety factors used in regulatory determinations
- 12 Bi-Lateral compliance agreements
- 13 Simultaneous compliance
- 14 Reliance on in-home tap sampling results for Lead and Copper Rule from compliance
- 15 "Feasibility" parity for small and large public water systems
- 16 Clarity on limits, purpose, and authorities in federal regulations
- 17 Watershed trading authorities
- 18 TMDLs effect on NPDES permits
- 19 Air regulations on emergency generators

**Journal Study Finds Sewer Workers operating near a Hospital that Treated Ebola Patients May be at Risk of Contracting the Virus:** During the 2014 to 2016 Ebola outbreak, 11 individuals had been treated in the U.S. ([Water Environment Research](#)).

**EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said EPA Should Have Responded Faster to Lead Contamination in Flint (MI):** On Earth Day, Pruitt said the Obama Administration EPA should have used its emergency authority under Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act to intervene in Flint ([EPA](#)).

**EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt says the Trump Infrastructure Plan May Include Funding for Water Projects during his Earth Day Speech** ([EPA](#)).

**Bipartisan Senate Bill Would Reform Federal Rulemaking:** The "Regulatory Accountability Act" would amend the 1946 Administrative Procedure Act by requiring federal agencies to conduct cost-benefit analyses. The proposal would also trigger an automatic review process for major regulations, allow hearings on the most significant federal actions and require agencies to inform the public before they plan to begin working on a new rule ([Senator Portman](#)).

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## National Rural Water Association

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