

EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) Question's EPA Conclusion that Fracking is Safe for Drinking Water Sources: In June, 2015, EPA concluded that *"we did not find evidence that these mechanisms [fracking] have led to widespread, systemic impacts on drinking water resources in the United States"* ([EPA draft report](#)). The EPA report in question was originally requested by Congress in 2009 to determine if fracking could contaminate drinking supplies. Last week, the EPA SAB released an evaluation and critique of the draft study that questioned EPA's assertion that fracking operations had not led to "widespread, systemic impacts on drinking water resources." The committee said that this conclusion had not been backed up "quantitatively" by the agency, adding that the report "did not clearly describe the system(s) of interest (e.g., groundwater, surface water), the scale of impacts (i.e., local or regional), nor the definitions of 'systemic' and 'widespread'" ([EPA SAB report](#)).

In Syria, 2 Million Residents Of War-Ravaged Aleppo Now without Running Water: Aleppo lost its running water supply on July 31 after attacks on an electricity transmission station that powers the city's pumps. Another power line to the pumps was installed on Aug. 4, but less than a day later, the new power line was also damaged and intense battling has prevented new repairs. Taps have now been dry for eight of the past nine days ([NPR](#)). **David with Kentucky Rural Water (KRWA) Raises Concern over EPA Proposed Change in NPDES Process:** On May 18, EPA [proposed revisions](#) to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations. EPA claimed the changes would not reopen the regulations for comprehensive revision. However, a member of KRWA flagged a provision (Design Flow for POTWs (40 CFR 122.45(b)) in the EPA proposal that would provide permit writers with additional flow options for calculating water quality-based effluent limits. Some have criticized EPA's proposal because allowing permit writers to use additional flow options (not just design flow) for calculating water quality based effluent limitations could restrict using existing wastewater treatment to its full capacity. We are very interested in your comments ([contact us](#))!

Does the IRS Proposal to Change the Definition of Political Subdivisions Impact Rural Water?: John with New Mexico Rural Water cautions that the IRS's proposed [new rules](#) for changing the definition of "political subdivisions" for eligibility to issue tax-exempt bonds may impact state decisions for determining political subdivisions. In New Mexico, this could be an issue with some community water systems, the so-called "mutual domestics" which are different from municipalities. Please [contact us](#) if you believe this IRS proposal will adversely impact you state.

Over 6 Million People Have Carcinogens in Their Drinking Water

According to Harvard: A study released Aug. 9 showed that polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) were detected in drinking water supplies near industrial sites, military bases and wastewater treatment plants. It is the first report to link contamination to these facilities. PFASs have been used in a range of industrial and commercial products that includes pots and pans, and even though some of these chemicals have been discontinued, they persist in people and wildlife ([Detection of Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFASs\) in U.S. Drinking Water Linked to Industrial Sites, Military Fire Training Areas, and Wastewater Treatment Plants](#)).

EPA Inspects Small New York Water Systems and Issues

Administrative Order: EPA Region 2 is threatening fines up to \$37,500 a day on the village of Tarrytown, NY to bring its drinking water system into compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. Lead was found in concentrations above the EPA action level—15 parts per billion—in four out of 31 samples taken in recent monitoring. The EPA order requires Tarrytown to send notices to consumers about the sampling results, provide technical explanations and inform consumers of steps they can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water ([EPA Order](#)). The order also requires public education through paid advertising, displays in public areas, e-mails, meetings, household notices or other forms of outreach.

EPA's FY 2015 Performance Data for the National Water Program

Released: Among the key highlights relating to drinking water is the following finding: 90% of community water systems met all applicable health-based standards through approaches that include effective treatment and source water protection ([EPA report](#)).

EPA's Sustainable Systems Team Webinar on Tools to Help Small Systems Manage Workloads, Recruit Operators and Contract

Operators ([August 16](#)). **EPA Sends Final UCMR4 For OMB Review:** EPA has sent for White House review the [final version of their Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4](#) (UCMR4) which will require monitoring for 30 currently unregulated contaminants.

Department of Homeland Security Announces Onsite Cybersecurity

Assessments for 2015: The 112 assessments focused on cybersecurity and resilience for critical infrastructure facilities, including drinking water and wastewater utilities - 35% of these assessments involved the water

and wastewater sector. Key trends identified include pervasive issues related to virtual machines, remote access, virtual local area network (VLAN) use, bring your own device (BYOD) risks, use of cloud services, and ICS network monitoring ([DHS 2015 Assessments](#)).

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