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The Power of An Association, North Dakota Rural Water's President Obama Connection: On Friday evening, North Dakota Rural Water ([NDRW](#)) told us that *"the President signed the rural water technical assistance bill (S. 611) today."* The announcement has not yet been released by the White House. NDWA got the scoop from Senator Heitkamp, an original cosponsor of the legislation.

NRWA Fixed the Fund; in 2016, We Need to Fund the Fix: The objective of S. 611, the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act, is to stop the current EPA technical assistance funding process that has resulted in approximately a two-thirds reduction in technical assistance in your state over the last four years - and require a new process that begins to correct the problem. Now that the law has been changed, Congress will have to fund the new law in the fiscal year 2017 EPA appropriations legislation next year. This will likely become a key focus of our 2016 agenda.

House Passes Bill to Ban Microbeads: The House of Representatives last week passed 1321, the "Microbead-Free Waters Act, a bill to phase out the manufacture and sale of products with microbeads."

EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) Webinar: A presentation will include key aspects of the UCMR 4 proposal such as monitoring requirements, analysis of selection and rationale, analytical methods, the laboratory approval process and groundwater representative monitoring plans ([January 13, 2016](#)).

Can the Paris Climate Negotiations Succeed If Water Is Ignored?: *"Water is not just a 'victim' of climate change; it offers answers to climate change. Water companies are typically energy intensive, between 10% and 35% of operational costs are on energy*

consumption. The water sector contributes between 2-5% of global carbon emissions, as well as contributing towards other greenhouse gas emissions, including nitrogen oxides and methane that have larger multiplier effects on global warming ([Dr. Bergkamp](#))."

Pumped Dry: The Global Crisis of Vanishing Groundwater ([USA TODAY](#)).

Oklahoma Water District Manager Accused of Stealing More Than \$100,000 from District with Fraudulent Checks ([more](#)).

Wisconsin Study on Agriculture and Resulting Nitrates in the Water Supply Fins Water Utilities Shouldering the Cost ([more](#)).

Groundwater Rule Results in E. Coli Positive in Raw Water ([Oldsmar, FL](#))

Risk Communication with the Public: EPA tells Hoosick Falls (NY) that the agency has no money to help with perfluorooctanoic acid contamination of their drinking water. EPA replies to funding request with mandate to inform the public about the contamination. Resident says, "It's not good enough; not telling anybody about it is reprehensible ([more](#))."

EPA Webinar on Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water: A presentation on the nature of lead and copper occurrence and relationships to water quality and use will include discussion of available sampling strategies to identify and isolate the occurrence of leaded materials in building drinking water system configurations (December 15, 2015).

Public Works Department Spills 2,000 Gallons of Oil in Drainage Ditch ([more](#)).

U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit Hearing on WOTUS Rule Jurisdiction: On December 8th, appellate judges held oral arguments to consider suits over the agency's Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction rule. At issue is whether the EPA WOTUS Rule will be contested in a myriad of district courts of which the appellate court has exclusive jurisdiction to hear legal challenges.

Does Arsenic in Drinking Water Have a Threshold Level Where a Small Amount Can Be Safe?: EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment program will include novel risk specific dose calculations in the pending assessment of arsenic's human health

risks. An expert close to the process said of the arsenic assessment, *“There are no assumptions of linearity... and no assumptions of threshold, either.”*

National Rural Water Association

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