

## Rural Water Issues Advisory [10/21/2019]

**EPA to Expand Lead Rule Testing to Schools:** NRWA is analyzing the new Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) proposal, released on October 10th ([EPA](#)). Our main criticism of the current rule is the use of in-home sampling as the only indicator of water quality (with regard to lead) in the distribution system: *"We urge the Agency to craft a new rule that decouples the regulatory requirements on water utilities from results of tap sampling. The results of tap samples should be used for every community to implement a locally-tailored lead reduction plan that corresponds to the risk in that particular community. This will result in greater potential to reduce lead in drinking water by allowing for more community involvement and responsibility in sampling and remediation, better use of local limited resources, and remediation plans that are more targeted to local conditions (NRWA, March 8, 2018)."* Under the new rule proposal, EPA expands the scope and monitoring of the rule to schools: *"Community Water Systems (CWSs) must conduct lead in drinking water testing and public education at 20% of K-12 schools and licensed child cares in service area every year."* We are hearing concerns about applying the current testing to schools due to their premise plumbing, atypical use of facilities, etc. Please contact us if you have any comments on this expansion of the LCR. Initial concerns are that this could exacerbate the problem of in-home/tap samples not being reflective of the water quality in the entire water systems.

**Recent EPA Inspector General Report Could Help NRWA's Effort to Allow for Electronic Reporting of Disinfection Byproducts Rule Violation:** NRWA is exploring ways the EPA OIG's [September report](#) could allow for e-reporting. The OIG concluded that, *The EPA should encourage electronic direct delivery of public notices, such as with the annual consumer confidence reports. Allowing electronic delivery of Tiers 2 and 3 notices would reduce the cost of issuing these notices and has the potential to more effectively reach consumers.* Mississippi's Senator Wicker asked EPA about this [in 2015](#) and other Senators have subsequently followed-up with EPA (Senators [Hatch](#), Burr and Rubio). The Agency has replied that *"EPA will continue to discuss the important issue of electronic delivery of certain public notices... as resources allow (3/13/18, EPA to Senator Hatch)."*

**EPA Turns 50 - Honored by EPA Administrator Wheeler at Case Western U. ([EPA](#)).**

**Michigan Announces Rulemaking PFAS Drinking Water; 6 PPT for PFNA, 8 PPT for PFOA, 16 PPT for PFOS, 51 PPT for PFHxS, 370 PPT for GenX, 420 PPT for PFBS, and 400,000 PPT for PFHxA ([Michigan](#)).**

**EPA Releases Fifth UCMR4 Data:** On October 17th, EPA posted data the Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule ([EPA announcement](#)).

**Supreme Court to Hear Arguments on Whether the Clean Water Act Applies to Wells that Indirectly Pollute Waters ([news](#)).**

**1,4-Dioxane in Drinking Water in Long Island:** Hicksville and Bethpage water districts have already placed restrictions on water access as a result of the contaminant 1,4-Dioxane. Water district superintendents said they would shut down wells rather than issue notices to the public saying they were in violation. They said the public notices would trigger insurance carriers to drop liability coverage for districts and cause customers to lose faith in the water coming out of their taps. Potential consequences of 75 percent loss of supply would mean not enough water pressure for firefighting in the summer, and no guarantee of a water supply to the hospital ([Newsday](#)).

**Suit Against New Hampshire over PFAS Drinking Water Standards:** The suit argues that the state didn't follow the appropriate process in approving the standard earlier this year for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances ([Seacoast news](#)).