

Rural Water Policy Advisory [10/30/2017]

Flint the Movie: Official Trailer Premieres October 28 on Lifetime ([trailer](#)).

Detroit Women's Convention Highlights Flint Water Issues: A Friday session featured the Flint crisis called "Making Waves: The Flint Healing Stories." The panelists included several activists from Detroit and Flint who "used everything at their disposal to break the Flint story." Featured Flint water activist Melissa May said, *"This has brought a lot of us together. It's women, it's minorities; all the people that typically don't have power are the ones that are taking it back. I think that's something that, when you're in the middle of it you don't realize it. Then every once in a while you sit back and you're like, 'Look at us go. Look at that. I'm doing more than birthing babies and making sandwiches.' I mean, there's nothing wrong with that, but I'm just saying that we can do things* ([Salon](#))."

Republicans to Release Tax Bill Wednesday - NRWA Monitoring Tax-Exempt Bond Provisions: The contents of the tax bill are shrouded in secrecy. The House Ways and Means Committee's chairman, Kevin Brady (TX), has said he plans to [introduce the tax bill](#) on Wednesday and begin considering it in committee the following week. Past tax bills have proposed changes to municipal tax exempt financing to raise federal revenue. The last detailed Republican tax legislation plan was the 2014 Ways and Means Committee's comprehensive reform [discussion draft](#) that placed a surtax on bond interest earned by high income taxpayers which would have the effect of imposing an income tax on otherwise tax-exempt interest earned by investors.

DHS, FBI Warn Companies of Ongoing Cyber Attacks on Critical Infrastructure: The Department of Homeland Security and FBI issued a rare public alert warning owners of U.S. critical infrastructure to battle an ongoing campaign of cyber attacks against their information and control networks. Energy and industrial firms were notified Friday and again Saturday that sophisticated hackers are attempting to penetrate industrial control systems used by the electrical and nuclear power industry, as well as water, aviation, and manufacturing sectors ([news](#)).

Video Documentary - Local Water Official says Charleston Park, Florida Has the Worst Well Water Conditions He has Seen and the Community is Full of Children ([video](#)).

Charleston Park Leader says Residents Don't Want to Pay a Water Bill: *"They can get bottled water with food stamps but they can't pay a water bill. In the solutions department, that put us back to square one* ([newspaper](#))."

NRWA and Maryland Rural Water Association to Engage Senator Cardin on Legislation to Subsidize Low-income Customers' Water Bills: The NRWA Regulatory Committee expressed initial skepticism about Senator Cardin's draft legislation to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish pilot programs that provide funding to water utilities that assist their low-income households in maintaining access to sanitation services and drinking water ([draft legislation](#)). Many rural water commenters on the Regulatory Committee did not support having water utilities become social welfare agencies or expanding EPA authority in local rates. Others suggested that existing federal social programs be modified to allow for payment of water bills. After initial conversations with Senator Cardin's office, however, the NRWA Regulatory Committee agreed on Friday to participate in further discussion with Senator Cardin to try and find common ground on the legislation. Please forward any comments on the legislation to the NRWA Regulatory Committee ([contact](#)).

Video Shows Hanford Nuclear Facility Contractors Dumping Radiation-affected Water: TV reporter finds contractor CEO in parking lot for on-camera confrontation ([KING-TV](#)).

Environmental Protection Agency to Review How Clean Water Act Affects Job Losses ([Reuters](#)).

House Passes Bill Targeting Environmental Settlements: On October 24, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill (H.R. 732) that would end a Justice Department practice of entering into settlements that steer funds to third-party groups. The bill bars federal agencies from requiring defendants to donate money to outside groups as part of settlement agreements, and requires that settlement money either goes directly to victims or to the U.S. Treasury.

Scientist Discounts New York Times' Claim that "Arsenic Reductions in Drinking Water Tied to Fewer Cancer Deaths": The new assessment is being used to call for lowering the EPA arsenic drinking water standard. However, a leading scientist on the issue, Dr. Steven Lamm, commented, "*Note that the reduction only occurred five years after the new standard. That seems too long an interval to be explanatory, and all based on linear no-threshold model. Current evidence on lung cancer refutes that.*"

Administrator Scott Pruitt's Family Getting Death Threats ([news](#)).

Aerial Photos of Wastewater Treatment Plant Found in Arrested Man's Cache of Weapons and Explosives: On October 18, authorities in Pinellas County, Florida arrested a local man after finding a cache of firearms, explosives, and incendiary devices inside his home. During their search, authorities also found maps and aerial photos of nearby critical infrastructure facilities, including a Hillsborough County wastewater treatment plant and multiple schools.

National Rural Water Association

Contact: Mike Keegan, Policy Analyst <keegan@ruralwater.org>
(Washington, DC)

[[safe unsubscribe](#) | [subscribe](#)]

The National Rural Water Association is the country's largest public drinking water and sanitation supply organization with over 30,000 members. Safe drinking water and sanitation are generally recognized as the most essential public health, public welfare, and civic necessities.

Reprint Policy: this report, including any portion, may be distributed publicly without permission or citation.

Archives: past editions of this newsletter are available on the internet ([link](#)).