

Rural Water Issues Advisory [5/13/2019]

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Special Singles Issue Edition: PFAS Issues in Congress

House and Senate Members Compelled to Introduce Numerous PFAS Bills: Believing the EPA is not moving with appropriate urgency or lacking necessary authorities, Republican and Democratic federal lawmakers have introduced a number of bills on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that attempt to mandate toxic release reporting, authorize federal facility cleanups, bar incineration of PFAS waste, mandate a SDWA rule for PFAS, etc.

- H.R. 2377 would set a two-year deadline for EPA to regulate the substances in drinking water under the SDWA ([bill text, summary, and status](#)).
- H.R. 2626 would require federal (military) agencies, within one year of a state's request, to develop a plan of action to address PFAS contamination ([bill text, summary and status](#)).
- H.R. 2533 would create a five-year, \$2.5 billion grant program to offer funding to help community water systems install new treatment technologies to remove PFAS ([bill text, summary and status](#)).
- H.R. 2570 would require PFAS manufacturers to pay into a new trust fund that would offer grants to communities with PFAS contamination ([bill text, summary and status](#)).
- H.R. 2591 would ban the waste incineration of PFAS ([bill text, summary and status](#)).
- H.R. 2577 would add PFAS to the Toxics Release Inventory ([bill text, summary and status](#)).
- H.R. 2600 would regulate PFAS under the Toxic Substances Control Act ([bill text, summary and status](#)).
- S. 638 would mandate that the EPA, within one year of enactment, declare PFAS as hazardous substances eligible for cleanup funds under the EPA Superfund law ([bill text, summary and status](#)).
- S. 950 provides the U.S. Geological Survey with \$45 million to develop new advanced technologies to detect PFAS and then requires USGS to conduct nationwide sampling for PFAS in the environment ([bill text, summary and status](#)).
- S.675 would authorize the Department of Defense to temporarily provide safe water for agricultural purposes to areas affected by contamination from military installations ([bill text, summary and status](#)).

The House Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee to Hold Hearing This Week on PFAS Legislation (committee announcement): The Senate environmental committee is planning a hearing on the PFAS issue later in May. NRWA has been asked to submit testimony.

New Study by the Environmental Work Group (EWG) Finds 610 Sites in 43 States

Contaminated with PFAS: EWG lists drinking water systems serving 19 million people exposed to unhealthy drinking water. The study compiled information taken from Pentagon data and water utility reports. EWG found at least 610 contaminated locations ranging from public water systems and military bases to civilian airports, industrial plants, dumps and firefighter training sites. The release includes an interactive map of their data and locations. EWG claims, "EPA has utterly failed to address PFAS with the seriousness this crisis demands, leaving local communities and states to grapple with a complex problem rooted in the failure of the federal chemical regulatory system. The EPA has set a health advisory value, but it's not a legal binding limit. Part of the problem is they haven't set a new legal drinking water limit for any contaminant in over two decades. The whole system of regulating chemicals that may end up in our water and setting limits is broken and the agency is really falling behind the science here."

EPA's PFAS Research Grants: Last week, [EPA announced that it is awarding \\$3.9 million](#) in grants that target research to better understand human and ecological exposure to PFAS. This research also intends to promote restoration of water quality in communities that have been impacted by PFAS. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said, *“These grants will help fulfill a key goal in EPA’s PFAS Action Plan: strengthening science and research in order to better understand the characteristics and impacts of PFAS.”* He added, *“This funding will also help researchers develop new strategies to further protect our communities and environment from harmful PFAS exposure.”*

ASDWA Announces Webinar about the State of Minnesota’s Experience with PFAS Investigation, Response, and Lessons Learned ([May 29, 2:00 pm](#)).

[National Rural Water Association](#)

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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.

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