

## Rural Water Issues Advisory [5/6/2019]

**Some in Congress Want to Mandate PFAS MCL:** Last week, Representative Boyle (PA) introduced the Protect Drinking Water from PFAS Act. The measure would require the EPA to develop an SDWA regulation for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water within two years. The House Energy & Commerce Committee is expected in the coming weeks to hold a hearing on PFAS legislation. The bill, [HR 2377](#), would amend the SDWA by requiring EPA to publish a maximum contaminant level goal and set a drinking water regulation for “total” PFAS within two years of the bill’s passage. It is not clear what kind of “regulation” the agency would be required to issue as the legislation requires the EPA to craft a “primary drinking water regulation,” a term that includes both a health-based maximum contaminant level (MCL) that environmentalists and states have sought and a technology-based treatment standard that environmentalists and others have pursued as an interim step before regulators craft an MCL. House Energy & Commerce Committee Chair Pallone (NJ) calls PFAS contamination “one of the greatest public health crises of our time,” and says the legislation “directs EPA to at long last take that crisis seriously, and set a strong, binding nationwide drinking water standard.” Environmentalists are preparing to release new data showing growing contamination from PFAS in drinking water. The Environmental Working Group (EWG), which has long called for a strict drinking water standard for PFAS, says that the group and Northeastern University researchers will release an updated report this week showing that the number of locations with PFAS-contaminated tap water “has soared” far past the 172 locations they identified in 40 states last year. A previous analysis conducted by EWG of federal and state data concluded that more than 1,500 drinking water systems that serve up to 110 million people may be contaminated with the two most common PFAS ([EWG](#)).

**Some in Congress Want to Ban Asbestos - Raising Concerns of Chlorine Production:** [HR 1603](#), the "Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2019" introduced by Representative Bonamici (OR), would amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of asbestos and asbestos-containing mixtures and articles. The House of Representatives Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change of the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing on May 8, 2019 on the legislation.

**EPA Announces \$87 Million in Grant Funding to States for Lead in Schools Testing and for Disadvantaged Communities:** ([EPA](#)).

**EPA Region 6’s Rural Water Issues Conference May 21-22:** EPA has [opened registration \(agenda\)](#).

**The Idaho Rural Water Association Apprenticeship Program is Looking for Candidates to Help Fill the Void Created by the Coming Wave of Retirements** ([local news](#)).

**Pennsylvania To Start Testing Approximately 500 Public Water Systems for PFAS Within Weeks** ([Philly Inquirer](#)).

**Federal 2017 Tax Bill to Cost Private Water Company in New Hampshire Over \$1 Million in Unexpected New Taxes:** The Hampstead Area Water Company (HAWC) has already been handed a \$300,000 tax bill for the \$1 million construction of a new water tank, and is now looking at another \$850,000 in taxes for additional components of the major water infrastructure project. The idea behind the federal Contribution In Aid of Construction (CIAC) tax is to tax industries that benefit from government or private donations related to construction ([local news](#)).

**Montana Senator Tester Wants Infrastructure Bill to Include Rural Water (local news):** Last week, Congressional Democratic leaders met with President Donald Trump to discuss the topic ([local news](#)).

**Cyanide in Community Drinking Water Well Spurs Quest to Join Rural Water District** ([news](#)).