

## Rural Water Policy Advisory [7/23/2018]

**New Peer-Reviewed and Published Arsenic Study Contradicts EPA's Arsenic Risk Assessments:** A [June study](#) published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health documents an ecological analysis of recent lung cancer incidence for U.S. counties with a groundwater supply with low arsenic concentrations. This is the first large ecological study of lung cancer risk from drinking water arsenic levels that specifically examined the dose-response relationships for populations whose exposure was below  $\leq 50$   $\mu\text{g/L}$ . The models demonstrated an association that is both negative and statistically significant. Major epidemiological studies from areas with very high arsenic exposures measured in hundreds of  $\mu\text{g/L}$  to a few  $\text{mg/L}$ , particularly in Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and South America, have been conducted and have demonstrated increased cancer risk at exposure levels of 300–2000  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Similarly, studies from Chile showed increased risk in populations with arsenic exposures of 800  $\mu\text{g/L}$  or greater. However, the dose-response relationship for arsenic concentrations below 100  $\mu\text{g/L}$  is uncertain. The study found a statistically significant negative association for low levels of arsenic and lung cancer incidence in U.S. counties. The study demonstrates that low exposure levels are not associated with an increased risk of lung cancer but rather are significantly associated with a decreased risk of lung cancer ([Dr. Lamm, et al.](#)).

**EPA PFAS Public Meeting in Horsham, Pennsylvania:** Local, state, and EPA officials – as well as consumer advocates from the mid-Atlantic region – testified at a July 25 forum sponsored by EPA Region 3 ([ABC News](#)). Many of the presenters urged EPA to take actions regarding PFAS contamination of local drinking water supplies such as setting an MCL under the Safe Drinking Water Act, increasing access to monitoring and providing an alternative to passing treatment cost on to local consumers. All the local governments that presented at the session explained how their local governments, when faced with contamination, implemented treatment to remediate the PFAS to "non-detect" levels - they were not satisfied merely to treat the water under the EPA health advisory level ([70 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS](#)).

**Senators Wicker (MS) and Heitkamp's (ND) Rural Water Clean Water Technical Assistance Legislation Could be Taken Up by Senate Next Week as Part of Senator Barrasso's Water Infrastructure Bill** ([Bloomberg News](#)): NRWA testified in the Senate in favor of the bill ([U.S. Senate](#)).

**U.S. Fisheries Agencies Propose Changes to Improve Implementation of Endangered Species Act:** FWS and NOAA are proposing revisions to the Endangered Species Act regulations aimed at reducing the regulatory burden on citizens, while simultaneously encouraging collaborative conservation ([U.S. FWS](#)).

**Signed Copy of Senator Barrasso's Letter to EPA Urging Them to Follow the Law and Fix the EPA Technical Issue Problem ([letter](#)).**

**"More Evidence of Nitrate Cancer Risk in Drinking Water":** Recent research suggests that the standard, decided in 1991, is out of date ([Circle of Blue](#)).

**More Than 200 Environmental Activists were Murdered Last Year as Government-sponsored Killings Linked to Lucrative Projects Soared ([French News](#)).**

**Two Michigan Communities Told to Stop Using Water Due to PFAS**

**Contamination:** Authorities handed out free bottled water Friday for two Michigan communities. About 3,000 people are in the affected water system. The source of the Michigan contamination is under investigation. The area has a history of paper manufacturing. Officials set up a free bottled-water distribution site at a high school and were draining the city's water system ([U.S. News](#)).

**Scientists say Most Tap Water in the U.S. is Just as Good as the Water in Bottles or Streaming Out of a Filter ([NPR News](#)).**

**Flint Water Heroes' Schism:** Dr. Marc Edwards, Virginia Tech University professor who is credited with revealing the city's lead-tainted tap water, is suing activists Melissa Mays, Paul Schwartz, and Yanna Lambrinidou claiming the defendants entered into an ongoing civil conspiracy to attack and damage Edwards' professional reputation ([MI Radio](#)).