

Rural Water Issues Advisory [7/8/2019]

House to Take Up PFAS Legislation: Following the Senate's recent passage of comprehensive PFAS legislation two weeks ago, the House of Representatives is scheduled to begin consideration of its own version of the defense authorization bill after the House Rules Committee determines which amendments can be offered on the House Floor. The committee is scheduled to hold a hearing on the issue on July 8. Members of Congress from New Hampshire have introduced legislation in the House to require EPA to develop Clean Water Act (CWA) effluent limits for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) by 2022, which will likely be considered as a floor amendment by the Rules Committee. [The Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act](#), sponsored by Representatives Pappas (NH) and Kuster (NH), would require EPA, within 30 days of enactment, to add PFAS to the list of CWA toxic pollutants and develop effluent standards for facilities that discharge PFAS directly to waterbodies and pretreatment standards for facilities that discharge PFAS to municipal wastewater treatment facilities by 2022.

AWWA Urges Congressional Contact Regarding House PFAS Legislation (July 2, [AWWA Advisory](#)).

Should EPA Set an MCL for Perchlorate: One option contained in EPA's proposed [Perchlorate Rule](#) from May 23 is for EPA to not set a final MCL for perchlorate because "perchlorate does not occur in public water systems with a frequency and at levels of public health concern and there may not be a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction through a drinking water regulation." If EPA were to conclude with this assertion, the final action would be a withdrawal of the determination to regulate and there would be no MCLG or national primary drinking water regulation for perchlorate. Comments are due in approximately 60 days. The EPA proposal show only two communities, with a total population of 64,733, would see a benefit from a national rule of 56 ug/L. If the MCL were set at 18 ug/L, one small system and 16 large drinking water systems would be affected, with a total population of 701,180. Only one large system would be affected if the level were set at 90 ug/L.

EPA Water Official Warns of Aging Water Workforce: In a recent visit to Green Bay (WI), David Ross, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, made it clear he is worried about the aging workforce within the water industry, calling it "daunting." Ross said the filter plant technicians and the water quality managers are the true environmental heroes ([Channel 2 News](#)).

Michigan to Add Fifth Liter Sampling for their Lead Testing: In the coming weeks, Michigan communities will have to sample the first liter drawn from a house as well as the fifth liter. State officials expect to see more drinking water systems exceeding limits for lead. Approximately 100 communities will send the state samples in coming weeks, and an additional 300 will follow in the fall ([US News](#)).

Alaska Wastewater Sewer Stops Using Biosolids for Composts, Cites No Safe PFAS Levels for Biosolids, Action NOT Required by Regulation ([US News](#)).

Public Opposition to Stop Chloramines in Maine: A citizens advocacy group called "Kittery Citizens Concerned About Chloramines" led the resistance over health and environmental concerns. **Flashback:** Senator Bernie Sanders and Erin Brockovich Oppose Chloramines - *"The use of chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia to treat water, and other money-saving tricks have no place in our drinking-water rules* ([USAToday 2016](#))."

Flint Mayor Tells EPA Its Letter on Water Plant Staffing Wasn't Necessary: Tells EPA that they should have addressed any concerns during monthly conference calls with the city and state. "It is alarming that you would deem it necessary to send this letter to me, when month after month we communicate with the EPA along with EGLE to provide you updates on the progress that city had and continues to make to provide the necessary staffing levels for Flint's public water supply for the safety of residents," Flint Mayor Karen Weaver's letter says ([Mlive.com](#)).