

Rural Water Policy Advisory [8/20/2018]

Senate and House Expecting to Expedite Conference of WRDA Bill in the Coming Weeks: NRWA heard from the Senate committee of jurisdiction that they are expecting to pass their version of the bill (S. 2800) in the coming weeks and quickly conference the bill with the House-passed version (H.R. 8). The Senate version contains all the rural water-helpful provisions ([more](#)). The [leadership](#) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will have to support the Senate provisions in order for them to be included in the final bill.

NRWA Supports EPA Proposal to Make Data and Science Used for EPA Rules to be Made Public: On Thursday, NRWA [filed comments](#) to EPA's proposal to "strengthen transparency" in the science it uses to craft regulation ([EPA](#)). Many major scientific journals question the proposal ([The Atlantic](#)). NRWA claims:

"SDWA regulations and National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) result in a significant economic burden on small and rural communities... Considering that rural and small communities are controlled and governed by people who are locally-elected, all data, scientific studies and discretionary administrative decisions underlying federal actions that supercede local decisions should be made 'publicly available in a manner sufficient for independent validation' and with clear explanation of discretionary decisions. NRWA fully supports a new regulation that requires use of peer-reviewed information, consistent data evaluation procedures, data transparency, and reproducible scientific assessments."

Pediatricians Dispute Whether Flint Children Were Poisoned by Lead in Water: Flint pediatrician and activist Dr. Hanna-Attisha disputes what happened to the children in Flint with Dr. Hernan Gomez, a board certified toxicologist, pediatrician and emergency room doctor in Flint ([Detroit News](#)).

EPA's PFAS Presentation from Last Week's Session: On Tuesday, August 14th, the EPA held a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) community engagement in Fayetteville, North Carolina ([EPA presentation](#)).

Illinois Governor Signs Bill to Ease Private Takeover of Water Utilities: On Friday, the governor signed the bill that allows private water companies to buy out water utilities and spread the costs across its existing ratepayers and removes a limit on the size of water systems that private companies can buy. Illinois American Water and Aqua Illinois are the two biggest companies that serve residents whose municipalities have outsourced water service. Homer Glen Mayor George Yukich lambasted the new law. "It's going to upset a lot of people. They're already charging us so much money," he said. Homer Glen is served by Illinois American Water ([Chicago Tribune](#)).

Baltimore's Mayor Signed Legislation to Ban Privatization of the City's Water System ([WBAL TV](#)).

U.S. Says Conserving Oil is No Longer an Economic Imperative ([AP News](#)).

City of Newburgh (NY) Sues US Air Force for Contaminating Water with PFAS ([City's Homepage](#)).

USDA Partners to Improve Rural Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in 23 States (USDA): One project, the Waterworks District No. 3 - Parish of St. Landry will receive a \$500,000 loan to extend water lines under Three Mile Lake to serve the North Wilderness subdivision. The Water District currently serves 154 customers. The project will enable it to extend services to 116 new customers within St. Landry Parish ([USDA](#)).

Judge Overturns Trump's Delay of WOTUS Rule in 26 States: On Thursday, a U.S. District Court in South Carolina overturned the Trump administration's recent attempt to delay the Waters of the U.S. rule, saying that the Trump administration had failed to offer the public a proper opportunity to comment ([The Hill](#)).

National Rural Water Association

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