

Rural Water Policy Advisory [9/10/2018]

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Rural Water Clean Water Act Technical Assistance Provision: The House and Senate environmental committees are in discussions to reconcile their two versions of the 2018 Water Resources and Development Act (The Senate's [S. 2800](#) and the House's [H.R. 8](#)). There is an urgency to finalize a Senate-House WRDA legislative package because it will have to pass Congress and be presented to the President before this year's adjournment. The Senate included Senator Wicker's bill, S. 518, that authorizes a new initiative that would allow states to use up to 2 percent of their clean water state revolving fund for technical assistance. Reports from the discussion indicate the [House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee](#) is resisting Senator Wicker's legislation.

EPA Explains PFAS Drinking Water Plans at House Hearing: A House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee held a hearing on PFAS in drinking water last week ([YouTube](#)). Numerous members of the subcommittee urged the EPA witness to develop a maximum contaminant level for PFAS. However, the Agency's representative made no commitment to speed up or add to current agency pledges to address perfluorinated chemicals. In an interesting exchange, Representative McKinley (WV) asks the EPA witness whether PFAS is the top water-related health risk in the country, and the EPA representative answers that it is not ([YouTube](#)).

Supreme Court Nominee Criticized by Environmental Groups ([Senator Bernie Sanders YouTube](#)).

Florida Town Violates EPA Disinfection Byproducts Levels; Town Says Water is Safe; Town Spends \$32,200 on Issue; Town Faces Fines Up to \$5,000 Per Day; Water Exceeds EPA Levels by Almost One Thousandth of a Part Per Million of Total Trihalomethanes ([Dundee, Florida](#)).

Detroit School District Provides Bottled Water to All Schools for Opening Day After Lead Score: The school administration said last week that water fountains would be shut down across the entire district after new test results showed high levels of lead or copper in some fixtures at 16 schools. The water utility supplier said, "The water at the treatment plants is tested hourly, and it has no lead service lines connected to any school building. The drinking water is of unquestionable quality ([MLive.com](#))."

EPA Seeks Six-month Extension on Perchlorate Deadline: EPA requests that a federal judge extend by six months its court-ordered deadline to propose a first-time drinking water standard for perchlorate. EPA claims delays in peer reviewing its underlying science necessitate the additional time.

New Jersey Sets Drinking Water Standard for PFNA: The first-in-the-nation drinking water standard for perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) is approved in New Jersey, setting a standard of 13 parts per trillion ([Philadelphia Inquirer](#)).

EPA Urges D.C. Circuit To Reject Environmentalists' Request to Force Implementation of the Obama Administration's RMP Rule: In a September 5 filing, EPA urged the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to follow normal procedure, allowing the agency and other litigants adequate time to consider appealing the court's August 17 ruling vacating the Trump administration's nearly two-year delay of an Obama-era update to the agency's Risk Management Plan (RMP) facility accident prevention rule.

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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