

Sampling of Mississippi Primacy Agency Comments on WIFIA:

"Sending funds to those WIFIA projects may conflict with the state's master plan and its state health protection goals... There is currently no indication as to how WIFIA will interact with the State primacy agencies on the projects i.e. plan and specifications review, environmental reviews, etc... How does the federal government know what the individual states need in the way of infrastructure....? They won't know... WIFIA will most likely limit the state's involvement... In the current economic situation the country is facing, the funding "pie" is finite. A slice of that pie for WIFIA will come at the expense of the SRF... States, if they choose, can leverage from the market for additional appropriations. As those [WIFIA] benefits already exist in the existing SRFs, the effort to staff up (at EPA) and create the new program seems wasteful and unnecessary... The solution to infrastructure is not a new program, but increased funding of the existing, proven one... AWWA representatives were once again presenting the merits of what WIFIA could do for state primacy officials. One of their main statements was how WIFIA could be used to fund the "big" projects that the SRF couldn't. However when pressed, the AWWA representative could not recall a single project in the entire country where the SRFs had turned the system away for the project being too big to handle ([full comments](#))." At the same time Congress and EPA are moving to divert SRF funding to WIFIA, New Mexico reports on the increasing financial challenges for small and poor community water systems. The Upper Arroyo Hondo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (Taos County) recently reported high levels of uranium in its water supply. Similar issues were discovered with fluoride levels in the water provided to 800 people served by another small water system in Llano Quemado. In both cases, the communities are facing staggering rate increases for customers. In Hondo, base rates went from \$7 a month to \$65 ([more](#)).

Anger is An Energy: A number of state executive directors have expressed surprise, frustration, incredulity, etc. in the EPA's trend of directing technical assistance funding to [universities](#), internal [EPA priorities](#), and [consultants](#) – especially when Congress believes it is providing the funding for EPA to help small communities comply with federal standards. Some have suggested that NRWA should change our historical [support for the EPA funding](#) in light of the agency's actions. Another option is to pass a new law that mandates that EPA follow Congress's intent in how to utilize the technical assistance funding ([more](#)). Such a law has passed the U.S. Senate ([S. 611](#)) and is awaiting action in the House ([H.R. 2853](#)).

Senator Wicker Asks EPA about the Necessity of Tier 2 Public

Notices for Disinfection Byproducts Violations (DBPs): EPA responds with this "[answer](#)."

North Dakota Federal District Court Blocks EPA 'Waters of the United States' (WOTUS) Rule: Last week, the North Dakota district court granted a preliminary injunction blocking implementation of the EPA WOTUS rule defining "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. The suit was filed by 13 states (Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming) that claimed that the WOTUS rule is a threat to state sovereignty because it asserts federal jurisdiction over wetlands and waters that should be state controlled. The district court concluded that the states were likely to succeed on the merits as the EPA had adopted an "exceptionally expansive" view of its own jurisdiction under the CWA. EPA has announced that it will apply the WOTUS rule in states that did not join this suit, resulting in a confused situation in which the scope of asserted federal regulatory jurisdiction will be more expansive and more well-defined in some states than in others. Subsequently, the district court responded with an order for supplemental briefing on whether the injunction "applies nationally or in a limited geographic area." Briefs are due on Tuesday.

***"Everybody on my Block Wants Rural Water"*:** In Leonard (ND), residents want to bring in rural water service to address concerns some have about health risks from arsenic found in many drinking wells in the area. One resident was found to have 127 parts per billion of arsenic in his water. — more than 12 times the maximum recommended. Jerry Blomeke, manager of Cass Rural Water, explained the financing needed to complete the project ([more](#)).

Summer Break; Utah City Officials Show Their Water Treatment Plant to Congressman Chris Stewart ([more](#)).

New Water Chlorinator Could Save 1.5 Million Children: The Zimba automated chlorinator fits onto community taps and hand pumps, automatically making up to 8,000 liters of water drinkable before needing a refill. The best part: it has no easily breakable moving parts, and doesn't require electricity. The device is essentially a large box — about the height of a bedside nightstand but much thinner — preloaded with chlorine that can be hooked up to a water source. The pressure of the incoming water triggers the release of the right amount of sodium hypochlorite solution. The freshly chlorinated water flows out from the tap. The device can be hooked to most water sources, from hand-pumps to water faucets, within 30 minutes. The downside of traditional ways of chlorinating water with

tablets is that people might forget to follow through ([NPR](#)).

Navajo Farmers Reject EPA Claim of Water Safety After Mine Spill:

Farmers along the San Juan River have voted to keep irrigation canals closed for at least a year following a spill of toxic sludge at a Colorado gold mine. Farmers don't want to risk contaminating the soil for future generations. *"I am furious that the U.S. EPA has placed the Navajo Nation into this position,"* said the Navajo Nation Tribal President Russell ([more](#)).

Water Wars Are a Myth: Water expert says doom and gloom predictions of increasing battles around the world over water are a myth, with only a handful of disagreements over shared waters leading to armed conflict ([more](#)).

Kentucky Drinking Water Taste Contest Winner: Lewisport's water apparently is Kentucky's best among rural systems. It will now move on to national competition. Lewisport, with a population of just more than 1,700, is in Hancock County along the Ohio River in Western Kentucky. Lewisport is something of a legend in rural drinking water competitions, having won for the past six years ([more](#)).

Vicksburg (MS) Water Issues Boil Order: Officials issued a boil water notice for thousands of Vicksburg residents after power loss ([more](#)).

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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