

Congress to Extend Appropriations Bill into Trump Administration:

House and Senate Republican leaders agreed to abandon plans to finish up this year's appropriations bills this fall in order to give the new Congress and incoming Trump administration the final say over Fiscal Year 2017 spending by extending the current Continuing Resolution until March 31. Earmarks could be back by the March 31 deadline as the new Congress and Administration would renegotiate the final FY 2017 appropriations bills. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan has suggested that the House drop its earmark moratorium and begin inserting special projects into the bills. This would require a rules change for Congress which will be up for consideration in January. To correct the problem of the termination of EPA funding on-site technical assistance, the change in the rules to allow for earmarking would have to include the EPA appropriations bill and allow non-profit organizations to be eligible.

NRWA Stands Up for Rural and Small Communities: On Friday, NRWA urged the EPA to rely on voluntary collaboration, outreach training, and on-site technical assistance to ensure compliance with the questionnaire versus enforcement and civil penalties when implementing the Agency's National Study of Nutrient Removal and Secondary Technologies: Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) Screener Questionnaire in the targeted 16,000 communities ([NRWA](#)).

Congress to Vote to Repeal Labor Department's Rule on Overtime

Pay: A lead Congressman is forecasting a vote in Congress next year to nullify the Labor Department's rule allowing more workers to earn overtime pay. Under expedited Congressional procedures, any regulation finalized in the last 60 days of a legislative session can be revisited in the next session and voiding the regulation could be put to a vote. There is renewed optimism in the effort to repeal the federal overtime rule because sending the Congressional "resolution of disapproval" next year may be approved by a President Donald Trump rather than head to a certain veto from President Barack Obama. The overtime rule was finalized on May 23 and would go into effect within the 60 day window if the House or the Senate adjourns by December 9. The Labor Department's regulation, with an effective date of December 1, will raise the salary level below which employees qualify for overtime pay even if they perform administrative, professional or executive duties. The rule would raise the annual salary threshold from \$23,660 to \$47,476. An economic adviser to candidate

Trump has said the regulation would be very harmful to job creation because it forces companies to rethink whether they are going to hire people.

EPA Finalizes the Fourth Contaminant Candidate List 4: EPA issues the final Fourth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 4) which includes 97 chemicals or chemical groups and 12 microbiological contaminants ([more](#)).

EPA Finalizes Rule on Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems: EPA announces changes to how small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) obtain coverage under NPDES permits ([more](#)).

Ontario First Nation Water System – “*There’s no water in the community*”: The problem stems from the following issues: four ruptures that were found in pipes that carry water from a treatment facility to homes; the pump from the water plant itself that is also broken; the community could be without water for two weeks; an outbreak of skin rashes among children, etc. ([more](#)).

Doney Park, Coconino County, Arizona Issues Boil Advisory for E.coli ([more](#)).

Florida Woman Tampering With and Shutting Off Power at Wastewater System Sites ([news](#)).

Both Sides in Syrian War Accused of Using Chlorine Gas Bombs ([more](#)).

President-Elect Trump Water Infrastructure Plan Update: The details of

the \$1 trillion plan have not been revealed ([more](#)). The President-Elect touted his infrastructure plan as a top priority, mentioning it in his election-night victory speech. Much of the conversation over the plan includes encouraging private investors to put their money into infrastructure. A concern with this concept is it relies on transferring public assets to private investors in the form of profit versus dedicating all public assets to building the infrastructure. New York Times' Paul Krugman said, *"How is this kind of scheme supposed to finance investment that doesn't produce a revenue stream? Toll roads are not the main thing we need right now; what about sewage systems, making up for deferred maintenance, and so on? You could bring in private investors by guaranteeing them future government money — say, paying rent in perpetuity for the use of a water system built by a private consortium. But this, even more than having someone else collect tolls, would simply be government borrowing through the back door — with much less transparency, and hence greater opportunities for giveaways to favored interests"* (NYTimes).

Illegal Annexation of Rural Water District Costs Oklahoma City

\$859,904.51: A rural water manager said by the time this case is finally resolved, the city will have spent a "huge amount of taxpayers' money in a failed attempt to take away territory for which the city never had the right to serve." The rural water district's lawyer fees total \$389,562 which may be paid by the city as well ([more](#)).

National Rural Water Association

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