**Congress to Pass Massive New Water Legislation this Week**: Congressional leaders are expressing optimism that a final agreement on the Water Resources and Development Act of 2016 can be negotiated in the coming days and Congress can pass the bill by the end of the week (and the end of this Congress).  Congressman Fred Upton (MI), chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, told reporters Wednesday night, “I feel very good about the outcome of where things are going. We’re very close.”

**The Power of An Association**: Vermont Rural Water Association pressed its Congressional delegation to support final passage and listed the beneficial provisions in the Senate version of the bill ([VRWA](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4WSfEVpx5MSYVdGQTVjNXllSU9PLVU2U1Bobk9IWUx4dnJv/view?usp=sharing)).  One provision would allow for millions of dollars of wastewater technical assistance funding to available to non-profit organizations.  Congressional negotiators told us last week that they were persuaded by the arguments raised by South Carolina Rural Water Association ([statement](http://ruralwater.org/SCRWA%20WRDA%202016%20Support%20Letter.pdf)) to limit burdensome changes to the state revolving fund application.  NRWA urged Congress to retain local democratic authority over certain public notice requirements of drinking water data ([NRWA](http://ruralwater.org/SCRWA%20WRDA%202016%20Support%20Letter.pdf)).  No word yet on how negotiators have resolved this issue.

**NRWA's Wilmer Melton to Participate on EPA Advisory Committee This Week**: North Carolina Rural Water Association’s Wilmer Melton sits on the National Drinking Water Advisory Committee which will convene for two days in Washington to deliberate on all aspects of the federal drinking water program including: the new National Drinking Water Program, Drinking Water Implementation, Emerging Contaminants/Health Advisories, HABs, etc. ([agenda](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4WSfEVpx5MSQjhGTEhnUVJIdUdqaDlNSEJfSUQ0eGFmclhr/view?usp=sharing)).

**NRWA to Petition White House to Halt New EPA Risk Management Rule**: A coalition of industry trades groups are urging the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to return EPA's proposed stricter risk management plan (RMP) facility safety rule for further review to the agency ([statement](http://ruralwater.org/rmp%20industry.pdf)).  The NRWA Regulatory Committee is likely to take action and urge the White House to return the rule to EPA ([NRWA's comments on the proposed rule](http://ruralwater.org/rmp%20comments%20NRWA.pdf)).

**EPA Employees Could Resist Implementing Trump Agenda**: An EPA employee told Bloomberg news last week, "Many EPA staffers became disgruntled after President-elect Donald Trump peppered his campaign appearances with critical rhetoric against the agency.  Staffers overwhelmingly opposed Trump..."  During the campaign, Trump called for “tremendous cutting” at the EPA, adding that staffers “aren't doing their job” while “making it impossible for our country to compete.”  EPA has approximately 15,000 employees.  High-level EPA career officials have advised rank-and-file agency employees to refuse contact with any Trump landing team members and anyone from outside the EPA - and avoid internal complaints, emphasizing the need to be “stronger together” which was the slogan of Hillary Clinton's campaign.  **Sierra Club Calls Trump EPA Leader One of the Single Greatest Threats to Planet**([more](https://sputniknews.com/environment/201611131047378107-scientific-community-hoping-convince-trump/))**.**

**Foam Fills Philadelphia Streets After Explosion Leaves Thousands Without Power** ([photos](http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/photo-galleries/2016/12/03/foam-fills-center-city-street-after-explosion-at-peco-station/#.WEMjbPd9iw8.twitter)).

**EPA Has the Necessary Data to Make Drinking Water Regulation Determination for PFOS and PFOA**: EPA does have enough data to make a "preliminary determination" to set an enforceable standard for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).  The Safe Drinking Water Act dictates a method and certain findings the Agency must determine and announce before setting a final standard.  Last week, the chief of EPA's drinking water standards division acknowledged EPA has the necessary information to make a determination and that any decision would be made by the Trump administration.  Using data from EPA's most recent unregulated monitoring rule (UCMR 3 data), sampling from 4,900 water systems showed 95 detected PFOS and 108 detected PFOA.

**Kentucky Releases State Annual Water Reports** ([link](http://water.ky.gov/Documents/2016.pdf)).

**EPA Enforcement Results in Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Spending $6 Million on Six Wastewater Facilities** ([EPA](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/navajo-tribal-utility-authority-spending-6-%20million-bring-six-wastewater-facilities)).

**Congress May Leave Early in an Attempt to Thwart Overtime Rule** ([more](https://www.globalpolicywatch.com/2016/11/use-of-the-congressional-review-act-in-the-115th-congress-to-overturn-obama-administration-regulations/)).

**Private Water Claims Better Compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act** ([Twitter](https://twitter.com/Truthfromthetap/status/791648651173105664)): November 28 – a Boil water advisory expanded into Alum Creek and Tornado areas as West Virginia American Water expands the boil water advisory to include 1,100 customers ([more](http://www.wsaz.com/content/news/WVAW-reporting-outage-in-Southridgearea-403403076.html)).  December 3 – Indiana American Water restored service to about 135 customers who were without it, but officials are advising affected residents to boil water ([more](http://abc7chicago.com/news/water-main-break-causes-sinkhole-in-gary-boil-order-issued/1638127/)).

**Flint Water Hero's Husband Faces Retaliation from the U.S. Navy**: Lee Anne Walters was the first Flint resident to notify the EPA of the city’s water problems.  Walters’ four year old was diagnosed with lead poisoning after being tested in December, 2014, eight months after Flint, Michigan began pumping polluted water from the Flint River.  Now her own husband, a Navy sailor, faces retaliation at work for her efforts ([RT news](https://www.rt.com/usa/368766-flint-family-retaliation-water-crisis-navy/)).

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**National Rural Water Association**