

**NRWA Presses Senate to Take up Water Bill:** Senator Inhofe (OK) is urging the Senate Leadership to call up [S. 2848](#), the Water Resources and Development Act of 2016, for a vote before their scheduled mid-July summer break. Inhofe is circulating a letter to the Leadership for Senate Republicans to sign advocating Senate Floor consideration of the bill ([letter](#)). Last week, state rural water associations were also urging their Senators to sign the letter. The following Senators have indicated they will sign: Inhofe (OK), Cassidy (LA), Kirk (IL), Graham (SC), Capito (WV), Vitter (LA), Boozman (AR), Barrasso (WY), Wicker (MS), Tillis (NC), Crapo (ID), Sullivan (AK), Alexander (TN), Rounds (SC), McCain (AZ), Heller (NV), Risch (ID), Murkowski (AK), and Rubio (FL).

**Erin Brockovich Defends Alabama Rural Water Manager from Governor's Criticism:** After the local water manager in Alabama issued a *do not drink* recommendation on June 2 due to industrial chemicals in the drinking water, the governor said, *"I am confident that there is no health-related crisis based on the water quality... My office... [was] not aware that this decision was being contemplated prior to it being announced."* Brockovich said on June 5, *"I applaud the work and efforts [of the]... General Manager... He is a man of integrity and honesty who has come forward to properly inform his consumers. He has been advising his consumers constantly for over three years about the PFOS and PFOA contamination...[and he] commenced litigation a year ago to cost recover from the negligent manufacturer of these toxic chemicals, further protecting his consumers from the high cost of cleanup... [and he] is a man of integrity"* ([more](#)). The governor adopted a policy which recommends that expectant mothers, women who are breast-feeding, and infants who use formula mixed with water consider avoiding tap water. The policy provides no such warnings for the general population. The problem with the governor's policy is that it does not answer the questions of exactly how old an infant can be to safely drink PFOS/PFOA tainted water, what is the upper limit of PFOS/PFOA tainted water a child can drink, and whether parents want to provide their children tainted water at all. The local general manager did not have the comfort of avoiding those essential questions when he had to make the decision that mattered.

**New Jersey Rural Water Association (NJRWA) Security Expert:** Rick Howlett, Executive Director with [NJRWA](#), has been selected by the U.S. EPA for its Focus Group to provide input into updating the federal guidance to assist drinking water and wastewater utilities with developing/enhancing their Emergency Response Plans (ERPs). EPA stated in the announcement, "Based on your extensive expertise in the Water Sector, we would like to invite you to be a member of this focus

group."

**Arkansas Section 1926 Attorney Heartsill Ragon Recovers Lost Taps and Cash Penalty for Rural Water District ([more](#)).**

**MIT Monitors City Sewer System Wastewater to detect Public Health Threats from Bacteria, Viruses, Chemicals, Disease, and Crime ([PBS](#)).**

**Ohio Wants to Take Control of Mobile Home Park over SDWA Violations ([more](#)).**

**EPA Says New LCR in 2017 to Change Sampling, Lead Service Line Replacement, and Public Notice ([more](#)).**

**Drinking Water in Three Colorado Cities Contaminated with Toxic Chemicals ([more](#)).**

**Uxbridge (MA) Water Contaminated with E. Coli Issues Boil Advisory ([more](#)).**

**EPA Bans Disposal of Fracking Wastewater at Public Treatment Plants ([June 13, EPA announcement](#)).**

**La Grulla (Texas) Water Storage Tank Collapses on Water Valves ([more](#)).**

**Arizona Corporation Commissioners Pass New Rules Controlling Small Water Companies:** Under the policies passed Friday, the Arizona utility regulators' proposals include faster rate hikes, interim managers to take over in emergencies, and grants for needed repairs, among other ideas ([more](#)).

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## **National Rural Water Association**

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