

**he Next President on EPA:** Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump would seek to purge the federal government of officials appointed by Democratic President Barack Obama and could ask Congress to pass legislation making it easier to fire public workers, according to Trump ally Chris Christie. "As you know from his other career, Donald likes to fire people," Christie stated in a closed-door meeting last week. Christie also said that changing the leadership of the Environmental Protection Agency, long a target of Republicans concerned about over-regulation, would be a top priority for Trump should he win in November ([Reuters](#)). Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has pledged to increase funding for water infrastructure and to protect vulnerable populations from being exposed to lead through drinking water and paint. Part of her \$275 billion infrastructure plan would include the creation of a \$25 billion national infrastructure bank to provide loans, loan guarantees and other types of credit enhancement. Clinton's "plan to fight for environmental and climate justice" calls for eliminating lead as a major public health threat within five years and devoting up to \$5 billion toward replacing lead paint in homes, schools, and child-care centers and to "remediate lead-contaminated soil." She has also pledged to enhance the criminal provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), add criminal provisions to the Lead Disclosure Rule, improve the lead inspection standards of the Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule, and increase the penalties for violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The Republican Party's 2016 platform proposes getting rid of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "We propose to shift responsibility for environmental regulation from the federal bureaucracy to the states and to transform the EPA into an independent bipartisan commission," reads the GOP platform.

**Colorado Small Water Utility Intentionally Contaminated with Marijuana Compound:** *"Hugo's 740 residents were told to stop drinking the water after the town's water supply tested positive for THC, the psychoactive chemical in Colorado's most famous cash crop. The town's Public Works Department investigated and found signs of tampering and 'forced entry' at one of the wells that supply the town's drinking water,"* ([NYTimes](#)).

**EPA Charges Environmentalist Who Exposed Flint Lead Contamination for Securing Lead Violations' Data** ([Twitter](#)).

**Mass. Municipal Stormwater Utilities Sue EPA Over Stormwater Permits:** Small municipalities in Massachusetts are claiming that the

separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit is unlawful because it goes beyond anything in the water law or current agency rules. They filed a petition for review on July 18 with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ([Court Brief](#)).

**Mysterious Green Slime Bubbles Up from Sewers in Utah Town** ([photos and video](#)).

**City of Sabetha (KS) Assistant City Administrator Nominated to Represent Kansas on the NRWA Board of Directors** ([news](#)).

**The EPA Finds Water Infrastructure Needs totaling \$655 Billion for Next Ten Years:** On July 12, EPA reiterated the results of an EPA-commissioned survey on water infrastructure needs: [drinking water \(\\$384 billion\) and wastewater \(\\$271 billion\)](#). In response to the funding challenge, Director of Indiana Department of Environmental Management Carol Comer on July 21 recommended regionalization or consolidation of several small water utility systems that lack resources.

**Hydrogen Sulfide Exposure Results in Fatality of Wastewater Worker in Texas** ([more](#)).

**EPA Webinar on Lead and Copper Tap Sampling Requirements for Small Systems, Elevated Levels of Lead in the Drinking Water in Flint, and Corrosion Control Optimization** ([July 26](#)).

**California to Set MCL 1, 2, 3-trichloropropane (TCP) of Five Parts per Trillion:** The chlorinated hydrocarbon is unregulated in drinking water at both the federal and state level. *“The small communities we represent strongly support the recommendation,”* said the Community Water Center ([more](#)).

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## **National Rural Water Association**

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