

# Rural Water Policy Advisory [7/17/2017]

**NRWA's Regional Water Solutions Initiative Pays off in Congress:** The annual "Rural Water District Policy Conference" to advance regional rural water solutions has paid off with new Congressional legislation ([more](#)).

## **House Committee Approves NRWA-Supported Compromise SDWA Amendments**

**Legislation:** On July 13<sup>th</sup>, the House Environment Subcommittee, chaired by Representative John Shimkus (IL), advanced legislation that seeks to bring greater investment in the country's aging drinking water infrastructure as well as facilitate compliance for our drinking water delivery systems ([the Drinking Water System Improvement Act](#)). The bill authorizes \$8 billion over 5 years for the drinking water revolving loan fund program. NRWA supports subcommittee passage of the bill because it included numerous provisions favorable to small and rural communities ([NRWA statement](#)). To become law, the bill would still have to pass the full committee, the House of Representatives, the Senate and be signed (or vetoed) by the President.

**House EPA and USDA Water Committee Pass Two Different Policies to Deal with the Controversy over Community Choice of Pipes (PVC versus Iron):** This week, the House Appropriations Committee passed a bill to limit reviews of local community choices in projects designated under the USDA rural water initiative. Also this week, the House Environment Subcommittee passed a bill to require Governors to certify that public water systems "*consider the costs and effectiveness of relevant processes, materials, techniques, and technologies for carrying out [DWSRF] projects.*" The text of both provisions is available [here](#).

**Power of a (Kentucky) Association:** Kentucky Rural Water Association was in contact last week with their friend and leader of the U.S. Senate, Mitch McConnell, about having the Senator urge the new EPA Administrator to use his authority to fix the EPA technical assistance funding problem by dedicating it to on-site technical assistance versus webinars ([more](#)).

**EPA Administrator's Religious Beliefs "Could" Shape Agency's Direction:** *"EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has attended Bible study in Washington with several other high-level administration officials. Pruitt's pastor says his religious background as being incredibly strong. The Bible has a dual belief in [environmental] stewardship or dominion... Stewardship; God wants people to care for creation... Dominion; God has given man control over God's creation... for example, hydraulic fracturing because you are using the resources of the earth to benefit people. There's also this idea that if God is in control and has a divine plan for the planet, that there isn't really a need to act as a person because God has already preordained what will happen. And so, there were some people who were telling me that that is their concern, if Mr. Pruitt does believe that ([E&E News](#))."*

**NRWA to Testify on State of Rural American's Infrastructure on Wednesday:** Thank you, Texas Rural Water Association member Brain Macmanus from East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation for representing all of rural America as NRWA's witness at the hearing ([U.S. House](#)).

**Federal Agency Charged to Prevent Cyber Attacks on Water Utilities Releases Update on How to Classify Data for Recovery Planning, the "Human Element in Cyber Attacks, and Water Systems' Assessments ([U.S. DHS](#))."**

**How Much is 130,000 Parts Per Trillion?:** A recent probe into perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) levels in Hoosick Falls, NY, groundwater uncovered "shockingly" high levels of contamination of groundwater levels of up to 130,000 parts per trillion. The U.S. EPA recommends that PFOA

should be below 70 parts per trillion in drinking water. Furthermore, residents are infuriated by a recent study that shows no increased rate of cancer among residents ([news](#)).

**The House Appropriations Committee's Interior Subcommittee Approved EPA's fiscal year 2018 Spending Bill on Wednesday** ([more](#)): The subcommittee included \$1,143,887,000 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$863,233,000 was designated for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

**Florida Sinkhole Swallows 2 Houses and Prompts Evacuation** (["Dramatic" video](#)).

#### **National Rural Water Association**

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