

Is Tier 2 Public Notice Appropriate for DPBs Violations, Or Is Tier 1 Public Notice More Appropriate? Should NRWA support legislation to correct the problem? Any thoughts or comments you may have are appreciated. Disinfection Byproducts Rules (DBP) violations result in mandatory notification of state primacy agencies within 48 hours and Tier 2 public notice which requires notification to customers. Many of these violations are for de minimus exceedance of the standards; less than one or two parts per billion above the regulated levels or standards. In 2014, there were 1,789 violations for DBP rules. The resulting prescriptive and alarming public notification of violations is causing some consumers to avoid drinking the public water. Some states have been compelled to issue additional public notices to warn consumers not to pay attention to the EPA mandated warnings.

Chlorine Gas Bombs in Iraq: British troops training Kurdish soldiers in Iraq are at risk of a chemical weapon attack launched by Islamic State militants who have developed rockets filled with chlorine gas for the first time ([more](#)).

Chemical Explosion Devastates Chinese Town: First firefighters on the scene sprayed water on calcium carbide, one of the dangerous chemicals being stored. Calcium carbide reacts with water to create acetylene, a highly explosive gas ([more](#)). The acetylene explosion could have detonated the ammonium nitrate. The two blasts were about 30 seconds apart, the second much larger than the first.

Kansas Rural Water Supports New NRWA Policy to Allow for POE Technology ([KRWA comments](#)).

Small Town Democracy: City of Oxford Council meeting includes the following agenda item, "*Request permission for two water plant operators to attend MS Rural Water Association and MS Department of Environmental Quality fall training in Tupelo at a cost of \$175.00 each*" ([more](#)).

Rikers Inmate Tests Positive for Legionnaires' Disease: Shower heads and six cooling towers suspected ([more](#)). North Carolina pharmaceutical plant discovers Legionnaires' disease in routine testing - in two external cooling towers ([more](#)).

Konawa (OK) Water Supply Detects E. Coli ([more](#)).

New Jersey Water Privatization: A trend in New Jersey involves the acquisition of publicly owned water utilities by investor-owned utilities such as Aqua America, American Water, United Water, Middlesex Water, or their peers. Recent (and controversial) changes to state law make outright sales even easier. Some think public utilities are not acquiring other public utilities because public water utility managers are not interested in anything that makes their system more complicated -- physically or politically. Are municipal utilities standalone systems with no natural partner that limits consolidation with all of the benefits for increased technical capabilities, shared finances? New Jersey has many examples in which a municipal system is sold to an investor-owned utility for cash. The municipality often will use that cash for general government purposes, not to improve the water utility or pay back its customers. Most municipal utilities were built using customer dollars, connections fees from developers (which ultimately are paid by their customers), and grants or low-interest loans from the state and federal governments. In nearly all cases, local property taxes didn't pay for the system. If cash from the new buyer goes to the municipality, you can bet that the investor-owned utility isn't providing that cash out of kindness. It is a business decision, and it expects to recover every dollar from their customers. The result is that the customers pay twice -- for the original system and its upkeep, and to repay the cash that went to the municipality ([Professor Van Abs, Rutgers](#)).

More Than 300,000 Homes in England Under Alert for Cryptosporidium Caused by Animal Excrement: United Utilities is advising customers to boil their water ([more](#)).

EPA Posts Several Waiver Requests Received for “American Iron and Steel (AIS)” Requirements: The AIS provision requires Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) assistance recipients to use iron and steel products that are produced in the United States ([more](#)).

EPA Launches New CWSRF Website: The website covers all facets of the program ([more](#)).

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