

**Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) Responds to Flooding:** On Friday, LRWA's Pat Creduer said, *"On Tuesday, there were approximately 86 systems under flood-related boil advisory. As of today, that number has dropped to 59! From what we are seeing, the water systems are quickly being brought up to standard; however, it is the wastewater systems that have been most affected. The wastewater problems are with the lift stations, and those problems range from burnt motors to control panels. We will continue to work with these systems and e-mail you the Disaster Relief Tracking sheet on a daily basis, as well as keep you updated with a brief summary."* Earlier in the week, Creduer said, *"The LRWA staff is working with over a hundred utilities that are on boil orders. The devastation is comparable to the Katrina/Rita Hurricanes but without the winds and the storm surges. Most roads are impassable, so we have to call the utilities to find out what their needs are. In some areas, the 500-year-old flood stage has already been exceeded."*

**NRWA Standing Up for States' Rights:** This week, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit stayed all proceedings on the EPA Waters (WOTUS) of the U.S. Rule until the Sixth Circuit determines its legality. The Eleventh Circuit said the Sixth Circuit was the obvious court to proceed to decision because it was farther along in the decisional path than the Eleventh Circuit. The WOTUS Rule was jointly promulgated on June 29 by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Corps of Engineers to clarify which waters and wetlands would fall under federal protection. NRWA will file an amicus brief in the Sixth Circuit in September or October. NRWA is the only water utility association participating in the case. Our brief ([working draft](#)) supports limiting federal regulatory authority to the Clean Water Act and the U.S. Constitution.

**Hexavalent Chromium Update:** Last week, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) and Erin Brockovich wrote EPA urging for a federal standard for hexavalent chromium arguing that the lack of a federal standard under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is causing confusion among the states. The groups are critical of lowest state standard (California's standard of 10 ug/L), saying it reflects an underestimate of the benefits and an overestimate of the water treatment costs ([EWG letter](#)). EPA has not determined that an MCL is necessary under the SDWA and is currently conducting an Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment for the health effects of hexavalent chromium. EWG is reacting to the

resignation of a top state health official in North Carolina in protest over Gov. Pat McCrory and his staff's questions about warnings directed at some residents whose tap water comes from wells likely tainted by hexavalent chromium from nearby Duke Energy coal-burning facilities.

**Rural California Town Gets Running Water Three Years After Drought Dried up Wells:**

Guillermina Avila, 55, and her husband, Leonicio Ramirez, 62, work on farms picking grapes and have been without water since their well went dry three years ago. Leonicio would drive a van to Terra Bella twice a week and fill tanks with non-potable water. Once home, he transferred that water to buckets. So when utility workers arrived Thursday and began tearing up the road to install a water line, Tania said her family felt relief. Perhaps that's why, after holding up a pitcher of water for the camera on Friday, Leonicio happily dumped the water on his head ([LA Times](#)).

**PBS Feature on How Septic Tanks Imperil Florida Ecosystem** ([PBS News Hour](#)).

**Maryland NICU Closed Due to Potentially Fatal Bacteria in Water Pipes:**

A neonatal intensive care unit at a Maryland hospital was temporarily shut down after the discovery of potentially deadly bacteria in the water pipes ([Wash Post](#)).

**Headline, "They Sprang up Years Ago across the State, Rural Water Associations Designed to Bring Clean Water to Small Communities":**

*"But growth and age and rising costs take their toll. And now some customers are unhappy now. 'It's nasty,' said Amy Ball, who lives on Tudor Road outside of Ecrú" ([Pontotoc Mississippi](#)).*

**In Rural Wisconsin, Well Water Tainted by Manure Spread on Nearby Farms:** "Since at least 2004, about 30 percent of tested wells in Kewaunee County have had unsafe drinking water, but operators of industrial-scale feedlots questioned if the tests were representative and if cows were the source" ([news](#)).

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**National Rural Water Association**

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