

# Rural Water Policy Advisory [8/14/2017]

**NRWA Praises New EPA Approach to Improve Drinking Water Safety and Compliance** ([Water World](#)).

**House to Move on Appropriations Bills:** On August 7th, the House Rules Committee announced the packaging of the eight remaining FY 2018 appropriations bills to be considered in the full House as one measure. It is expected that the new bill package would be taken up on the House Floor as soon as Congress returns from the August recess in September ([Rules Committee](#)).

**TV Coverage of Louisiana Rural Water Association's (LRWA) Taste Contest:** *"It's important for us because we're proud of the product we produce and it's very important to all our customers,"* said Claude Swope of the Houston River Water District. Rusty Reeves with LRWA says aesthetics such as taste, aroma, and clarity are important to consumers so they are important to water professionals as well ([TV news](#)).

**Missouri, Arkansas and Wisconsin Report 100% of Communities Use E-Reporting for CCRs:** Last week, NRWA conducted a survey to measure the use of e-reporting for delivery of Consumer Confidence Reports. Unexpectedly, many states reported that the practice was not widespread in their states - some reporting that their state agencies had resisted the federally-approved relief.

**Environmentalists Sue to Stop President's Executive Order (EO) Requiring EPA to Repeal Two Rules for Every New Rule:** The lawsuit brought by Public Citizen, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Communication Workers of America charges that the order is unlawful on its face, preempting statutory requirements at EPA and other agencies and violating a series of constitutional mandates such as the Take Care Clause which requires the president to *"take care that the laws be faithfully executed."* Arguments were heard last week in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. An appeals court judge challenged the Administration's lawyer during the hearing when he said, *"This executive order applies across agencies and is layered on top of each agency's rulemaking process itself, without accountability thus far, for how it's functioning in real time* ([law360](#))."

**President Trump Slows Federal Rulemaking to a Crawl in First Six Months – Delivering on Campaign Promise:** According to recent study by the American Action Forum, the number of new federal rules is now at a record low ([Fox News](#)).

**Congressional Democrats Challenge Administration on Task Forces Crafting Rules for Repeal:** Top Democrats on the House Oversight and Judiciary Committee are seeking a full list of names and detailed information by August 25 about task forces set up in each federal agency that are charged with recommending rules for repeal, replacement or modification. On February 24, President Trump signed an executive order that directed federal agencies to establish a regulatory reform officer (RRO) and a Regulatory Reform Task Force. In many cases, the names of task force members and their meetings with private-sector advocates have not been made public. NRWA submitted a list of EPA regulations that EPA should consider for repeal, replacement or modification ([NRWA](#)).

**New Orleans Braces for New Flooding as it Copes with Power Outages and Failed Pumps** ([LA Times](#)).

**Attorney General Jeff Sessions Wants a List of All Civil Settlements Reached by the EPA:** Sessions is requesting the list for the past 10 years that include payments to third parties in lawsuits after he banned the practice in June.

**Rural Water in Nigeria:** The Kwall primary school was built in 1946 without running water or sewage. After 71 years, it still has no toilet facility and pupils and teachers have to use nearby bushes for the bathroom. During the rainy season, the rains wash down all the sewage into a water canal that serves as the main source of water for people and animals in the community. Nigeria's population without access to safe, private toilets is at a staggering 71 percent (over 130 million people), with 25 percent (over 46 million) practicing open defecation ([news](#)).

### **National Rural Water Association**

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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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