**NRWA's New President Emphasizes “We” Can Succeed**: Steve Fletcher, General Manager of Washington County Water Company in Nashville, Illinois, became president of NRWA for the next two years in Orlando on September 14th.  At the acceptance ceremony, Fletcher explained his confidence in rural water’s success during his presidency because “we can’t fail,” and when *everyone* in the rural water movement advances our common agenda, we always succeed.  Fletcher noted this is how we continue to accomplish our legislative, regulatory, and funding objectives.  Attending Fletcher’s ceremony were the president and vice president of the governing board of the Washington County Water Company.  The governing boards, councils, etc. of rural and small water utilities should be the main supporters of rural water activity because it advances their local communities and all small and rural communities – and that is the main reason they participate in local civic activity.  If you think NRWA could be doing more to educate local governing boards about this axiom, please let us know.

**Senator Inhofe’s Massive Water Bill Passes the Senate**: The U.S. Senate passed the Water Resources Development Act (S. 2848) in a 94-3 vote Thursday.  The measure would provide $4.8 billion for programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act.  It contains some funding to address water infrastructure problems in Flint, Michigan and other cities.  The bi-partisan bill would be some of the most significant water infrastructure legislation enacted since the passage of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 and the Clean Water Act of 1987.  Senator Inhofe’s legislation addresses the priority water policy issues for small and rural communities detailed in NRWA’s press statement ([link](http://www.ruralwater.org/s%202848%20senate%20passage.pd)).  Senator Booker (NJ) proposed an amendment to the bill backed by the private water industry to impact small community consolidation ([text](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4WSfEVpx5MSeFAwWV9ZTnlCb2M/view?usp=sharing)) which was not included in the Senate-passed bill.

**Senate Amendment to Increase Small Community Monitoring Costs by Over Half a Billion Dollars Rejected**: New York’s Senator Gillibrand introduced an amendment to extend EPA unregulated monitoring to all public water systems ([more](http://americaninfrastructuremag.com/senator-gillibrand-requires-epa-test-public-water-systems-u-s-unregulated-contaminants/)).  NRWA provided a technical analysis of the amendment to the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, upon request, on September 12th that showed the new requirement could cost over $590,000,000 ([NRWA analysis](http://ruralwater.org/gillibrand%202.pdf)).  Senator Gillibrand’s amendment was not included in the final package of amendments added to the Senate-passed bill.

**Mississippi Rural Water Association Stands Up for Rural and Small Committee at the Public Service Committee**: Tomorrow at 1:30pm, MRWA will take its case to the state’s Supreme Court.  The case, *MRWA v. Mississippi Public Service Commission*, will be webcast live (l[ink](http://courts.ms.gov/appellate_courts/sc/scoralarguments.html)).

**Environmental Working Group to Release Report about Chemicals Found in Your Drinking Water Utility**: EWG is currently updating its database on the most recent data it has obtained from state agencies – and will soon be releasing the data to the public.  EWG “intends to tell the story of America's drinking water accurately and in a timely way.”  Before publication, EWG is offering water utilities the opportunity to review and verify the data.  To review your utility’s data, visit EWG’s database ([link](http://www.ewg.org/tap-water-utility/)) and use username: *water* and password: *utility* to access the information.  We accessed the City of Cleveland’s data and was provided the following: Aluminum 1 1 491.12 ppb - 491.12 ppb 491.12 ppb, Copper 15 65 0 ppb - 112 ppb 11.87 ppb, Lead (total) 4 65 0 ppb - 45.7 ppb 1.02 ppb, Manganese 1 1 7.31 ppb - 7.31 ppb 7.31 ppb, Nitrate & nitrite 47 49 0 ppm - 1.02 ppm 0.34 ppm, Nitrate 56 58 0 ppm - 1.02 ppm 0.33 ppm, Monochloroacetic acid 3 67 0 ppb - 2.77 ppb 0.05 ppb, Dichloroacetic acid 67 67 0.53 ppb - 21.41 ppb 10.23 ppb, Trichloroacetic acid 67 67 2.99 ppb - 14.1 ppb 7.11 ppb, Monobromoacetic acid 66 67 0 ppb - 9.89 ppb 3.05 ppb, Dibromoacetic acid 65 67 0 ppb - 2.71 ppb 1.8 ppb, Total haloacetic acids (HAAs) 67 67 9.99 ppb - 37.04 ppb 22.22 ppb, Chloroform 83 83 2.09 ppb - 28.6 ppb 14.1 ppb, Bromoform 37 83 0 ppb - 0.79 ppb 0.13 ppb, Bromodichloromethane 83 83 2.6 ppb - 13.99 ppb 8.49 ppb, Dibromochloromethane 82 83 0 ppb - 6.45 ppb 3.56 ppb, Total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) 83 83 6.21 ppb - 45.91 ppb 26.27 ppb

**No More Mailing Direct Public Notices for DBPs Stage II Violations**: It appears U.S. Senator Wicker has succeeded in having EPA announce that the public notices may be [e-delivered](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-12/documents/ccrdeliveryoptionsmemo.pdf).  There has been a long campaign from MRWA and KsRWA in support of this policy.  We plan to announce the details later this week.

 **Advocates Cite Earthquake In Call For Stricter EPA Controls On Fracking**: Environmentalists say a recent earthquake in Oklahoma linked to hydraulic fracturing wastewater injection wells which led regulators to shut down operations in the area demonstrate a need for EPA to craft new restrictions on well siting and measures to prevent further quakes as well as stronger remedies for victims such as restitution.

**New Jersey Weighs PFOA Drinking Water Limit Stricter Than EPA Advisory**: A New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) advisory board is proposing a first-in-the-nation enforceable drinking water standard for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), suggesting a level much stricter than EPA's drinking water advisory for the chemical and questioning whether EPA's level would sufficiently protect against cancer ([more](http://nhpr.org/post/new-jerseys-pfoa-recommendation-one-fifth-epas)).  **Lack of Public Confidence**: Fifty-eight and a half percent of survey respondents in Ohio reported using a water source other than the faucet six weeks after a toxic algal bloom shut down the drinking water system in Toledo.  Authors of the study say that it shows the importance of public education about advisories, but it also reveals the difficulty in repairing broken trust ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6535a1.htm)).

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**National Rural Water Association**