

**Clearly, He Intends to Prioritize Infrastructure,” says Republican Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming:** On Tuesday, the President released his trillion dollar infrastructure bill ([White House](#)). In reaction, Senator Barrasso, the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, said, “I plan to work with the administration, and the members of the committee, to move an infrastructure bill which addresses the needs of rural America, as well as the broader needs of the country.” In addition to eliminating all USDA rural development water funding, the President’s plan expands new funding or tax breaks to federal subsidies more targeted to private water companies including the lifting of the cap on Private Activity Bonds and funding of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program (WIFIA). This new focus on privatization of water utilities is occurring at the same time the private water industry and AWWA are pushing for new federal authority to compel small communities to consolidate ([private water initiative](#)).

**“Nova: Poisoned Water” Premieres Wednesday on PBS:** The hour-long documentary lays out the process of how water comes to flow through our taps, and it highlights the importance of understanding what we’re drinking, using the recent events in Michigan as a cautionary tale ([PBS](#)).

**Alaska, New Mexico, Wyoming, Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi, North Dakota and Delaware Rural Water Associations’ Effort to Fix EPA Funding:** Senators Wicker (MS) and Heitkamp (ND) are sponsoring a Senate letter to the new EPA Administrator ([letter](#)), urging him to fix the technical assistance funding issue by directing all the fiscal year 2017 technical assistance funding through a new law (PL 114-98) that requires EPA to give priority to what small communities find is most beneficial. Senators who lead the EPA appropriations subcommittee (Murkowski and Udall) and the EPA authorizing committees (Barrasso, Carper, Boozman and Duckworth) are being urged to co-sign the letter by their state associations.

**Water Hauling in Havana** ([The Guardian](#)).

**Paraguay’s Success in Expanding Rural Water Relies on a Model that Gives Responsibility to Local Boards Run by Volunteers** ([The Guardian](#)).

**EPA Takes Action to Postpone Costly Steam Electric Power Plant Effluent Guidelines Rule:** The EPA Administrator signed a proposed rule to postpone compliance dates for the effluent limitations guidelines and standards for steam electric power plants ([EPA](#)).

**Over 300,000 Cholera Cases Could Occur Over the Next Six Months in Yemen ([Reuters](#)).**

**Trump Calls for Cutting EPA Budget by 30%, Cutting 3,800 Jobs ([Wash Post](#)).**

**Thirty-Year Study Shows Urban Areas Becoming More Water Efficient and Most Rural Areas Becoming Less Efficient ([Study](#)).**

**Steve from Maryland Says Change to Waters of US Rule Can't Come Soon Enough for this California Farmer Being Fined \$2.8 Million for Plowing Field ([MSN](#)).**

**EPA Fines Pretty Prairie (KS), with only 300 Service Connections, for Not Having Enough Community Money to Afford Nitrate Removal Treatment ([news](#)).**

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