

Subject: Rural Water Policy Advisory [1/11/2016]

New Report Links West Virginia Chemical Spill To Water Privatization: The Civil Society Institute/Boston Action Research concludes that West Virginia American Water (WVAW), a subsidiary of the American Water Company, was unprepared for the Jan. 9, 2014, drinking water contamination event because the company spent too much of its resources on "dividend payments" to investors that could "otherwise be invested in the system." The authors conclude that customer experience with West Virginia American Water is similar to the experience of other American Water Company customers around the country and that the inadequate and widely criticized operations of private water companies globally have fomented a movement to remunicipalize privatized water utilities ([more](#)).

"The Men Responsible for Keeping Wellsville's Water Plant Award-winning Are Brent Roberts, Dana Harris, and Wayne Stonemetz": Village residents have benefited from a water system since 1883, when the water system was established. In 1916, a new intake dam and chamber was built using 2-inch-thick pine planks ([more](#)).

Missouri Rural Water Association's Guidance on Obtaining FEMA Assistance ([more](#)).

Fighting Fires in Rural Areas More Challenging: Issues highlighted by last week's fire in rural Missouri. *"Drop tanks were used. This is the system that is used in rural areas. The reason is because there are no fire hydrants in rural areas. [Designers] did not want fire hydrants in rural water system because most of the lines are 4 inches or less. If departments were to utilize hydrants in rural areas, the vacuum that would be created by hooking up to lines that are that small could cause major damage to the entire system. Tank trucks that carry water hold about 2,000 pounds. Firefighters empty the tankers and then have to leave to refill them,"* ([more](#)).

ASDWA's New President: June Swallow, the Drinking Water Administrator for Rhode Island, is the new Association of Safe Drinking Water Agencies President. Administrator Swallow said, *"I predict that 2016 will bring a greater focus on legionella and other water quality issues related to distribution system operations and premise plumbing..."*

Governor Branstad and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tout Water Tax Initiative: The plan would dedicate a one-cent sales tax to finance water quality projects to help farmers implement conservative measures that reduce farm chemical runoff ([more](#)).

Campaign Urges Latino Families To Trust Tap Water: The Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation and Westwood Unidos are implementing a new campaign to tell Latino families to trust water from the tap. The groups say over half of the Latino families don't drink tap water. Research has shown that minorities generally use bottled water more than whites ([Public Radio](#)).

Wall Street Journal Report Finds Rural Hospitals Not As Good As Urban Hospitals ([WSJ](#)).

EPA Publishes Determinations from the third Contaminant Candidate List (CCL3): EPA decided not to regulate four contaminants and deferring one other. The Agency choose to not make a final regulatory determination for strontium ([EPA](#)).

EPA Public Stakeholder Webinar on Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) This Wednesday: EPA will discuss "the proposed UCMR4 monitoring requirements, analyte selection and rationales, analytical methods, laboratory approval process and other aspects of the proposed rule." The UCMR4 was published in the Federal Register on December 11, and, once finalized, will require large public water systems to monitor for up to 30 chemical contaminants or contaminant groups between March 2018 and November 2020. In line with EPA's recent emphasis on understanding algal blooms' and resulting algal toxins' potential impacts on drinking water, the proposed UCMR4 focuses heavily on cyanotoxin analyses, with ten of the 30 contaminants to be sampled under UCMR4 being cyanotoxins ([more](#)).

Water Book Author Says that "Water Problems Are A Surrogate for Bad Government": In the introduction to his book [Let There Be Water](#), author Seth Siegel recounts the reasons for dire warnings of imminent world-wide water shortages, the outcome of which is predicted to be global "water wars."

Hackers Take Down Power Grid in Ukraine ([more](#)), **Iranian Hackers Breach Dam in New York** ([more](#))