

Rural Water Policy Advisory [10/22/2018]

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Florida Rural Water Association Coordinates Recovery in Mexico Beach and Panama City

(FRWA.net): A week after Hurricane Michael, rural residents feel stranded ([WashPost](#)). Governor Scott releases updates on Hurricane Michael response in [Jackson County](#), [Bay County](#), [Holmes County](#), and on [all boil water orders](#). Governor's update reports 76 generators have been deployed to Jackson County.

Top EPA Official Suspended for "Defending Children's Health," Claims Trump EPA Doesn't Care About Children ([CBS Video](#)): The suspended EPA official claims she was representing children and local "communities."

Trump EPA Official and Reporter Have Spat on Twitter Over Obama Vs. Trump Action on Lead Rule ([Twitter](#)).

Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi Used New Supreme Court Justice Kavanaugh's Reasoning to Overturn Obama-era Clean Water Act (CWA) Jurisdiction Rule: Citing newly appointed SCOTUS Justice Kavanaugh's preferred test for reviewing major agency rules, the three states' October 18 motion in district court relies on doctrine that agencies cannot undertake "major" new rules, especially when they would significantly expand their authority without clear authorization to do so in statutory text ([news](#)).

EPA Announce New "Six Year Review" of all Federal Drinking Water Standards: This is the EPA's fourth review; one resulted in the Arsenic Rule changes from 50 ppb to 10 ppb against [NRWA's objections](#).

Will Congress Mandate That EPA Craft Regulations for PFAS?: *"We're also working on bipartisan legislation that would require the Environmental Protection Agency to publish drinking water regulations for PFAS nationwide (U.S. Rep. Upton)."* The NRWA Regulatory Committee proposed an alternative policy to urge Congress and the EPA to resist a call for a national Safe Drinking Water Act MCL for PFAS and instead advocate for alternative federal initiatives to "assist" communities dealing with PFAS contamination. In identifying the new policy for NRWA, the committee included the following findings: (i) MCLs are regulatory enforcement levels for local governments that may result in fines and what is actually needed in affected communities is funding for treatment, monitoring assistance, on-site technical assistance for emergency operations, credible public health information, emergency access to safe drinking water and locally supported solutions; (ii) the Safe Drinking Water Act's mechanism of levying federal fines on local consumers for violations of MCLs is not a helpful solution for small and rural communities adversely affected by PFAS contamination; and (iii) the federal government should identify at what level PFAS becomes unsafe in drinking water or acknowledge whether such a determination is possible. MCLs are not based on public health levels, but rather are determined by what a large metropolitan community can "feasibly" afford. There is a level authorized in the Safe Drinking Water Act for EPA to identify a healthy base level, the so-called "unreasonable risk to health" level. Most communities impacted by PFAS will be small and rural communities. Local governments are not responsible for PFAS contamination and responsible parties should be held accountable for remediation, treatment and providing alternative sources of safe drinking water.

Update to Certain Senate Offices on NRWA Regulatory Committee Chairman's Colloquy with EPA in Fort Worth in September Regarding E-delivery of Tier 2 Public Notices ([link to update](#)).

Rural Americans Optimistic About the Future ([Route Fifty](#))

Indiana Rural Water Taste Contest News: Fort Wayne's water is the state's 'best tasting,' according to judges at the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water's taste competition on Wednesday. Winner of the 'Best

Tasting' water in Indiana will now be entered into the 'Great American Water Taste Test' national competition in Washington, DC in February, 2019 ([Fort Wayne Journal Gazette](#)).

South Carolina Divers Swim Through 90 Feet of Sewage to Unclog Flushable Wipes Jam ([NYPost](#)).

No GenX in Blood of People Living Near North Carolina Chemical Plant ([AP News](#)): The tests were performed on volunteers who drank from private wells that earlier testing found had the highest levels of GenX in the groundwater.

[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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