

Rural Water Policy Advisory [12/2/2018]

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Inside EPA Features NRWA PFAS Comments ([Inside EPA](#)).

Inside EPA Features NRWA Perchlorate Comments ([Inside EPA](#)).

The Best Rural Water Ideas Come from the Membership: Steve with Maryland Rural Water Association offered the following comment last week: *"The EPA Constitutionality issue, a bigger question in my mind, except for those few public water systems that cross state lines which could be covered by the Interstate Commerce Clause, is what provision of the Constitution gives the federal government the power to regulate drinking water in the first place? Seems like everyone keeps ducking this question."* Another reader commented last week with a concern that NRWA positions may not be welcomed by the EPA. That is a question that constantly needs to be examined in taking a position. Please let us know if you have any thoughts on the issue. A news article from last week quotes an NRWA source regarding the Constitutionality of EPA's selection of perchlorate as a new regulation: *"It's not EPA's fault' that the language may be unconstitutional, but the agency needs to answer the question in any proposed and final perchlorate rule* ([Inside EPA](#))."

American Water, the Main Corporate Water Company Pressing for Consolidation of Small Communities to Aide in Compliance, Issues Boil Order in Pennsylvania: Officials with Pennsylvania American Water announced Thursday that water service to their Yardley-area customers has high turbidity levels of 1.7 ntu, above the regulatory standard ([NBC News](#)).

EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council Meets This Week on December 6-7 in Washington, DC: NRWA North Carolina Board Member Wilmer Melton is a member of the committee. The meeting will include an EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water update, presentations on the Agency's plan to improve compliance through a variety of approaches, and an update on EPA's regulatory development process ([NDWAC agenda](#)).

NRWA Guidance & Interpretation of the 23 Safe Drinking Water Act Provisions in the "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018": The [report](#) released on Friday includes the following chapters: (1) Executive Summary, (2) Summary of the 23 Safe Drinking Water Act Sections in Title II, (3) New Technical Assistance Provisions, (3) Analysis of Consistency with NRWA Priority Policies (UCMR & Consolidation provisions), (4) NRWA Testimony, (5) Significant New Mandates and Rulemakings, and (6) Text of the Law's 23 SDWA Provision ([AWIA Report](#)).

Michigan's Focus on PFAS in Wastewater Discharges and Biosolids: Michigan media reports that manufacturing sources are sending one version of the "forever chemicals" at up to 20,000 times the allowed amount into wastewater systems that discharge it into the state's lakes, rivers and, ultimately, threaten drinking water supplies for millions of people. State officials found 18 municipal wastewater treatment plants discharging excessive levels of PFOS. Michigan's 2014 rule for water quality specifically limits PFOS to 12-ppt ([MLive News](#)).

President Says He Doesn't Believe the Government Experts' Environmental Conclusions: President Donald Trump has cast doubt on a report by his own government warning of

devastating effects from climate change. Asked outside the White House about the findings that unchecked global warming would wreak havoc on the US economy, he responded, "I don't believe it ([BBC News](#))."

Supreme Court Unanimously Rebukes Federal Government on Environmental Regulation Under Endangered Species Act: The Supreme Court on Tuesday delivered a unanimous win to Louisiana plaintiffs contesting government designation of their land as a critical habitat for endangered species. Implicit in the ruling is the limitation on federal environmental agencies' power they invoke when applying their regulations. This case rejects the legal theory that courts should defer to federal regulatory agencies when they claim expertise and reasonable interpretation of delegated authority ([Supreme Court](#)).

[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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