

# Rural Water Policy Advisory [12/31/2018]

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**EPA Runs Out of Money, Set to Furlough 13,705 Employees:** Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in an e-mail that the agency "will initiate orderly shutdown procedures" if new appropriations were not passed by lawmakers by midnight Friday. While other federal agencies have been closed this week, EPA has stayed open, using leftover funds to keep operations humming.

**Reminder About Who Keeps the Public's Water Safe:** *"The public is the guarantor of the safety of their public drinking water through their local governments. The public owns and operates their public drinking water supply and is responsible for its safety. There is no commercial enterprise (profiting) in public drinking water service and any community can adopt any policy or action needed to protect their drinking water. Every community wants to provide safe water and meet all drinking water standards. After all, local water supplies are operated and governed by people whose families drink the water every day and people who are locally elected by their community. Some of the smallest communities rely on volunteers to operate their local drinking water supplies. Every day, someone who works for your local community is making second-to-second decisions about adding essential purifying chemicals, killing pathogens, watching for changes in complex water delivery systems, and keeping your family's drinking water safe because that is what they want to do, not because a regulation makes them do it ([OH RWA](#))."*

**Senator Shelby (AL), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Says Talks to End Government Shutdown Going "Nowhere" ([CBS News](#)):** The length of the shutdown is approaching some of the longest shutdowns in history, although not nearly as long as the 1995 shutdown which lasted 21 days.

**Democrats Take the House of Representatives on Thursday.**

**Speaker Pelosi Picks Representative Castor (FL) to New House Committee on Climate Change:** Speaker Pelosi said the committee will fight "the existential threat of the climate crisis."

**EPA Local Government Advisory Committee to Meet on January 10 at EPA HQ.**

**New York's Drinking Water Quality Council Recommends Drinking Water MCLs for PFOA and PFOS:** New York state will now have the strictest standards in the country for the two drinking water contaminants approved by a state panel on December 18. The maximum contaminant levels will be 10 parts per trillion for PFOA and 10 parts per trillion for PFOS. EPA set a non-enforceable health advisory in 2016 for PFOA and PFOS levels in drinking water at a combined 70 parts per trillion.

**News Exposé on Lack of Drinking Water in Southern West Virginia Features WV RWA's Amy Swan ([GroundTruthProject](#)):**

- *"Eleven years ago someone knocked on my door and promised me I could get city water. I still don't have any city water, and I've never heard from them since..."*
- *She hasn't touched the water coming out of the faucets in her Lex home in years. Instead, she drives about 40 minutes to laeger each week to fill up water jugs for her family from a mountain spring...*

- *A few miles down from Northfork is Keystone, where residents don't have meters for their water. While the water quality is questionable — the town has been operating under a boil-water advisory since 2012 — residents pay about \$25 a month no matter how much they use. But if they don't pay, there's no valve that can be turned to shut off the water.”*

**Two Michigan Regulators Take Plea Deals in Flint Water Case That Require Them to Testify Against Others:** One of the Michigan officials faced involuntary manslaughter and other felony charges. The other plea relates to the improper permitting of Flint's water treatment plant during the switch, including statements that the river water was not tested before being distributed to residents ([WashPo.](#)).

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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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