

**New York Times - "About one in five American homes are not on city sewer lines — the legacy of rural poverty has left its imprint...":** "We didn't have anything — no running water, no inside bathrooms," said John Jackson, a former mayor of White Hall, a town of about 800 in Lowndes County, Georgia that is more than 90 percent black and did not have running water until the early 1980s. "Those were things we were struggling for ([NYTimes](#))."

**Congress Adjourns for Elections:** Congress adjourned Thursday until November 14th after passing a Continuing Resolution (CR) that extends government funding until December 9th. The President signed the measure on September 29th, one day before the end of the fiscal year. The CR maintains existing funding levels with a half percent across the board rescission. When it returns to Washington after the November elections, Congress will have to complete **ALL** the annual appropriations bills that fund rural water priorities.

**WRDA Update:** The House passed its version of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (HR 5303) last week. The Senate passed its version of WRDA, HR 2848, earlier this month which included many rural water priorities ([NRWA press statement](#)). Congress will attempt to pass a final version of a WRDA bill when it returns in November for the lame-duck session. If no final legislation is reconciled between the Senate and House by the end of this year's Congressional session, the process will have to start over in 2017 with a new Congress. The House and Senate differed on allowing fees to be waived for WIFIA applications (the Senate approved it and the House did not).

**Missouri Rural Water Association Speaks Up:** In response to the recent Environmental Working Group [report](#) on hexavalent chromium in drinking water, MoRWA made the following statement, "However, this special interest group is merely showing detects.....which, in turn, translates to the general public as being unsafe and contaminated. Naturally, news venues are releasing this information and feeding the ignorance. At least one Missouri television station has showcased this information, but the systems brought into question have answered to the public intelligently."

**Tanker Crash on I75 Threatens Florida Water Supply:** A light sheen appeared in a creek in North Port (FL) after a tanker crash on Interstate 75 last week spilled more than 4,000 gallons of fuel. City officials shut down the main source at the water treatment facility ([more](#)).

**EPA Moves Forward on Perchlorate MCL:** EPA is soliciting public

comment on the health effects modeling for perchlorate on thyroid hormones. Comments on the model and the supporting report are due by November 14, 2016 ([EPA](#)). In a separate action, EPA and environmentalists have reached an undisclosed tentative settlement in a lawsuit claiming the agency has missed Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) deadlines for a perchlorate drinking water standard following a federal district court judge's September 19<sup>th</sup> finding that the agency missed a two-year deadline under SDWA for issuing a proposed maximum contaminant level (MCL) goal and drinking water regulation for the substance. Neither EPA nor the NRDC has disclosed terms of the pending settlement. Perchlorate is highly soluble in water and once in the body, the chemical clogs up proteins that normally transport iodide into the thyroid gland to form thyroid hormones. In adults, failure to form these hormones can affect things like weight and cholesterol, and in children and prenatal babies it may affect brain development.

**Senator Boxer (CA) Wants EPA to Determine What is "Inherently Safer Technology (IST)":** Senator Boxer argues that a proposal to overhaul EPA's Risk Management Plan (RMP) "falls short" of requirements needed to protect workers and communities ([Senator Boxer to EPA](#), September 28, 2016). This issue has implications for water treatment choices by utilities.

**Private Water Group Extols the Benefits of Private Water, Safer than Public Utilities** ([more](#)).

**Senator Inhofe Releases Report Detailing the Damage to Local Governments of the EPA *Waters of the US Rule*:** Inhofe said, "It's time to come together to protect farmers, ranchers, water utilities, local governments, and contractors by giving them the clarity and certainty they deserve and stopping EPA and the Corps from eroding traditional exemptions." The Senate report claims mere presence of water in soil could give the federal government an opportunity to argue that it has jurisdiction over groundwater on the property ([Senate Report](#)).

**Is the Idaho Dairy Industry Putting Rural Drinking Water at Risk?:** *"The average dairy cow might produce 80 pounds of manure and liquids a day; that's the equivalent of 20 million humans. So that's like the entire city of Los Angeles dumping their waste untreated across fields in southern Idaho."* An Idaho dairy owner says his operation is not polluting groundwater. Farmer says his 93-year-old mother lives on the farm and drinks the well water. Justin Hayes of the Idaho Conservation League says, *"Knowing that the water that's coming out of the tap would be*

*poisonous to children sounds pretty bad to me. And I think that's of tremendous concern to people in rural Idaho ([Idaho Public Radio](#)).*"

**What Should You Know, and Do, About the Yahoo Breach:** Yahoo's announcement that state-sponsored hackers have stolen the details of at least 500 million accounts was the largest data breach ever. According to cybersecurity experts, once a hacker breaks into an email account they can easily discover what other online accounts are tied to that address by searching for sign-up emails. Some of those details are sensitive and are also used for verification by banks and possibly government agencies. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has released a [step-by-step video to users](#) whose personal information may have been exposed in a data breach. This video provides instruction on how to report an incident and develop a personal recovery plan after a data breach has occurred. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security encourages users to review the [FTC blog](#) and US-CERT Tips on [Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Attacks](#), [Safeguarding Your Data](#), and [Protecting Your Privacy](#).

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### **National Rural Water Association**

Contact: Mike Keegan, Policy Analyst <[kee](#)>