

NRWA Regulatory Committee Standing Up for You: Today, the committee released its policy memorandum to the newly chartered Congressional panel for federal regulation reform ([memorandum](#)). The committee identified *“a number of federal regulations that could be modified or reformed to improve and enhance federal water regulations for small and rural communities... We hope you can implement modifications to current EPA regulatory policy to improve the national water program, enhance public health and better protect the environment.”* Regulations selected for reform by the committee include: Tier 2 public notices, EPA enforcement policy, total organic carbon percentage removal, point of use technology, sensitive water treatment plant location data more readily available for public access via the internet, new initiatives to enhance source water protection, cyber security implementation in water utilities, unregulated contaminant monitoring, regulation of storage tanks, watershed pollution trading policy, affordability and environmental justice, lead and copper rule revisions, and emergency generators and peak shaving programs.



Penn. Rural Water Association (PRWA) Delegation Urges House Clean Water Chairman to Fix Clean Water SRF: PRWA representatives briefed House Clean Water Committee Chairman Bill Shuster on a host of wastewater issues including technical assistance, funding, combined sewer overflows, consolidation, etc. The main request of the rural water delegation was for the Chairman to advance two clean water technical assistance policies ([CWA policies](#)). The Chairman told the group that he plans to have a comprehensive water bill released in April. The South Carolina Rural Water Association has also been collaborating with one of

its Congressmen to introduce legislation to advance these policies.



Hawai'i Rural Water Association (HRWA) Receives Congressional Certificate of Commendation: The association received the award from Representative Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan of the Northern Mariana Islands for *“outstanding contributions to response and recovery of the Northern Mariana Islands to Typhon Soudelor.”* HRWA Executive Director Mahana Gomes said, *“I’m very proud of our team. Our Circuit Rider, Jason Zufelt, was on the ground for 11 days assisting the recovery.”* Zufelt said, *“I suggested isolating different villages to keep water in the storage tanks. It made it easier to charge the system over a small area instead of a larger area, and it helped isolate leaks.”*

Highlights of This Week’s Flint Coverage: The attention on Flint, the EPA, and other water utilities continues with two House hearings this past week.

- South Carolina turns to Rural Water to assist with lead in water - South Carolina Water Association to find out what’s causing lead exceedances for 28 systems ([USA Today](#)).
- Second Flint water hero emerges during House hearings. EPA employee [Miguel Del Toro](#) who sounded the early warnings in the water in Flint. Congressman says Del Toro deserves Congressional Medal of Honor during hearing. Del Toro warned EPA last year, *“This is no surprise. Lead lines + no treatment = high lead in water = lead poisoned children.”*
- Congressmen tell EPA Administrator to resign ([Google](#)).
- VA Tech Water Professor Edwards testifies and blames EPA ([video](#)).
- Michigan Governor blames *“career bureaucrats lacking common sense*

at state and EPA.”

- EPA Administrator says VA Tech Water Professor “*doesn't understand we have to work within the systems... how the law works.*”
- Committee Chairman Chaffetz (UT) asks EPA Administrator, “*So why do we even need an EPA?*”
- PBS’ Judy Woodruff says Flint recriminations are about politics ([PBS Flint feature](#)). During the reporting, Prof. Edwards says there is a problem in all major cities with lead pipe, 70 percent of those cities would have to tell people water is unsafe and “*EPA has left all Americans in harm’s way.*”
- USA Today video of how lead gets into the water supply ([video](#)).
- Ohio changes Lead and Copper Rule for sate. Claims EPA rule does not go far enough ([Ohio](#)).

Amicable Consolidation in Arkansas: Trumann City Council approves an ordinance to consolidate with Trumann Rural Water by purchasing the \$3 million rural water system for around \$45,000 – the amount of debt in the rural water system. Rural water employees were allowed to keep their jobs, vehicles, and property. Walmart is an issue -- When Walmart was being built, Rural Water could not provide the pressure needed for Walmart's sprinkler system. Trumann Water Works put in the water lines but didn't receive usage payments from Walmart since that money went to Trumann Rural Water.

Oklahoma Fines London-based Severn Trent Environmental Services \$1 Million for Drinking Water Violations: The company is the operator of Hugo’s water treatment plant. The penalty will be used to help small Oklahoma communities upgrade water treatment facilities as part of a settlement. The company-run utility had numerous violations, including improper monitoring and low chlorination ([more](#)).

Jackson, Mississippi under Boil Order from Storm: Approximately 170,000 residents to boil their water and limit water use after severe rains and mechanical issues cause a system outage ([more](#)).

Arsenic-tainted Water Fine to Drink, Texas Says: Drinking water for at least 82,000 Texas residents has tested positive for high levels of arsenic in recent years, but state officials have told people they don’t need to find an “alternative water supply,” according to the Environmental Integrity Project ([more](#)).

National Rural Water Association

Contact: Mike Keegan, Policy Analyst <keegan@ruralwater.org>