

World Focuses on Flint's Drinking Water Compliance with EPA Lead Rule:

President Obama visited Flint this week and blamed the crisis with the city's drinking water on supporters of less government which has been covered by the media as a political attack on Republicans ([video](#)). The United Nations is weighing whether to insert itself in the probe into contaminated drinking water for residents of Flint after a trio of U.N. human rights experts in Switzerland said that racism and class discrimination may have played a key role in the scandal. The human rights complaint could be lodged in order to ensure that other U.S. municipalities don't make the same mistakes that local, state and federal officials made in handling Flint's water supply needs ([more](#)). The local pediatrician credited with identifying the contamination criticized the President's visit by saying, *"I talked to a lot of people who were really, really upset about the president's speech... They were happy until he drank the water and said everything was going to be OK (in the future) because there are people hurting now... But there's no money that came with it."*

NRWA Participating in National Lead Collaborative this Week: The first meeting of the members of the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative will occur on Thursday, May 12th ([agenda](#)). The Collaborative's objective is to create a roadmap and tools to support community initiatives to accelerate lead service line replacement ([charter](#)). Organizations participating in the Collaborative include: National Association of County and City Health Officials, American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, Blue Green Alliance, Children's Environmental Health Network, Clean Water Action, Environmental Defense Fund, Justice and Sustainability Associates, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Center for Healthy Housing, National Environmental Health Association, National Rural Water Association, National Association of Water Companies, Natural Resources Defense Council, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, and Trust for America's Health. If you would like to attend the meeting in person or by teleconference, please contact [us](#).



The "Power of An Association" Comes to Mississippi: Mississippi Rural Water Association (MRWA) released a new video this week that features Governor Byrant, Pete Boone, USDA State Director Trina George, and other officials. The video explains how Rural Water protects communities from harm caused by regulations. The Governor explains how he turns to Rural Water versus "bureaucrats." The video also features Rural Water emergency response ([YouTube](#)).



BBC News Feature Juxtaposes Drought in India to Drought in California: Impacts of drought in California include having to ask for water in restaurants while in India, women walk five miles to draw water from hand dug wells to carry water on the their heads back to their villages ([BBC](#)).

Wisconsin Providing State Funding to Help Homeowners Remove

Lead Pipes: The Department of Natural Resources said it will use its Safe Drinking Water Loan Program to provide funding to disadvantaged communities to help homeowners replace lead laterals. Milwaukee, which has about 70,000 homes with lead laterals, meets the criteria for a disadvantaged community. The money to homeowners would not have to be repaid. The DNR said it is taking advantage of a recent decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that allows greater flexibility in allocating federal-funded loans for water infrastructure projects ([more](#)).

California Spends \$3.2 Million to Treat Uranium in Trailer Park with 36

Households: The trailer park detected a combined uranium level of 20.8 pCi/L ([source](#)).

Washington to Spend \$48 Million to Resettle Louisiana Community

Hit by Climate Change: The first time U.S. taxpayers will fund a plan for climate change refugees will occur in Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana ([New York Times](#)).

Democratic Senator Heitkamp (ND) is Advocating for Congress to Enact Legislation Defining "Waters of the United States":

To resolve the controversy and confusion over the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Senator says Congress should make the decision. The "failure of judicial review to provide clear guidance" on when smaller waters are subject to the CWA "means, if I'm going to solve it, I'm going to legislate," Heitkamp said at an April 20 Senate Committee hearing ([speech](#)). Senator Heitkamp said she will "continue to work on legislation" to define U.S. waters. "I think after at least 20 years of Supreme Court [rulings], we should take some responsibility for the definition." Also, Senator Heitkamp has cosponsored S. 1140, a bill sponsored by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), which would force EPA to withdraw the CWA rule and develop a new version after undergoing an extensive round of consultation with states and other stakeholders.

National Rural Water Association

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