

Thanks for the Memories: Thank you for rural water photos of aging and deteriorating water infrastructure submitted last week (including this [fish in the bar screen photo](#) from Florida). Next week, we will assemble the photos and brief explanations and report them to you and the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to assist in its effort to pass [S. 2848](#), the 2016 Water Resources and Development Act. **Senate Releases EPA Spending Bill:** Last week, the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees passed their versions of the FY17 EPA appropriations bill. Both bills included provisions to address the Flint, Michigan water crisis. The [House bill](#) allows states to use a portion of DWSRF funds to reimburse communities for previously incurred debt for projects that reduce lead in drinking water, and the committee report accompanying the bill would direct states to give “*to the greatest extent possible*” weight to projects on state DWSRF priority lists that would “*remove lead pipes from existing infrastructure.*” The [Senate bill](#) allows states affected by an emergency declaration related to lead in drinking water to use a portion of its DWSRF funds to buy or restructure debt communities incurred to address the contamination.

FY2017 EPA Appropriations

Initiative	FY2016 Enacted	NRWA Request	FY2017 House	FY2017 Senate
EPA T&TA	\$12,700,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000
DWSRF	\$863,233,000	\$906,896,000	\$1,070,000,000	\$1,020,000,000
CWSRF	\$1,393,887,000	\$1,448,887,000	\$1,000,000,000	\$1,350,000,000
WIFIA	\$0.0		\$50,000,000	\$30,000,000

Jim Fay, General Manager of Champlain Water District (VT) Stands Up for Public Drinking Water Against Misleading Journalist: “*The Guardian newspaper’s assertions earlier this month of ‘cheats’ in testing water for lead in Vermont are false and should be retracted, says Fay...*” ([more](#)).

EPA Administrator's Letter to Flint: The June 17 letter says that local and state leaders must find a solution for Flint's over-sized water distribution system which is too big for the water demand of the city and could potentially inhibit certain safety measures. Moreover, the letter contends that Flint has inadequate staffing, support and other resources to address issues from the safety of water to the water rates. The letter also identifies capacity development concerns with the city and state, citing EPA involvement in “*the technical, managerial and financial capacity to operate the system in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act*” ([EPA letter](#)).

EPA Proposes Revisions to the NPDES Program: We need your help in reviewing the recently released EPA proposal to make "specific targeted changes" to the existing NPDES regulations. We are especially interested to know if the changes regarding permit applications, the water quality-based permitting process, and permit objection process are favorable for Rural Water ([EPA proposed changes](#)).

NIMBYs Stop Texas Rural Water District Water Tower Storage: See this story about a Rural Water District's struggle to find a home for a needed water tower over objections from residents ([story](#)).

Lake City (PA) Wastewater Operator Admits Dumping Pollution: The operator admitted June 10 that he failed to properly test and treat wastewater, dumped pollutants into a Lake Erie tributary and falsified records to conceal his actions from 2010 – 2012 ([more](#)).

U.S. House of Reps. to Vote Next Week to Overturn Pillar of Environmental Movement: Rep. Ratcliffe's (TX) [Separation of Powers Restoration Act](#), a bill to limit agencies' federal rulemaking authority, is headed to the floor for a vote next week. The bill would overturn the Supreme Court's 1984 decision in *Chevron USA v. the Natural Resources Defense Council* which held that courts should defer to agencies' interpretations of "ambiguous" statutes written by Congress.

EPA Questions CWSRF Allotment Formula: The distribution of federal funds to states under the Clean Water SRF reflects neither the changes in state population over the last three decades nor the infrastructure needs for utilities to meet the Clean Water Act requirements, according to an EPA analysis published this week ([EPA report](#)). EPA suggests revisions to the allocation formula. The three options presented by EPA take into account the agency's needs survey, last updated in 2012, population changes, water pollution measurements, and the use of federal funds to attract outside money.

National Rural Water Association

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2 Attachments