Wyoming, Utah and Washington Rural Water Associations Change the Politics of WIFIA: After Congressional contacts from Washington, Wyoming, Utah rural water associations, news reports are now mentioning that the WIFIA fix may not be included in the final Highway Bill being negotiated on Capitol Hill (news). "Though the Senate included language in its version of the bill to remove the ban on tax-exempt financing in the WIFIA program, Shuster declined to include any water infrastructure provisions in the House version passed Oct. 22, preferring a clean bill without any non-transportation provisions (Water Policy Report, Nov. 2). WIFIA advocates say it is unlikely the funding fix will be included in the final transportation bill and have begun looking to other legislative avenues for the provision, such as a standalone bill that would strike the tax-exempt municipal provision from 2014 Water Reform & Redevelopment Act that authorized the program and a possible 2016 water resources reauthorization bill." Thank you Washington, Utah and Wyoming rural water associations.

Speculation that Congress May Enact a New Law to Fix EPA Technical Assistance on Tuesday: Congress returns from break this week. This Tuesday will be the first opportunity for the House of Representatives to consider S. 611, "The Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act."

People Willing to Pay $6 Billion to Implement Chesapeake Bay TMDL: A new EPA study concludes that residents value improved water quality in the Chesapeake Bay at up to more than $6 billion per year ("A Stated Preference Study of the Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Lakes"). EPA conducted the survey by asking residents of 17 states within the Chesapeake watershed and the District of Columbia whether and how much they would be willing to pay each year to preserve or improve specific aspects of water quality in the bay, such as water clarity and fish populations.

White House Releases Formal Rulemaking Schedule: The fall Unified Agenda, released late last week, reveals the Administration’s latest plans for regulations currently in the works at agencies across the federal government. The EPA's planned new water regulations include: Review of the Ground Water Rule (more), Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit Remand Rule (more), Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (more), and Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals (more).

Water Lobbyists Hacked on Legislative Strategy Conference Call: An
audio recording of a strategy session by major trade association lobbyists includes a discussion on how the lobbyists plan to have Congress repeal the WOTUS rule by the end of the year (audio of call).

Two Persons in Santa Paula (CA) Plead Guilty in November 2014 Chemical Explosion at the Santa Clara Waste Water Plant: A volatile mixture of domestic waste and chemical sodium chlorite led to the rear of a vacuum truck exploding (more).

EPA Video to "Reduce Wasted Food This Holiday Season": More than 96% of the food we throw away ends up in landfills, producing methane, a potent greenhouse gas which contributes to climate change (video).

"Water is Safe to Drink Despite EPA Warning": People in Auburn (KS) received a warning about their water and violations for standards for maximum levels of haloacetic acids. The public notice was issued after further monitoring had indicated that the levels were within acceptable limits (more).

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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Archives: past editions of this newsletter are available on the internet (link).

5 Attachments

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