

EPA Funding Fix Progresses: On Friday, Kirby Mayfield (MsRWA) was told by Congressman Harper (MS) that the bill to fix the EPA funding problem (S. 611) will be considered by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Tuesday. The bill has passed the appropriate House Subcommittee and the U.S. Senate. The hearing will be webcast on the Committee's [website](#). The Majority Members of the Committee have agreed not to offer any amendments. Please contact your Minority Members of the Committee to urge them to pass the bill without amendment for the following reasons.

The small and rural communities in your state urge you to approve the bill without amendment or modification. As mentioned in our [testimony](#) last month:

Small and rural communities are very hopeful the bill can be enacted in the remaining weeks of this Congressional session and be operative in this appropriations cycle.

Amendment of the bill will almost certainly result in delaying passage until next year and no proposed modification necessitates this delay (additional legislative policies should be advanced separately).

Your state has witnessed a decrease in technical assistance (EPA compliance help) to small and rural communities, over the last four years, with the corresponding increase in EPA discretion of the appropriations. Enactment of S. 611 will begin to correct this.

Currently, the small and rural communities are struggling under new federal regulations, complex funding program applications, and continuing mandatory operator training requirements. Many small communities are now trying to implement the new disinfection by-products rule for the first time. The rule is 134 Federal Register pages long. It is just starting to be enforced in many small and rural communities. It is very complex, confusing, and burdensome.

We need help as soon as possible.

Minority Members of the Committee: Frank Pallone (NJ), Bobby Rush (IL), Anna Eshoo (CA), Eliot L. Engel (NY), Gene Green (TX), Diana DeGette (CO), Lois Capps (CA), Michael Doyle (PA), Jan Schakowsky (IL), G. K. Butterfield (NC), Doris Matsui (CA), Kathy Castor (FL), John Sarbanes (MD), Jerry McNerney (CA), Peter Welch (VT), Ben Ray Lujan (NM), Paul Tonko (NY), John Yarmuth (KY), Yvette Clarke (NY), David Loebsack (IA), Kurt Schrader (OR), Joseph Kennedy (MA), and Tony Cardenas (CA).

WIFIA Provision Debated Between the House and Senate: Large water utilities are pressing Members of a House-Senate Conference Committee, negotiating a transportation bill, to include more federal funding for WIFIA

to allow for subsidized funding to large water projects ([more](#)).

Australian Rural Communities Warned to Chlorinate After Waterborne Parasite Kills Three Children ([more](#)).

100 Million People at Risk of Entering Poverty by 2030 from Climate Change ([World Bank](#)).

AL Rural Water to the Rescue: A 10-year water leak in Cherokee finally repaired after workers from the Alabama Rural Water Association pinpointed the exact location of the leak using listening devices and other equipment, potentially saving the town tens of thousands of dollars ([more](#)).

At Least 12 Cars Disappeared into Sinkhole at Restaurant in Mississippi ([more](#)).

Fountains in Spain Turned Gory Shade of Red: A study showed that the "blood rain" was teeming with microscopic freshwater algae called *Haematococcus pluvialis*, which produce a red pigment when they're stressed ([more](#)).

EPA Launches E-Newsletter on Infrastructure Financing: EPA is developing a new quarterly email newsletter called Water Finance E-News. It will provide updates for those seeking and providing project funding. The newsletter will cover EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, Clean Water Indian Set-Aside, Alaska Native Villages and Rural Communities Grant Program, and the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program. It will report on the latest program developments, training, and tools from these programs (EPA).

Wisc. Drinking Water Contamination: Lynda Cochart's water from her private well was so poisoned by salmonella, nitrate, E. coli and manure-borne viruses that one researcher compared the results from her Kewaunee County farm to contamination in a Third World country. She suspects the problem is related to the county's proliferation of large livestock operations, although testing did not pinpoint the source ([more](#)).

Lexington (KY) Chlorine Leak at Water Plant Evacuates Walmart ([more](#)).

USGS Study - Storage and Treatment of Liquid Waste from Landfills Doesn't Remove All Contaminants, Including Pharmaceuticals: New research from the U.S. Geological Survey details that even after the storage and/or treatment of leachate – liquid waste that moves through or drains from a landfill – it can still contain a multitude of chemicals and reflects the diverse nature of residential, industrial, and commercial waste discarded into landfills in the United States. Emerging chemicals of concern include pharmaceuticals, hormones, household products, and industrial chemicals. Pathways to the environment include discharge to streams, seepage into groundwater, diversion to wastewater treatment plants, and even onsite spraying or irrigation ([more](#)).

National Rural Water Association

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