

Rural Water Policy Advisory [10/8/2018]

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#) to view on WaterPro Online or [here for PDF](#) version.

Senate Expected to Pass "Rural Water Friendly" Water Bill on Wednesday: The Senate is scheduled to vote on the "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018" on Tuesday or Wednesday. The legislation has passed the House and is expected to be signed by the President. The legislation makes significant improvements and modifications to the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act that will be beneficial to small and rural communities. Mississippi Rural Water Association Executive Director Kirby Mayfield said, *"This water legislation includes Senator Wicker's bill, S. 518, that helps all the small and rural communities in Mississippi protect the environment, provide sanitation to our citizens, and economically comply with all the EPA rules. We are grateful for Senator Wicker's continued support and leadership in Senate. His efforts will help all the state's over 1,200 small and rural communities that are trying to provide safe and clean water to their citizens every day. Small communities want to ensure quality water and compliance – and technical assistance initiatives provide the shared technical resources to do so. This assistance often saves small towns thousands of dollars in compliance costs with federal rules. Thank you, Senator Wicker for sponsoring S. 518 and having it included in this package that is almost certain to pass Congress and be signed by President Trump (NRWA [statement](#))."* We are optimistic that Rural Water will be invited to the White House for the signing ceremony.

EPA Administrator Says Agency will Release New WOTUS Rule Within 30 Days: Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler made the comment at an October 2 roundtable hosted by EPA's Smart Sectors industry outreach program. Wheeler said the proposal will be a "clean and straightforward" Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction standard that follows the water law and the Supreme Court's 2006 Rapanos decision. President Trump has attacked President Obama's 2015 CWA rule as going far beyond what Congress intended in the CWA.

How Much PFAS in Drinking Water is Too Much?: Tucson-area officials say they believe the water (of up to 30 parts per trillion for PFAS compounds) they served to thousands of customers for an unknown period until late August was safe to drink. EPA recommends no more than 70 parts per trillion of the two most common PFAS compounds. The Centers for Disease Control, the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry, released a previously suppressed draft report that in effect recommended no more than 18 parts per trillion for the same compounds. Vermont allows 20 parts per trillion. New Jersey and California are considering 27 parts per trillion. Minnesota recommends 35 parts per trillion for one common PFAS compound and 27 for another. Michigan has a health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion for determining whether groundwater should be cleaned up. A 5-year-old Harvard University study urges no more than 1 part per trillion for PFAS. The advocacy-based Environmental Working Group says there is no safe PFAS level in drinking water, based in part on a German study. An Australian federal health agency concluded last summer after its review that there's no evidence linking PFAS compounds to human health problems ([Tucson.com](#)).

EPA Holds PFAS Meeting in Kalamazoo: On Friday, EPA held a roundtable discussion in Michigan concerning the PFAS issue since it was discovered in their water system in late July. "I think the important thing for us to keep in mind is the EPA is in fact taking a great deal of action right now on PFAS," said Peter Grevatt, director of the EPA's Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water. *"I think you're also aware of the national monitoring effort we put in place, the unregulated contaminant monitoring rule."*

Monterey Peninsula (CA) Ballot Measure to Give Voters a Shot at a Public Water Buyout and Private Water is Fighting Back with a Public Campaign ([news](#)).

Clayton Water System (LA) Has Not Paid Water Operator, Governor Issues Emergency Declaration to Hire Contract Operator ([KNOE News](#)).

Elon Musk to Pay for Water Stations at Flint Schools ([MLive.com](#)): Water professor calls Musk a “celebrity saviour ([Twitter](#)).”

Earthjustice and the Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise File Civil Rights Case Against Alabama Department of Public Health Over Civil Rights Regarding Unsanitary Sewage Conditions In Lowndes County: Alleges state failed to protect black residents from inadequate sewage systems which has led to water contamination and an outbreak of an infectious disease prevalent in areas without indoor plumbing ([Mother Jones](#)).

[National Rural Water Association](#)

Contact: Mike Keegan, Policy Analyst <keegan@ruralwater.org>
(Washington, DC)

[\[safe unsubscribe | subscribe\]](#)

***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.*

Reprint Policy: *this report, including any portion, may be distributed publicly without permission or citation.*

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