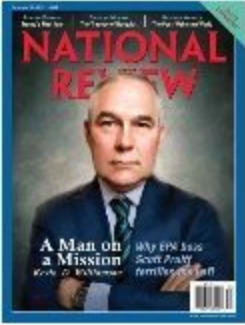


Rural Water Policy Advisory [12/25/2017]



National Review's Stately Cover: ["Why EPA Boss Scott Pruitt Terrifies the Left."](#) Huffington Post and MSNBC react: "Scott Pruitt's primary objectives this year included repealing rules to reduce pollution from power plants, rolling back protections for 117 million Americans' drinking water... Yet National Review's story paints a rosy picture of Pruitt as a misunderstood environmentalist restoring the concept of 'stewardship' to an EPA that has 'long been dominated' by 'the Left' ([HuffPost](#))."

New York Times' Friday Headline: ["E.P.A. Officials, Disheartened by Agency's Direction, Are Leaving in Droves \(NYTimes\)."](#)

New York Times – ["Employees Spoke Out. Then Came Scrutiny of Their Email"](#): "Three different agency employees...encountered a similar outcome: Federal records show that within a matter of days, requests were submitted for copies of emails written by them that mentioned either Mr. Pruitt or President Trump." FOIA request reveals a March letter from EPA-Seattle official to Administrator Pruitt ([New York Times](#)):

"I am writing this note because I, along with many EPA staff, are becoming increasingly alarmed about the direction of EPA under your leadership... I, and many staff, firmly believe the policies this Administration is advancing are contrary to what the majority of the American people want... This is the first time I remember staff openly dismissing and mocking the environmental policies of an Administration and by extension you, the individual selected to implement the policies."

Maine Television News Features Emergency Water Supply Crisis Training: "We're simulating an emergency and then we're testing the response and resources that they have available," says Thomas Bahun, a training specialist with Maine Rural Water Association ([WABI TV News](#)).

NRWA's Regulatory Committee Reviews Three Questions to Raise at January 8th EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Consultation: The Regulatory Committee met via conference call on Friday and perfected three questions for the EPA to address at January's ["Federalism" consultation](#):

1. Is it in the range of possibilities, and within the statutory authorization, to craft a rule that moves the compliance monitoring location to a point within the facilities owned by the public water utility (the public's facilities) versus the status quo of monitoring within private homes (which is testing the drinking water affected by privately owned and unique homeowners' premise plumbing).
2. Is it possible for the public water utility to adequately treat drinking water so that it remains safe even after being delivered to a home through a lead service line? Conversely, will removal of all lead service lines guarantee no future problematic lead levels at the tap.
3. Is the general public currently confused over the health risk from their specific tap's drinking water when (1) another home in their community tests over the action level, (2) their community tests over

the action level, or (3) their home's first draw compliance sample tests over the action level? Is it possible to eliminate this confusion in a revised rule?

Cholera Cases in Yemen Hits One Million People: According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Yemen crisis is one of the fastest growing outbreaks of the deadly disease in modern history. Although cholera has a death rate of 0.3 percent, the size of the outbreak combined with the lack of equipment and medical staff to deal with the crisis puts thousands more at risk of death ([AlJazeera](#)).

Lobbyists Urge Baltimore Officials to Approve Private French Company Control of City Water System: Several city council members say lobbyists from a French company called Suez Environment have been meeting with influential people inside and outside of City Hall, arguing that private control of water billing and infrastructure will lower city debt. City Councilman Ryan Dorsey said, "It's obvious that if you're looking to privatize infrastructure, your motive is profit." City Councilman Brandon Scott said he took a meeting with the lobbyists but left unimpressed. "It sounded like a gimmick to me," he said. "I'm not interested in it at all ([Baltimore Sun](#))."

National Rural Water Association

Contact: Mike Keegan, Policy Analyst <keegan@ruralwater.org>
[[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](#)).*