

# Rural Water Policy Advisory [1/29/2018]

**Senator Udall Co-Signs Bill to Allow Clean Water State Revolving Funds to be used for Rural Water Technical Assistance:** After [meeting with New Mexico Rural Water Association](#), Senator Udall notified Senator Wicker asking to become a co-sponsor of [S. 518](#), "The Small and Rural Community Clean Water Technical Assistance Act."

**Plastic Pipes' Campaign to Limit Local Control in Water Project Design Moving to Congress:** The [campaign](#), largely led by the American Chemistry Council, has persuaded Illinois Congressman Rodney Davis to consider federal legislation to help the plastic pipe industry limit local control in project design ([draft legislation](#)).

**EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is scheduled to testify before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Tuesday.** Look for Democrats to grill him about his directive barring scientists who receive EPA funding from serving on its advisory boards and EPA's enforcement actions.

**Climate Change, the EPA Administrator, High Level Politics and the Big Picture:** EPA's first Administrator says the current Administrator's climate change beliefs are a "threat to the country" ([The Hill](#)). *"Forging a coalition between the environmental movement and the women's rights movement will not only fundamentally advance women's rights but also do a world of good for the planet, which is bearing an environmental burden because of population growth,"* say John Podesta and Tim Wirth ([John Podesta and Tim Wirth](#)).

**British Defense Secretary Says Russia Planning How to Cause "Thousands and Thousands and Thousands" of Deaths in Britain with Infrastructure Cyber Attack** ([Telegraph UK](#)).

**NRWA's Regulatory Committee Convened Last Week:** On Friday, the [policy making committee](#) comprised of NRWA board members discussed potential policy recommendations on the following topics:

- Update from President Fletcher on EPA Lead and Copper Rule consultation
- EPA Federalism presentation to NRWA
- Senator Hatch's effort with EPA on e-reporting
- President Trump's leaked infrastructure proposal
- Supreme Court ruling on WOTUS jurisdiction rule
- PVC pipe industry efforts on preferential federal legislation

**EPA Sends Final Rule Delaying Obama-Era CWA Policy For OMB Review:** EPA has sent for White House review of their final rule to delay enforcement of the 2015 Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction rule. The urgency to finalize this action increased last week when the Supreme Court held that an appellate court had no authority to stay the rule nationwide. While the Supreme Court ruling is a success to opponents of the rule who prefer district court as a venue, it is also likely to dissolve the nationwide implementation stay on the standard that was put in place by the 6th Circuit while it heard consolidated appellate challenges to the regulation. Since the high court has decided that the 6th Circuit had no authority to hear those suits, its stay will expire as soon as the justices release their mandate, expected in mid-February. The Trump Administration is seeking to enact the delay by mid-February. The delay rule is the Trump Administration's strategy for avoiding a situation where it must implement the 2015 Obama rule after the stay is lifted despite opposing the Obama-era standard and working to repeal it and craft a new, narrower test for CWA jurisdiction.

**Fluoride Ban Pushed by Environmentalists Now in Judge's Hands:** Environmentalists want the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California to review the government's refusal to initiate a rulemaking to ban fluoride in drinking water. Plaintiffs are arguing that new science has been published that links increased concentrations of fetal fluoride exposure to lower childhood IQs ([Food & Water Watch v. EPA](#)).

**President to Raise \$1 Trillion Infrastructure Plan that Will NOT Include New Revenue on Tuesday's State of the Union Address:** White House sources claim the plan could be released to Congress one-to-two weeks later. An excerpt from the White House proposal, leaked to the press earlier this week, contained numerous provisions that would change the way the Environmental Protection Agency issues loans and grants for water infrastructure. For example, it would open up a new low-cost loan program to sectors outside of the water utility industry and it would also give private companies access to federal grants that are currently off-limits to them ([Route Fifty](#)).

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**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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