

# Rural Water Issues Advisory [2/25/2019]

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**Florida Rural Water Association Promotional Video** ([YouTube](#)).

**The Low Cost of Rural Water in Iran:** Over 100 rural villages to get drinking water for a total cost of \$3.7 million; potable water to be available to 34,700 people ([news](#)).

**West Virginia Rural Water Association Testifies on Scope of Rate Regulation by Public Utility Commission:** WVRWA comments about the PUC raising its customers' rates ([newspaper](#)).

**Vice President Al Gore Travels to Rural Alabama to Rally Against Environmental Injustices Related to Sewer Service:** Excerpts from the Vice Comments include: "The world seems to be so burdened in many ways, is there hope? Well, the answer is yes, there is hope. There is hope because we have the ability to determine our own destiny. We still have the God-given right in our Constitution as Americans to exercise the vote if we are willing to get up and activate and make sure that others go to the polls." Gore toured inadequate sewage infrastructure in Lowndes county where residents claim an estimated 80% of the county remained uncovered by a municipal sewage system. One resident showed Gore the sewage running into his yard and home. Behind his one-story brick home is a sewage lagoon, a pond full of raw, brown liquid ([The Guardian](#)).

**Science - "Utilities in Democratic-Leaning Areas Violate the SDWA Less Frequently Than Those in Republican Leaning Areas":** Assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University David Switzer's study explores one way local politics may influence implementation, investigating the effect of citizen preferences on municipal compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act ([Urban Affairs Review](#)).

**EPA Notifies NRWA of Environmentalist's Lawsuit to Force EPA to Set Numerous New MCLs:** The [lawsuit filed](#) by the Waterkeeper Alliance claims EPA needs to craft regulation for tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, chlorite, cryptosporidium, additional haloacetic acids, heterotrophic bacteria, giardia lamblia, legionella, additional total trihalomethanes, viruses, and hexavalent chromium. If you have any comments on how NRWA should respond, please let [us](#) know.

**Threat from PFAS in New Hampshire Causes Broad Social Concern:** Reports indicate that: the state Senate is pressuring the regulatory agency to set MCLs for 4 PFAS including MCLs as low as 20 ppt; new levels will become future surface water and groundwater discharge standards for wastewater utilities; wastewater groundwater dischargers could impact nearby drinking water wells; wastewater utilities' effluent could be exceeded by new standards even if those facilities don't receive any significant industrial PFAS influent; carbon based treatment may not be feasible for wastewater; septic systems are sources of PFAS in local groundwater; individual drinking water wells are impacted; wastewater utilities may be forced to reject septage for treatment; and the the impact on municipal biosolids may include access to landfills, etc. One commentator suggests that, in the next decade, society will come to accept that PFAS are present in many places in our environment, that we are exposed (as we have been to some, for decades), and that we must address certain more toxic PFAS where they are in the highest concentrations and most concerning, phase out use of the worst ones, and protect drinking water as well as possible.

**Congressional Bill to Force Communities to Test for Lead in Drinking Water in Schools Gains Momentum in Congress:** On January 29, U.S. Representatives Brenda Lawrence (MI-14) and Mike Quigley (IL-05) introduced the "Get the Lead Out of Schools Act," a bill that requires the EPA to establish a new and separate action level standard for lead in schools' drinking water and requires public water

systems to conduct the monitoring of drinking water. “Access to clean drinking water is a right, not a privilege, regardless of one’s socioeconomic status or zip code,” said Representative Quigley. Last July, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that only 43 percent of school districts nationwide tested for lead in their schools’ drinking water in 2016 and 2017, and of those that tested, 37 percent found elevated lead levels. GAO found that 41 percent of school districts did not test for lead, while 16 percent did not know whether they tested or not. H.R.852, the [Get the Lead Out of Schools Act](#), currently has over 50 Cosponsors.

**Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Expands Exposure Studies for PFAS:** This week, the federal agency announced an additional eight locations to conduct human exposure assessments for PFAS. All sites are all linked to the use of PFAS containing fire fighting foams at current or former Defense Department installations including Berkeley County (WV), El Paso County (CO), Fairbanks (AK), Hampden County (MA), Lubbock County (TX), New Castle County (DE), Orange County (NY), Spokane County (WA), ([announcement](#)).

**EPA Releases Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Monitoring Results:** The agency recently released a summary report and the full set of data collected so far for the fourth UCMR which began in 2018 and runs until 2020 ([EPA](#)).

**Association of State Drinking Water Administrators PFAS Lab Testing Primer ([link](#)).**

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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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