

Rural Water Policy Advisory [3/5/2018]

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U.S. Representatives Hanabusa (HI) and Katko (NY) Sponsor Dear Colleague Letter to Support All Rural Water Funding, Deadline March, 12 ([Dear Colleague letters](#)).

Utah Rural Water Urges Senator Lee to Withdraw His Opposition to Senators Wicker (MS) and Heitkamp's (ND) Bill to Allow More Clean Water Act Technical Assistance (see [video](#) of Utah's conference last week).

More Chlorine Gas Attacks in Syria: At least one child has died and 18 more people have been treated in a Syrian hospital after suffering symptoms medics said were consistent with exposure to chlorine gas. Victims experienced convulsions, difficulty breathing and irritation of the eyes and mouth. Victims also reported the smell of chlorine. Since 2013, chlorine and sarin attacks have killed up to 1,700 people in Syria ([UK Independent](#)).

Mississippi Congressman Gregg Harper Introduces Rural Water Clean Water Technical Assistance Bill in House ([H.R. 5030](#)).

Drinking Water and EPA's Strategic Plan: On February 12, 2018, EPA released its FY 2018-2022 Strategic Plan ([EPA](#)).

NRWA Regulatory Committee Reviewing "Straw-man Draft" of Comments to EPA on Reforming the Lead Rule: *"We respectfully urge the Agency to consider if the existing LCR's mandate that allows for the effects of a private homeowner's plumbing (i.e. a kitchen faucet) on the water passing through that fixture should result in very burdensome and possibly unrelated requirements on the utility (i.e. treatment adjustments, removal of underground water lines, and alarming public notices) is authorized under the Safe Drinking Water Act,"* ([Straw-man Draft](#)).

Pennsylvania to Hire 33 Regulators After EPA Slammed Drinking Water Agency: The agency plans to finalize new fee increases soon to pay for the additional manpower including a new annual fee for all public water systems based on its number of customers and an increase to the one-time permit fees for new water systems ([Reuters](#)).

Hackers Target Water Utility Control Systems: A water utility network in Europe was recently hit by a cyberattack ([eWEEK](#)) that was reported this month.

Florida Woman Shares Facebook Live Videos of her \$493 Water Bill Payment with Pennies to Protest "Over-inflated Water Bills": Accuses Deltona Water of "gaslighting its constituency," ([video](#)).

Montana Representative to Press Legislation to Pay for Bureau of Reclamation Authorized Rural Water Projects ([news](#)). A representative from the multi-state regional Lewis & Clark Regional Water System explained that the bill would provide millions of dollars each year for authorized rural water projects until they are completed. However, there is a political impediment to identifying a funding source that is keeping the legislation from enactment.

What is Twitter Interested in Regarding Drinking Water?: The answer is banning fluoride in drinking water. Recent [federal court ruling](#) to ban the use of fluoride under the Toxic Substances Control Act drives Tweets ([Twitter](#)).

[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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