

Rural Water Policy Advisory [4/30/2018]

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

Thank you, Mississippi Representative Gregg Harper and Idaho Representative Mike Simpson: Last Thursday, both representatives questioned the U.S. EPA Administrator on why his Agency has not provided the most beneficial technical assistance with the funds that Congress has provided for technical assistance. Thank you, Mississippi and Idaho Rural Water Associations for making this happen because it benefits every state. The ***Power of an Association*** means that only by organizing together with a common agenda can we achieve what none of us could acting independently. See videos of the representatives during the Congressional hearings:

[Rep. Harper \(MS\)](#)



The Fiscal Year 2019 Environmental Protection Agency Budget
30,231 views

[Rep. Simpson \(ID\)](#)



Hearing: FY 2019 Budget - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (EventID=108238)
9,679 views

NRDC Files Formal Intent to Sue to Enforce Lead and Copper Rule in the City of Newark, New Jersey ([NRDC](#)).

Should NRWA Tell Congress and EPA to Set a New MCL for PFAS or Not?: On Friday, NRWA's Regulatory Committee deliberated on adopting a policy on whether an enforceable EPA drinking water standard for per and polyfluoroalkyls (PFAS) is a good idea. NRWA has cautioned Congress in the past that communities with violations and contamination in their drinking water need help and not fines. Recently, 25 U.S. senators sent a letter to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt urging him to take swift action to address the PFAS contamination and expressing concerns that the EPA has not yet declared a federal maximum contaminant level (MCL). The letter states, "*A science-based MCL would provide a clear and enforceable nationwide standard for permissible levels of these contaminants... We urge you, as a part of your efforts, to expeditiously declare an MCL for all PFAS, based on rigorous scientific evidence.*" Please provide us with any comments you may have on the discussion ([email](#)).

Private Water Lobbyists Send Proposal to Capitol Hill to Drive "Joint Enterprises" Among Water Systems: NRWA has been asked by representatives of House and Senate Members to comment on a recent [legislative proposal](#) crafted in a process led by private water advocates. This proposal does not include the word "*consolidation*" that was in the former version of similar legislation ([H.R. 3387](#)). In his House of Representatives testimony in 2017, NRWA President Steve Fletcher raised concerns about new federal authorities to drive consolidation ([hearing video](#)).

U.S. Representative Keith Ellison and Food & Water Watch Wenonah Hauter on How Private Water Will Result in Water Injustice: "*Water bills are also unaffordable for thousands of people in cities like Detroit and Baltimore and in rural areas across America. Martin County, Kentucky, an impoverished rural community, is experiencing rate hikes for a system that is catastrophically failing*

([In These Times](#)).

Comics Feature, “How Housing Discrimination Led to the Flint Water Crisis ([Splinter News](#)).”

EPA Signals New Rulemaking Could End Limits On Wastewater 'Blending': The agency announced the start of a rulemaking process to create "regulatory clarity and certainty" on wastewater blending on [April 17](#). On the same day, EPA water chief David Ross said of the decision to go through a formal rulemaking on blending, "I'm not a huge fan of guidance."

Activists Continued to Attack Flint Water Hero, Dr. Marc Edwards ([Twitter](#)): “... *Dr. Marc Edwards who sees opportunity for fame and glory on the misery of lead poisoning many in our communities across the country are going through. Shameful. Science should advance humanity, not fatten wallets and egos.*”

Race in Flint’s Water Heros and Racist Media Coverage of Flint: “*But there is a problem here. For all that Walters, Hanna-Attisha, and Edwards did for Flint... prizes for heroism have been the exclusive domain of non-black figures... The nation’s top newspapers and television stations came so late to the story that it missed the months of complaints about the water... No citizens who complained publicly about the water almost right away were cited as heroes, nor were any of the pastors who organized months of protests and marches... In remaining anonymous and absent from the ‘hero’ narrative, the black residents of Flint have not been recognized as possessing the agency of non-black figures involved in the crisis* ([The Grist](#)).”

North Carolina State Representatives’ Health Concerns Over GenX Have Been Trumped Up by Lawyers Looking for Big Paydays, says one State Legislator: “*The Water’s Clean Folks. The Water is Safe* ([AP News](#)).”

Racism, Sexism At Chicago Water: Official Suspended ([Local News](#)).

[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](#)).