

Rural Water Policy Advisory [8/28/2017]

Hurricane Harvey: The Texas Rural Water Association mobilized their “Rural Water Emergency Assistance Cooperative,” on August 25, 2017 ([TRWA](#)). As many as 300,000 people across the state were without power and wastewater and drinking-water treatment plants were offline. Governor Abbott declared 50 counties disaster areas ([AP News](#), [NYTimes video reports](#), [local news live](#)).

NRWA Taking Action on Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act in Congress: The NRWA Regulatory Committee convened last week to craft a policy position [H.R. 3387](#), the Drinking Water System Improvement Act, which passed the Energy and Commerce Committee on July 27 and should be taken up by the full U.S. House of Representatives by the end of the year. The committee deliberated on five provisions in the legislation that could be problematic for the membership ([consolidation](#), [CCRs](#), [UCMR](#), [security assessments](#), and [“plastic pipes” reviews](#)). The committee enlisted the assistance of Mississippi, Illinois, and New York Rural Water Associations to begin discussions with the bills’ authors from those states about modifications to the legislation.

After 22 Water Main Breaks, City Finds 13 Miles of Pipeline Improperly Installed:

In a 3-week period, 22 water main breaks occurred throughout the City of Lawrence (Kansas), resulting in \$200,000 worth of repairs and replacements. Premature line failure has been occurring on approximately 13 miles of waterline that was originally installed without wrapping or other protection needed to account for corrosive soil conditions ([news](#)).

Rhode Island Backs EPA In Litigation Over CWA Nitrogen Permit Limits: Rhode Island is urging a federal appeals court to uphold an EPA Clean Water Act (CWA) discharge permit for a wastewater treatment plant in Massachusetts, citing the court's 2012 ruling in a similar case and saying the strict nutrient permit limits at issue in the pending suit are necessary to protect the water quality of Mount Hope Bay, RI. In *City of Taunton v. EPA*, pending in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit, the Massachusetts municipality claims that EPA issued a 2015 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) without scientific grounding that would justify stricter limits on nitrogen releases.

Colorado Safe Drinking Water Program Warns of “ability to maintain primacy from the U.S. EPA to implement the Safe Drinking Water Act, allowing the federal government to take over ([more](#)).”

EPA Threatens Kansas City with 150 Persons with Fine of \$54,789 per day for Disinfection By-products Violation Caused by Wholesaler that is Willing to Fix the Issue by Reducing Chlorine Contact Time ([KRWA](#)).

Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) Finds Environmental Working Group (EWG) Drinking Water Database “Frightening and Misleading” to Customers ([more](#)).

Hacker Steals Water Customers' Money in Margate, Florida: The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how a hacker managed to get water-utility customers' personal information to steal their money. The accounts for sixty-nine water customers in Margate were compromised when residents went online to pay their water bills by credit card or debit card. Authorities still don't know if it was a website that was hacked, or some other part of the payment process ([more](#)).

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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