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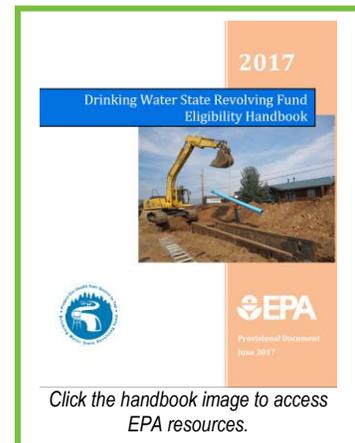
## Mr. Mueller Goes to Washington as ACPPA Weighs in on Trump Infrastructure Priorities

ACPPA President Richard Mueller was in Washington, D.C. on June 14 for a series of meetings to discuss the concrete pressure pipe industry's priorities with executive and legislative branch officials. In addition to meeting with staff from the House and Senate Committees with jurisdiction over water issues, Mueller and ACPPA Counsel and Lobbyist Christian Klein met with senior officials at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responsible for managing the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs. The meeting served as an opportunity to discuss current issues related to the programs and identify experts within EPA capable of responding to member questions on implementation issues.

One important takeaway from the meeting was that EPA recently released the new "Drinking Water SRF Eligibility Handbook", which is designed to be a "one-stop-shopping" manual about DWSRF eligibility for states and interested stakeholders regarding both infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure activities eligible for DWSRF funding. The handbook is available on the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf](http://www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf). The handbook is part of a suite of tools the agency is developing to help states and local communities execute drinking water infrastructure projects and initiatives.

As part of Richard's visit, ACPPA also delivered a letter to senior administration officials addressed to President Trump regarding the White House's infrastructure initiative. The letter expressed strong support for the administration's "efforts to significantly increase investment in U.S. infrastructure through a combination of direct federal funding, innovative financing to attract more private capital, and improvements to the project delivery process." However, the letter to President Trump also emphasized the need for significant additional investment in water infrastructure – and drinking water in particular – given "chronic underinvestment" and mounting needs. It cited several recent studies underscoring the need for more spending on water and reminded the president that: "Inadequate investment in water infrastructure threatens public health and economic growth." ([To read the letter, click here.](#))

Unfortunately, at least for the moment, infrastructure has taken a backseat to fixing Obamacare on Capitol Hill. However, ACPPA and other construction and transportation industry organizations are continuing to press Congress and the administration to make good on campaign promises. ACPPA will continue to engage with policymakers and allied organizations to promote the industry's infrastructure agenda. 



## Unanimity Reigns in House Effort to Reform Technical Education

On June 22, the House of Representatives unanimously approved the “[Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act](#).” It has been popular since its introduction: ACPPA and a broad range of industry and academic groups have praised its policies and not a single member of the Education and Workforce Committee dissented when considering it in May. As the legislation moved to the House floor, ACPPA coordinated a letter in support that was joined by all members of the North American Concrete Alliance ([to read the letter, click here](#)).

H.R. 2353, which bears the same title as legislation that [passed the House in 2016 by 400 votes but saw no action in the Senate](#), builds on recent reforms to the K-12 education system and enhancements to federal resources for workforce development in order to enhance flexibility for states and increase engagement of technical employers. Like its predecessor from the 114th Congress, this year’s legislation seeks to:

- (1) Empower state and local community leaders by simplifying application requirements and maximizing flexibility.
- (2) Improve alignment with in-demand jobs by building industry-sector partnerships.
- (3) Increase transparency and accountability by giving a voice to students, parents and stakeholders in assessing programs.
- (4) Ensure a limited federal role by minimizing the authority of the secretary of education.

Each of these pillars will surely remain popular with industry members. In July, 2016, ACPPA joined more than [250 other organizations on a letter to Congress](#) praising the same values in that attempt to rebuild the nation’s career and technical education system. The association and its allies have long argued that responsive federal workforce policy should provide states and communities with the tools necessary to stimulate the growth of skills that put students into jobs – this bill pursues that end.

The legislation now heads to the Senate. Stay tuned to *Actionline* for updates as the process moves forward.

To read a fact sheet on the bill, [click here](#).

To read a detailed bill summary, [click here](#).

To read the bill, [click here](#). 

## EPA, Army Corps Announce Decision to Withdraw WOTUS



Of the many Obama-era regulations maligned by Republicans and the business community, perhaps none drew such universal opposition and outrage as the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) initiative. The policy was borne out of the Obama administration’s frustration with its inability to pass legislation on Capitol Hill expanding the EPA’s jurisdiction over non-navigable waters.

In what was generally regarded as a brazen act of regulatory overreach, Obama’s EPA changed the WOTUS definition so broadly that almost every hole capable of holding water would potentially be subject to federal regulation. Construction and agricultural groups were particularly vocal in their opposition.

Now, the Trump administration is rolling back Obama's policy. On June 27, the EPA, Department of the Army and the Army Corps of Engineers (the agencies) proposed a new rule to rescind the prior administration's Clean Water Rule and re-codify the regulatory text that existed prior to 2015 defining WOTUS. The agencies say this action will provide certainty in the interim, pending a second rulemaking in which they will engage in a substantive re-evaluation of the definition of "waters of the United States."

"We are taking significant action to return power to the states and provide regulatory certainty to our nation's farmers and businesses," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said. "This is the first step in the two-step process to redefine 'waters of the U.S.' and we are committed to moving through this re-evaluation to quickly provide regulatory certainty, in a way that is thoughtful, transparent and collaborative with other agencies and the public."

This proposed rule follows the [Feb. 28, 2017, Presidential Executive Order on "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule."](#) The February Order states that it is in the national interest to ensure that the nation's navigable waters are kept free from pollution, while at the same time promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty and showing "due regard" for the roles of Congress and the states under the Constitution. To meet these objectives, the agencies intend to follow an expeditious, two-step process that will provide certainty across the country.

The proposed rule would recodify the identical regulatory text that was in place prior to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and that is currently in place as a result of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit's stay of the 2015 rule (see previous editions of *Actionline* for WOTUS coverage). Therefore, this action, when final, will not change current practice with respect to how the definition applies.

The agencies have also begun deliberations and outreach on the second step rulemaking involving a re-evaluation and revision of the definition of "waters of the United States" in accordance with the executive order.

"The Army, together with the Corps of Engineers, is committed to working closely with and supporting the EPA on these rulemakings. As we go through the rulemaking process, we will continue to make the implementation of the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulatory program as transparent as possible for the regulated public," said Douglas Lamont, senior official performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

The pre-publication Federal Register Notice and additional information is available at [www.epa.gov/wotus-rule](http://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule). 

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# Pressure Pipe Post

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ACPPA's Monthly Source for Industry News

June 2017

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To keep members aware of the activities of government and standards organizations, we regularly sweep public databases and publications for the industry-specific terms indicated below. We then provide our members with links to documents identified in the search. Please note that in some cases the URLs may link to subscription-only databases. The purpose of this service is to identify emerging threats and trends as well as opportunities for collective action by ACPPA.

## **NEWS RESULTS**

### **Coal Ash/Fly Ash**

#### **[North Carolina] Coal Ash Language Late Addition to Bill at NCGA**

06/29/2017 <http://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2017/06/29/coal-ash-language-late-addition-ncga-bill/>

A plan to remove and make good use of some of the millions of tons of toxic coal ash stored in dumps around North Carolina appeared to hit a snag this week.

#### **What Does 'Clean Coal' Mean and Can it Save the Planet?**

06/15/2017 <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/column-clean-coal-mean-can-save-planet/>

The phrase 'clean coal' appears regularly in the news and in the speeches of our politicians, but what does it mean?

#### **[Kentucky] Regulators Approve Duke Energy Coal Ash Plan**

06/07/2017 <https://www.snl.com/Interactivex/article.aspx?CdId=A-40944690-9526>

Duke Energy Kentucky Inc. can move forward with plans to close the ash pond at its East Bend plant and relocate the waste to an existing landfill.

#### **[Illinois] Coal-Ash Pits Focus of Town Hall Set Monday in Danville**

06/03/2017 <http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2017-06-03/coal-ash-pits-focus-town-hall-set-monday-danville.html>

Local citizens concerned with coal-ash pits on Dynegy's former power plant site along the Middle Fork River have the opportunity Monday during a town hall meeting to ask local elected officials about efforts to protect the scenic waterway.

**International****[Canada] Ending the Storage War**

06/26/2017 [http://www.mswmag.com/editorial/2017/07/ending\\_the\\_storage\\_war](http://www.mswmag.com/editorial/2017/07/ending_the_storage_war)

A combined sewage storage tunnel (CSST) is being built in Ottawa to retain as many as 11.3 million gallons of sewer overflow for treatment. According to design parameters, it will reduce CSOs to an average of no more than two per year. For the city's engineers, a commitment to getting the right design also helped the city achieve greater efficiency in its existing wastewater system.

**[India] Make Use of Fly Ash or Shut Down: Niti Aayog**

06/21/2017 <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/220617/make-use-of-fly-ash-or-shut-down-niti-aayog.html>

The ministry of environment and forest has brought out a gazette notification regarding the 100 per cent utilisation of fly ash.

**[South Africa] Water Leak Provides New Watering Hole for Goats in Ladysmith**

06/15/2017 <http://ladysmithgazette.co.za/88080/water-leak-provides-new-watering-hole-goats-ladysmith/>

A major pipe burst in Coleus and Viola roads has left water running down the drain for days. Speaking to residents, they say the water is flowing out of the burst pipe from under the tar at a rapid rate. Animals in the area don't seem to be too perturbed by the leak though. On the contrary, the water streaming onto the road and down the drain seems to have created a new watering hole for goats in the area.

**[Canada] City Moving to Make Water Supply Safer for Thousands**

06/14/2017 <http://www.iheartradio.ca/cjad/news/city-moving-to-make-water-supply-safer-for-thousands-1.2689883>

As the city continues with its construction blitz, councillors want to take the opportunity to offer homeowners a deal on replacing dated — and dangerous — lead pipes.

**[New Zealand] Local Govt Seeks Central Govt Help to Replace Ageing Water Infrastructure**

06/05/2017 [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=11870467](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11870467)

New Zealand's local authorities face a \$100 billion-plus to replace ageing water pipes, drains and sewers and will need central government assistance to meet the bill, says Local Government New Zealand, the lobby group for the sector.

**[South Africa] What Is “Sick Concrete Syndrome”? Every Engineer’s Nightmare!**

06/05/2017 <http://www.infrastructurene.ws/2017/06/05/what-is-sick-concrete-syndrome-every-engineers-nightmare/>

After about thirty years the concrete structures that we assumed as being unbreakable suddenly disintegrate and collapse as a result of corrosion of the reinforcing steel.

**[Vietnam] Wastewater Treatment System Rushed Up**

06/01/2017 <http://baobinhduong.vn/en/waste-water-treatment-system-rushed-up-a161985.html>

The official delegation of Board of Economics and Budget of Provincial People's Council examined and inspected on the reality of feedbacks by local people on simultaneous street excavation and installation of waste water treatment system affecting their traveling.

**Infrastructure Policy****The White House Labeled this 'Energy Week.' And You Thought it was All Health Care.**

06/29/2017 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/06/29/the-white-house-labeled-this-energy-week-and-you-thought-it-was-all-healthcare>

The White House has branded this week "energy week," rolling out a buzzword, "dominance," and replaying lines from last year's Trump campaign in an effort to portray the United States as a global energy superpower — and to label previous administrations as obstacles to energy growth.

**The Buy Clean California Act could Make America Great Again and Reduce Emissions**

06/22/2017 <http://fusion.net/story/570363/california-wants-to-make-steel-great-again/>

There was time in Los Angeles when the smog was so bad you couldn't see down the block. Then, the state mandated that catalytic converters were installed in every car, which had to be submitted to regular smog checks. The new requirements were a boon for auto mechanics, who were authorized to carry out the emissions tests.

**Let's Fix Our Underground Water Infrastructure Through Open Competition**

06/16/2017 <https://www.tribtalk.org/2017/06/16/lets-fix-our-underground-water-infrastructure-through-open-competition/>

Like so many other people across the nation, I was horrified by the water contamination crisis that struck Flint, Michigan. As an elected official who bears direct responsibility for maintaining the integrity of my city's drinking water system, I ask myself: What can be done to keep this from happening in my community?

**Candice Miller Talks Infrastructure with Trump, Calls Him 'Very Relaxed'**

06/09/2017 <http://www.theoaklandpress.com/government-and-politics/20170609/candice-miller-talks-infrastructure-with-trump-calls-him-very-relaxed>

While much of the nation focused on the aftermath of James Comey's testimony Thursday, Candice Miller focused on her meeting President Trump over a more mundane but perhaps more crucial topic – infrastructure.

**A Fight Over Plastic Pipe in Michigan**

06/07/2017 <http://www.phcnews.com/content/fight-over-plastic-pipe-michigan>

A bill winding its way through the Michigan legislature hopes to lower the cost of underground pipelines for drinking water, wastewater or storm water infrastructure projects.

## **Technology**

### **Cornell Takes Part in Adaptable Infrastructure Experiments**

06/09/2017 <http://whcuradio.com/news/025520-cornell-takes-part-in-adaptable-infrastructure-experiments/>

Cornell University took part in a first of its kind experiment this week that could help improve underground infrastructure.

### **Tools and Techniques to Find Underground Utilities**

06/06/2017 <http://foresternetwork.com/daily/construction/construction-equipment/find-underground-utilities/>

Searching for underground utilities has been transformed from educated guesswork, to space-age perfection in the last few decades. But the fact that anything exists underground in the first place offers an interesting backstory.

## **Water and Wastewater**

### **[California] City Moves Forward with Sewer Pipe Replacement Project**

06/22/2017 <http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/20170622/city-moves-forward-with-sewer-pipe-replacement-project>

The City Council authorized city staff to award a contract Tuesday for the South Main Street Sewer project, to replace about 1,120 feet of 8-inch sewer pipe near St. Elizabeth Community Hospital.

### **[Virginia] The City's Pipe Dream**

06/16/2017 [http://www.dnronline.com/news/harrisonburg/the-city-s-pipe-dream/article\\_883647a4-530a-11e7-ba2f-3f91aab9b635.html](http://www.dnronline.com/news/harrisonburg/the-city-s-pipe-dream/article_883647a4-530a-11e7-ba2f-3f91aab9b635.html)

If your life's been affected by recent water-main breaks on South Main Street, North Main, Rawley Pike or elsewhere, you might be wondering why they are occurring.

### **[New York] Officials Update Plans as Sunrise Highway Aqueduct Deemed in 'Very Good Condition'**

06/15/2017 <http://www.liherald.com/stories/officials-update-plans-as-aqueduct-deemed-in-very-good-condition.92776>

Engineers have determined that the 110-year-old aqueduct running underneath Sunrise Highway is in "very good condition," and county officials are preparing for the next stages of a proposed project to refurbish and upgrade the pipe to transport treated sewage from Bay Park to Cedar Creek.

**REGULATORY RESULTS****Cement****Environmental Protection Agency | Direct Final Rule | National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry: Alternative Monitoring Method**06/23/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-23/pdf/2017-13185.pdf>

The EPA is taking direct final action to amend the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air pollutants from the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry.

**Environmental Protection Agency | Proposed Rule | National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry: Alternative Monitoring Method**06/23/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-23/pdf/2017-13186.pdf>

The EPA is proposing to amend the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry. In the "Rules and Regulations" section of this issue of the Federal Register, we are publishing a direct final rule, without a prior proposed rule, that temporarily revises the testing and monitoring requirements for hydrochloric acid (HCl) due to the current unavailability of HCl calibration gases used for quality assurance purposes/

**Drought****Susquehanna River Basin Commission | Final Rule | Review and Approval of Projects; Hearings and Enforcement Actions**06/29/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-29/pdf/2017-13324.pdf>

This document contains rules that would amend the regulations of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission to clarify application requirements and standards for review of projects.

**Water Infrastructure****Environmental Protection Agency | Final Rule | Fees for Water Infrastructure Project Applications Under WIFIA**06/28/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-28/pdf/2017-13438.pdf>

With this rule EPA establishes fees related to the provision of federal credit assistance under Subtitle C of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA), which is referred to as the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA).

**Water Supply****Environmental Protection Agency | Notice | Public Water Supply Supervision Program; Program Revision for the State of Washington**06/06/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-06/pdf/2017-11705.pdf>

Notice is hereby given that the State of Washington has revised its approved State Public Water Supply Supervision Primacy Program.

**Environmental Protection Agency | Notice | Notice of Tentative Approval and Opportunity for Public Comment and Public Hearing for Public Water System Supervision Program Revision for Virginia**

06/06/2017 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-06/pdf/2017-11705.pdf>

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth of Virginia is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. Virginia has adopted drinking water regulations for the Revised Total Coliform Rule.

**LEGISLATIVE RESULTS**

**Drought**

**H.R. 2799 | Introduced by Rep. McNerney, Jerry (D-Calif.) | Western Water Recycling and Drought Relief Act**

06/16/2018 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2799>

To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize certain recycled water projects, and for other purposes.

