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House Water Bill Funds Corps Programs, Lacks Senate's Emergency Streams

On May 25, the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee unanimously approved the [Water Resources Development Act \(WRDA\) of 2016 \(H.R. 5303\)](#). The bill was introduced by Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) on May 23 and moved quickly through the panel.

Like its predecessor in 2014, "WRDA 2016" authorizes projects and activities related to the key missions of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, including managing waterway infrastructure. By authorizing 28 reports received over the past two years, H.R. 5303 invests in America's ports, channels, locks, dams and other infrastructure that supports the maritime transportation system. Since Corps reports contain improvements proposed at the local level and vetted through congressional committee hearings, investing in these recommendations upholds congressional commitment to empowering communities while investing in American infrastructure through a transparent process.

With versions of the bill now moving through both houses – the Senate's WRDA was approved by the Environment and Public Works Committee in April (see last month's [Actionline](#)) – Congress appears committed to goal of revisiting water infrastructure legislation every two years. However, there are still considerable differences between each chamber's legislation.

In addition to funding Corps programs as H.R. 5303 does, the Senate bill ([S. 2848](#)) provides hundreds of millions of dollars in emergency assistance funding through the drinking water state revolving fund (SRF) program and Water Infrastructure Finance Innovations Authority (WIFIA). Such resources would provide local communities a means to overcome Flint, Michigan-like crises while injecting money into the economy; analysis contained within the Senate's bill noted federal water infrastructure funds can generate more than 500,000 jobs and \$102 billion in economic output over the next five years while WIFIA subsidies could provide for more than \$4.2 billion in additional direct funding for water projects.

Both the House and Senate are moving quickly to pass their respective bills before a conference committee can even begin to reconcile the differences between them. Stay tuned as the process continues.

Click [here](#) for the text of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

Click [here](#) for a summary of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

Employers Have Six Months to Prepare for New Overtime Requirements

On May 18, the Department of Labor (DOL) [announced](#) its highly-anticipated revisions to the Fair Labor Standards Act's (FLSA) overtime provisions, which will go into effect Dec. 1, 2016.

Under existing regulations, employees earning an annual salary in excess of \$23,660, and who perform qualified administrative, managerial or professional duties, are not entitled to overtime pay. While the new rule does not revise the job duties test, salaried employees earning less \$47,476 will now be entitled to overtime pay if they work more than 40 hours in a week. In addition, the new rule automatically updates the salary threshold every three years to match the 40th percentile of full-time salaried employees in the lowest-wage census region in the U.S.

Employers across the country – even the Obama Administration's own [Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy](#) – asked DOL to reexamine the impact of the proposed revisions, and it appears the department listened to a certain extent: the salary basis calculation and update frequency in the final rule are different than the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM). Under the original proposal, the salary threshold would be determined by a national average of salaried employees' compensation and it would be updated annually. This made it very difficult for employers to forecast staffing needs because the expense of maintaining current employees – much less hiring additional workers – would be constantly changing. Furthermore, using a national standard to determine the salary basis would disproportionately affect less-wealthy areas of the country where salaries reflect lower costs of living.

Although DOL did not withdraw the NPRM, the final rule reflects a more balanced and incremental approach to addressing overtime compensation. By Dec. 1 employers must decide how to comply with the new rule: pay time-and-a-half for overtime work, raise employees' salaries above the new threshold, limit the number of hours worked to 40 per week or execute some combination thereof. Employers will get some help from DOL's first-time permitting of employers to count certain nondiscretionary bonuses, incentives and commissions towards up to ten percent of the required salary level. Employers should carefully evaluate compensation packages before making any salary adjustments or reclassifying current employees.

Before DOL issued the final rule, efforts were underway in the House and Senate to pass the Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act ([S. 2707](#), [H.R. 4773](#)), which would require DOL to reassess the economic impact of the rule. At this time it is unclear whether the issuance of the final rule will reinvigorate those efforts. Even if it does, proponents face an uphill battle given the very limited time before the summer recess and the November elections.

Connecting Workers with High-Demand Careers Through Quality Education and Training

By U.S. Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-Pa.)

It is no secret that one of our country's greatest resources has always been a qualified and well-trained workforce. However, recently employers cannot find qualified workers to fill high-demand positions. This issue has become known as the "skills gap." The problem is two-fold: demographics and adequate job training. Each day more than 10,000 baby boomers turn 65, while only one-third remain in the workforce. While there are factors beyond our control, we can ensure that younger generations have adequate training at our high schools, technical schools, community colleges and universities.

To address the skills gap, our elected leaders must join with educators and industry to promote a culture that empowers students and job seekers to explore avenues in emerging and high-demand industries. However, that cannot be done if the infrastructure to train these future professionals is not in place. In Congress, the efforts to align federal workforce programs with the needs of modern business have been shaping up to benefit both jobseekers and industry.

In 2014, the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law. This law was designed to better coordinate federal, state and local workforce training programs and services, along with the elimination of programs which don't work.

WIOA is structured to streamline workforce development through the elimination of programs that have not worked in the past, replacing them with a system that is set up to empower workforce development boards to serve their region's employment and workforce needs. The goal of WIOA is the empowerment of workforce investment board members to eliminate barriers in order to provide job seekers and employers the resources they need in helping rebuild our nation's technical workforce.

Building tomorrow's workforce starts in our high schools. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law late last year after passing Congress with strong bipartisan support. This law replaces the failing No Child Left Behind and includes provisions to ensure students receive a rigorous and relevant k-12 education. That includes not only "book smarts," but also practical applications that will provide real-world learning and opportunity to earn academic credit for spending time in the field of their choice.

For too long students had been told a four-year institution was the only pathway to success. We know there are many pathways and options for those who seek greater opportunities. ESSA also includes resources for career counseling, helping school guidance counselors stay informed about local labor market conditions in order to provide the best advice for their students. By maximizing flexibility, but maintaining



Rep. Thompson is a member of the House Committee on Education & the Workforce and co-chair of the bipartisan Career & Technical Education Caucus.

high standards, we can create an education system that is more nimble and responsive to the needs of our country.

While reforms to job training and secondary education are important, the missing piece of the puzzle and answer to modernizing vocation and technical education programs through reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins). Last updated in 2006, Perkins is the law that guides federal investment in career and technical education programs that prepare students for postsecondary education and the workforce. As co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, I have joined my colleagues in advocating for strategic investments in Perkins programming. For example, in Fiscal Year 2014, the House voted to increase funding for the program by \$52 million. While a modest increase for a billion dollar program, this was the first increase for Perkins since 2008. While strategic investments are key to the current law's success, federal funds are not solely the answer. We must reshape the law to better serve students, job seekers and employers through apprenticeships, mentorships and the alignment of career and technical education programs with the needs of national, state, and local labor markets.

As Congress continues to work toward modernizing America's technical workforce, we need your help. Please contact your Member of Congress, whom you can locate by visiting <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>. Then, share your industry's story and the need to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Together we can narrow the skills gap and put the unemployed, underemployed and first-time job seeker on a pathway to success.

ACPPA thanks Rep. Thompson for sharing his insights. The views expressed in this article are the congressman's and do not necessarily reflect the positions of ACPPA.

New Study Shows Growing Demand from Natural Gas Will Support Broad Industry Health

On May 3, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Center for Manufacturing Research and IHS Economics released a new comprehensive study that reveals how natural gas has strengthened manufacturing, encouraged industry growth and employment and positively impacted American communities.

The report indicates domestic natural gas has transformed the U.S. economy, made companies more competitive, created jobs and put money back in the pockets of working Americans.

Among the findings:

- Natural gas access contributed to 1.9 million jobs economy-wide in 2015.
- Availability of gas from shale saved the average American household \$1,337.
- New natural gas transmission lines meant more than 347,000 jobs – 60,000 in manufacturing.
- Total natural gas demand is poised to increase by 40 percent over the next decade. Key drivers will be manufacturing and power generation.
- U.S. supply is expected to increase by 48 percent over the next decade to meet new demand.

- Because energy innovation is lowering production costs, the report projects that energy-intensive industries such as chemicals, metals, food and refining to outperform the U.S. economy as a whole through 2025.
- Shale gas production has created new flow patterns that are causing existing pipelines to reverse flow and will necessitate the construction of new pipeline capacity.

Although energy prices have fluctuated in recent years, shale energy development has had a significant impact on equipment dealers and manufacturers throughout the country. The [Energy Equipment & Infrastructure Alliance](#) estimates that construction spending related to shale oil and gas amounted to nearly \$4 billion in 2014 and supported more than 15,000 workers. The cumulative impact of supplemental construction spending is expected to total more than \$49 billion through 2025, supporting an annual average of 12,300 jobs during that period.

The positive impact on distributors has been clear for many years. The NAM report is yet another example of how shale energy development is benefiting the entire economy.

To access the full report, [click here](#).

150 Organizations  60 Events  7 Days  1 Message

Infrastructure Week 2016

From May 16-23, the American construction, manufacturing and industrial services community sent a clear message to federal, state and local officials: Infrastructure Matters.

Infrastructure Week is a national series of high-profile events, media coverage, focused advocacy and other efforts held around the country to build momentum for revitalizing America's economic competitiveness through rebuilding the nation's infrastructure. Led by groups representing America's business, labor and policy-making leadership, Infrastructure Week convened an unprecedented, broad and non-partisan coalition united around the importance of investing in our nation's roads, bridges, pipes, ports and power stations.



See what happened this year and begin to plan for 2017 by visiting: <http://www.infrastructureweek.org>.

Pressure Pipe Post

ACPPA's Monthly Source for Industry News

May 2016

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

Utilities Act To Comply With Ash Rule

5/18/2016 <http://www.enr.com/articles/39481-utilities-act-to-comply-with-ash-rule>

Wrenching change is coming to coal country, and the coal industry and its defenders are blaming the government for waging a war on coal.

Infrastructure

Snyder: Budget Deal is Close, but Some Issues Unresolved

5/25/2016 <http://wnmufm.org/post/snyder-budget-deal-close-some-issues-unresolved>

Governor Rick Snyder says he and Republican legislative leaders are close to brokering a budget agreement, with a "fairly short list" of issues left to be resolved.

Aging Infrastructure Grant on Benzie Agenda

5/23/2016 http://www.record-eagle.com/news/local_news/aging-infrastructure-grant-on-benzie-agenda/article_08063b78-ba85-5401-8ce2-f6fc494cfe24.html

Dan Smith hopes his village gets needed funding to help replace aging underground infrastructure. The Beulah village president said an Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Community Development Block Grant program could help install new water pipes.

Senate OKs Michigan Infrastructure Fund; Money up in Air

5/19/2016 http://www.michiganstumb.com/news/article_efe8dbb2-1dc0-11e6-b1ae-07f9d922fc6b.html

A bill advancing in Michigan would create a state fund that could be used to pay for underground infrastructure needs across the state in the wake of Flint's water crisis.

Pipes and Pipelines

North American Pipeline Project Roundup

5/19/2016 <http://napipelines.com/north-american-pipeline-project-roundup-25/>

The following oil and gas pipeline projects have been announced. Projects are in order of most recent approximate starting date. All projects are for 2016 unless noted.

More Work Yet to be Done in Norfolk

5/19/2016 http://norfolkdailynews.com/blogs/more-work-yet-to-be-done-in-norfolk/article_04168dde-1dc4-11e6-8bcd-5f63c8a0355a.html

The hoopla over last month's breaking of ground for the new OCT Pipe plant in Norfolk, the starting of construction of the natural gas pipeline from Norfolk to Bancroft, and the passage of expressway-related legislation is behind us.

Canal Pressurization Project Nearing Completion

5/13/2016 http://news.hjnews.com/agriculture/canal-pressurization-project-nearing-completion/article_27ec08e5-a937-5de1-a2ea-c410ba936237.html

The Cache Highline Water Association's pipeline pressurization construction project on its canal network is nearly complete, with water delivery to shareholders projected to begin next week.

Michigan Pipe Problems 'Ignored for Decades'

5/10/2016 http://world.einnews.com/article_detail/state/michigan/325449667-michigan-pipe-problems-ignored-for-decades?vcode=yILz

Michigan should be investing hundreds of millions more a year on underground infrastructure in order to ensure safe and reliable drinking water across the state, an industry expert told legislators Tuesday during a hearing on the Flint crisis.

What's in Those New Plastic Pipes Delivering Drinking Water?

5/2/2016 <http://ensia.com/features/whats-in-those-new-plastic-pipes-delivering-drinking-water/>

The calls and e-mails arrive as often as several times a week from people with concerns about drinking water. Some of the callers — who include homeowners, architects and builders — want to know why their water smells like gasoline. Others want to know which kinds of pipes to install to minimize risks of exposure to hazardous chemicals.

Water and Sewer

Water, Water, Everywhere, Nor Any Drop To Drink

5/23/2016 <http://seekingalpha.com/article/3976997-water-water-everywhere-drop-drink>

You probably learned in kindergarten that 70% of the earth's surface is covered with water. What you may not have learned is that of all the water on earth, only 2.5% is fresh water. What's more, only about 1% of the fresh water is easily accessible; the other 99% is trapped in glaciers and snowfields. For those of you decimally challenged, this means that only 0.007% of our planet's water is available to satisfy the needs of our quickly growing population.

Water Supply to Folsom Restored

5/22/2016 <http://www.folsomtelegraph.com/article/water-supply-folsom-restored?mini=2016-07>

The waterline from Folsom Lake to the city of Folsom has been restored, city officials said Friday morning. The pipeline that supplies the city with its drinking water collapsed Thursday morning, and water for city use had been coming from the city's reserve tanks.

County's Pipe Dream Moving Forward

5/20/2016 <http://www.liherald.com/stories/Countys-pipe-dream-moving-forward,80086>

Nassau County is looking to divert tens of millions of gallons of treated sewage from the Bay Park treatment plant in East Rockaway to the ocean outfall pipe at the Cedar Creek plant on the Wantagh-Seaford border.

Water Project in Laurel Near Completion

5/17/2016 <http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/story/31998916/water-project-in-laurel-near-completion>

A water project in Laurel is nearing completion. The \$1.2 million Queensburg Avenue Area Project is designed to increase water pressure quality to around 200 homes in the area.

Work on 15th Street Begins Today

5/16/2016 <http://www.dglobe.com/news/4034025-work-15th-street-begins-today>

Storm sewer work on 15th Street from Second Avenue to Third Avenue is scheduled to begin today.

Downtown Improvement Project: City Eyes September Start Date

5/16/2016 http://www.petoskeynews.com/gaylord/featured-ght/top-gallery/downtown-improvement-project-city-eyes-september-start-date/article_85873dc9-5509-5358-8f0d-6a810b5eb5a8.html

Residents can expect to see a plethora of orange cones and construction workers in downtown Gaylord later this year, though the city has only a single project to complete.

Road work? State Must Look at the Pipes Underneath, Gov Says

5/13/2016 http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/05/road_work_state_must_look_at_t.html

The state's crumbling roads often cover crumbling underground water and sewer infrastructure, and a new directive from Gov. Rick Snyder would coordinate the replacement of those items.

New Water Lines Being Placed Along Fort King St.

5/11/2016 <http://www.ocala.com/article/20160511/ARTICLES/160519954/-1/sports08>

Downtown Ocala construction may be an inconvenience to some. But to local elected officials and staff overseeing the work, dust in the air, closed roads and detour signs paint a picture as beautiful as any in a museum.

Large Amount of Sewage Spills Small Amount Enters Creek

5/6/2016 http://www.tribuneledgernews.com/local_news/large-amount-of-sewage-spills-small-amount-enters-creek/article_e0d93136-13ec-11e6-af00-c38f317400bc.html

Repairs have now been made to a sewer force main pipe in Woodstock that cracked and split last Saturday, resulting in roughly 2,800 gallons of sewage spilling into an unnamed tributary on Noonday Creek.

Winchester Must Create Long Term Stormwater Management Plan, Devote More Resources

5/6/2016 <http://winchester.wickedlocal.com/article/20160506/NEWS/160508243>

Winchester will likely have to spend hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars over the next 10 years to comply with new federal regulation seeking to improve the quality of stormwater flowing into local water bodies.

Springfield Water Main Break Impacts Area Businesses

5/5/2016 <http://www.westernmassnews.com/story/31904552/springfield-water-main-break-impacts-area-businesses>

Repair work is continuing, but a section of Main Street remains closed to traffic. It could be days before the road is ready to be reopened. The break occurred at Main and Bridge Streets. What caused the mess was a 12 inch cast iron water pipe that broke.

Replacing Sewage Pipe Could Cost Wichita \$45 million

5/4/2016 <http://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article75502972.html>

A 3-mile-long pipe that carries 60 percent of Wichita's waste to Sewage Treatment Plant No. 2 is at high risk of failing, according to city documents.

REGULATORY RESULTS

Pressure Pipe

Department of Commerce | Notice | Welded Stainless Pressure Pipe From India: Affirmative Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Postponement of Final Determination

5/10/2016 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-10/pdf/2016-11034.pdf>

The Department of Commerce (“Department”) preliminarily determines that Welded Stainless Pressure Pipe from India (“WSPP”) is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (“LTFV”), as provided in section 733(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“the Act”). The period of investigation (“POI”) is July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. The estimated weighted-average dumping margins of sales at LTFV are shown in the “Preliminary Determination” section of this notice. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

Water Infrastructure

Environmental Protection Agency | Notice | Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; EPA Application Materials for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

5/23/2016 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-23/pdf/2016-12106.pdf>

The Environmental Protection Agency is planning to submit an information collection request, EPA Application Materials for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. Before doing so, EPA is soliciting public comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below. This is a request for approval of a new collection. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Water Supply

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission | Notice | St. Charles Mesa Water District; Notice of Preliminary Determination of a Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility and Soliciting Comments and Motions To Intervene

5/6/2016 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-06/pdf/2016-10673.pdf>

On April 26, 2016, the St. Charles Mesa Water District (SCMWD) filed a notice of intent to construct a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, pursuant to section 30 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by section 4 of the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013 (HREA).