

RURAL WATER LEGISLATIVE NEWS



.....**DECEMBER 2007**

***FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE** - "Our priorities including EPA funding, USDA funding, Farm bill Funding, and EPA reimbursement funding will all be taken up by Congress in the remaining three weeks of this Congressional session. Congress and the White House have not agreed on a (mutually agreeable) way to pass all 11 remaining appropriations bills still pending (including EPA and USDA bills)...Congress has indicated they will assemble a massive Omnibus appropriations package and send it to the President...The President has all but promised a veto of the Congressional plan. (Stay tuned)..... Rural Water's entire 2007 agenda could well be determined in the next two to three weeks." SOURCE - Washington Rural Water News & Public Statements

***NR 809, NR 810 & NR 811 WORKGROUP** - continues to meet in Madison on revisions to NR809 - Safe Drinking Water for Public Water Systems, NR810 - Requirements for the Operation and Design of Community Water Systems and NR811 - Requirements for the Design of Community Water Systems. Rural Water and other stakeholders from the public water supply industry are represented on the workgroup. For more information contact wrwa@wrwa.org.

***GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GAC)** - The GAC was created by [2003 WI Act 310](#) to make recommendations to the State Legislature regarding future groundwater management needs in Wisconsin. Their second report is due to the environmental and natural resources standing committees of the Legislature on Dec. 31, 2007. [Members](#) of the Groundwater Advisory Committee are appointed by the leaders of both houses of the legislature and the governor, and represent municipal, agricultural, environmental, and industrial interests. The well drilling industry and the WDNR are also represented. SOURCE - <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gac/>.

***TOTAL COLIFORM RULE** - "The EPA panel looking at rewriting the Total Coliform Rule will meet in DC this week with our two (national) representatives attending. (National) Rural Water also has three other members formally involved in rewriting this rule with EPA on another consultation committee...this will likely start the negotiations to reform the rule. **Background:** your peers and comrades in the Rural Water movement are assiduously working to reform the current EPA Total Coliform Rule (to make it more protective of public health in small communities)." SOURCE - Washington Rural Water News & Public Statements

***IMPACT FEE SURVEY** - The WRWA Legislative Committee met last week and has instructed staff to conduct a statewide survey of water utilities to determine which ones are collecting water impact fees on plant that was constructed in the past with the intent to serve future growth within the municipality. Watch your mailbox and please participate in the survey.

***CHLORINE GAS SURVEY RESULTS** – "Rural Water completed a (national) [survey](#) to aid in effort to keep chlorine gas a treatment options for small communities (click to the survey for more details on why we are doing this). We just completed this survey, and while we cannot release all of the final data – which are being analyzed by the rural water Committees of jurisdiction, and after that, will be shared with federal agencies and other water groups – we are releasing the following results:

- 1175 Utilities Completed Chemical Security Survey
- Most systems have gone through some evaluation to determine the best disinfectant considering public health and security risks.
- Utilities surveyed in 48 of the 50 States
- Question, "Who makes you aware of security concerns?" Answers: state - 22%, rural water training - 42%, rural water on-site Assistance - 21%, EPA - 5%, and DHS - 7%
- Question, "Who has provided the most useful security information?" Answers: state - 15%, rural water - 71%, EPA - 5%, and consultants - 6%
- 9% of utilities have received grants from EPA or DHS to increase security.
- 79% would support changing the CCR to improve communication with the public"

SOURCE - Washington Rural Water News & Public Statements