


Federal Update - WEF Government Affairs Department

Steve Dye, Sr. Dir. of Government Affairs
sdye@wef.org

Ashley Voskuhl, Sr. Manager of Regulatory Affairs
avoskuhl@wef.org



1


Agenda

Trump Administration Update

- Pres. Trump’s Agenda
- Executive Orders
- Tariffs
- EPA Leadership
- Regulatory Update

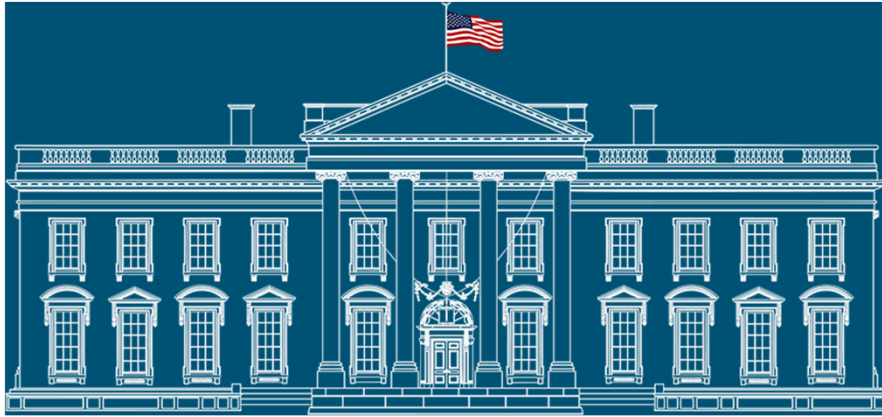
Congressional Update

- Congressional Make-Up
- Congressional Agenda
- Budget Reconciliation
- FY25 Budget
- Legislative Items
- Cybersecurity

WEF Updates: Fly-In, WEF Gov’t Relations Community, and Water Advocates 

2

Trump Administration Update



3

Pres. Trump's 2025 Agenda

- Expiring 2017 Tax Cuts & Jobs Act
- Economic policies to address inflation, tariffs, and other economic matters
- Immigration and Border Reform
- Rollback Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – Drill baby, drill!
- Ukraine vs Russia & Israel vs. Gaza/Lebanon/Iran
- Government Downsizing/Reform
- IIJA Funding Review and Rollback – Eliminate EJ & DEI programs
- FY26 Budget – cuts, cuts, cuts

4

Impact of Select Executive Orders

EO 14148 Initial Recissions of Harmful EOs and Actions

Rescinds the following selected EOs from the Biden Administration:

- Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 – **Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government**
- Executive Order 13990 of January 20, 2021 – **Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis**
- Executive Order 13992 of January 20, 2021 – **Revocation of Certain Executive Orders Concerning Federal Regulation**
- Executive Order 14052 of November 15, 2021 – **Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**
- Executive Order 14082 of September 12, 2022 – **Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022**



5

Impact of Select Executive Orders

EO 14192 Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation

- The Order requires that whenever an agency promulgates a new rule, regulation, or guidance, it must identify at least 10 existing rules, regulations, or guidance documents to be repealed.
- Office of Management and Budget will ensure standardized measurement and estimation of regulatory costs.
- For fiscal year 2025, the total incremental cost of all new regulations, including repealed regulations, be significantly less than zero.



6

Impact of Select Executive Orders

EO 14192 Declaring a National Energy Emergency

- Agency heads are to identify potential actions or waivers to facilitate the Nation's energy supply that may be subject to emergency treatment pursuant to regulations and permits pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act

EO 14193 Imposing Duties to Address the Flow of Illicit Drugs Across Our Northern Border

EO 14198 Progress on the Situation at Our Northern Border



7

Impact of Select Executive Actions

OMB Memo: Regulatory Freeze Pending Review

- 60-day regulatory freeze (January 20 – March 21, 2025)
- Resulted in EPA withdrawal of proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for PFAS Manufacturers Under the Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers Point Source Category (RIN: 2040-AG10)



8

Trump Tariffs

Canada & Mexico

- 25%: Everything, incl. steel and aluminum
- 10%: Fuel & Energy
- March 4 & March 12 (steel & aluminum) or...April 2?
- Examples: plastic pipe, bolts, nuts, tanks, valves, pumps, pipe fittings, prefab. buildings, rebar

China

- 10% increase on existing tariffs
- In effect
- Examples: electronics, bulk steel/iron, components, fittings



9



Lee Zeldin

17th Administrator of the
Environmental Protection Agency

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-administrator>



10

Administrator Zeldin's Agenda

- Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
- Restore American Energy Dominance
- Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership
- Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World
- Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/icymi-administrator-zeldins-powering-great-american-comeback-unveiled-epa>



11

Senate Nominations



Jessica Kramer

Assistant Administrator for the
Office of Water (Nominated 2/11)
Environmental Protection Agency

<https://www.congress.gov/nomination/119th-congress/25/28>



12

Office of Water Leadership

AA for Office of Water
Benita Best-Wong (Acting)
(Nominated: Jessica Kramer)

Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
Jennifer McClain

Office of Science and Technology
Tanya Hodge Mottley (Acting)

Office of Wastewater Management
Andrew Sawyers

Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
Brian Frazer

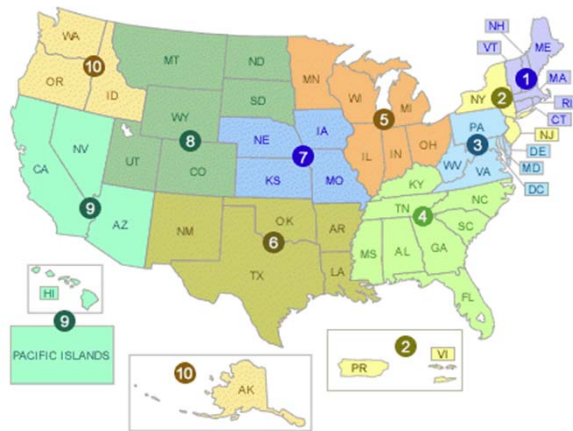
<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-water>



13

Regional Administrator Announcements

- Region 2: Mike Martucci
- Region 4: Kevin McOmber
- Region 6: Scott Mason IV
- Region 7: Jim Macy



14

EPA Workforce Update

- Agency Reduction in Force and Reorganization Plans (ARRP)
 - Phase 1: March 13, 2025
 - Phase 2: April 14, 2025
 - Better service and increased productivity
 - Significant reduction in staff, property, and budget
 - Maximum elimination of functions that are not statutorily mandated
- To date:
 - 1,100 probationary employees terminated
 - 168 employees placed on administrative leave
- Additional layoffs expected
 - Potentially 65%?
 - FY24: 15,130 employees
 - 9,835 additional terminations?



15

Regulatory Updates

NPDES 2026 Issuance of the Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity

- EPA-HQ-OW-2024-0481
- Extension Granted – Comments Due: April 4, 2025
- WEF Comments:
 - Monitoring is required for a broad number of sectors, recommend EPA prioritize PFAS generators
 - Impact of changes made to generic permit language
 - Lab capacity concerns



16

Regulatory Updates

Draft National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health for PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS

- EPA-HQ-OW-2024-0454
- Extension Granted - Comments Due: April 25, 2025
- WEF Comments:
 - Laboratory concerns around feasibility and capacity
 - Cost implications if criteria are used in future permits to require treatment
 - EPA should prioritize source control measures



17

Regulatory Updates

Proposed Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule 22 for Analysis of Contaminants in Effluent

- EPA-HQ-OW-2024-0328
- Extension Granted - Comments Due: March 24, 2025
- WEF Comments:
 - Removal of Standard Methods, ASTM, and HACH colorimetric methods and impact on small systems
 - Concerns around Adsorbable Organic Flourine as a Method Defined Parameter
 - Cost to transition from GC-ECD to GC-MS SIM for PCB analysis



18

Regulatory Updates

Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for PFOA and PFOS

- EPA-HQ-OW-2024-0504
- Extension Granted - Comments Due: April 16, 2025
- WEF Comments:
 - No risk management component
 - Modeled "farm family" is based on broad and unrealistic assumptions
 - Incomplete or missing evaluation of incineration and landfill disposal scenarios
 - Does not include most up to date research



19

OST: POTW Influent Study (starting: TBD?)

Survey

- 400 largest/select POTWs
- Existing Data Collection via Questionnaire

10 Samples of IU effluent, domestic effluent, POTW influent, POTW effluent & biosolids

Facility Name	Flow (MGD)	City	State
Stickney Treatment Plant, MWRDGC	812	Cicero	IL
DETROIT STP	661	Detroit	MI
BLUE PLAINS STP	370	Washington	DC
Joint WPCP	339	Carson	CA
Hyperion WWTP	325	Playa Del Rey	CA
Mass. Water Resources Authority	310	Boston	MA



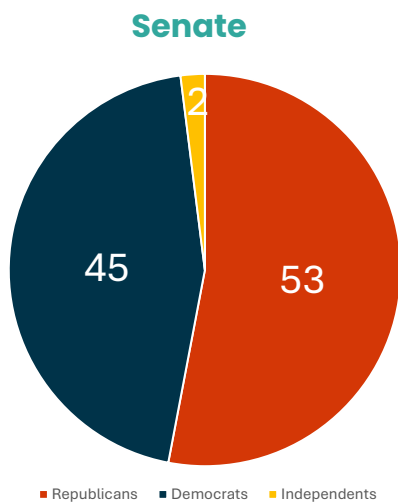
20

Congressional Update

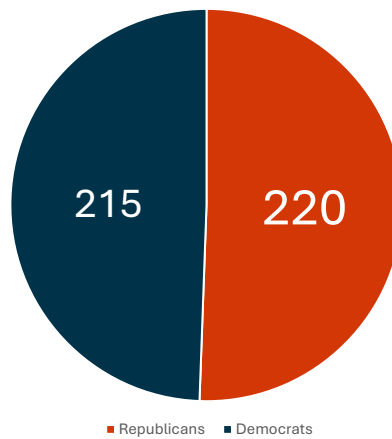


21

Review of 119th Congress



House of Representatives



22

Congressional Committees

House Transportation & Infrastructure

- Chair: Sam Graves (R-MO-06)
- Ranking Member: Rick Larsen (D-WA-02) *

Water Resource & Environment

- Chair: Mike Collins (R-GA-10) *
- Ranking Member: Frederica Wilson (D-FA-24) *

Senate Environment & Public Works

- Chair: Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) *
- Ranking Member: Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) *

Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

- Chair: Pete Ricketts (R-NE)*
- Ranking Member: Adam Schiff (D-CA)*

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Chair: Kevin Cramer (R-ND) *
- Ranking Member: Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD) *

*** = New to the position**



23

119th Congressional Agenda

In addition to Pres. Trump's priorities...

- Government Reform & Permitting Reform
- Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) legislation
- Farm Bill
- PFAS Legislation
- WIPPES Act
- National Wastewater Surveillance System
- Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (a.k.a. BIL) reauthorization



24

Budget Reconciliation

Senate

- 52-48 vote
- \$340 billion for border and military

House

- 217-215 vote
- \$4 trillion for tax cuts
- \$2 trillion in spending reductions



Reconciliation

25

FY25 Budget – CR Expires March 14

Scenarios

- Another Continuing Resolution
- A last-minute deal
- Federal government shut-down
- Trump declares Emergency

26

FY25 Appropriations Bills

Funding Categories	Clean Water	Drinking Water	Total	%
Senate Capitalization Grant	1,638,861,000	1,126,101,000	2,764,962,000	
House Earmarks	(553,936,004)	(479,541,446)	(1,033,477,450)	
Senate Earmarks	(362,500,000)	(242,391,000)	(604,891,000)	
Total Earmarks	(916,436,004)	(721,932,446)	(1,638,368,450)	59%
Available for SRFs*	722,424,996	404,168,554	1,126,593,550	41%
2024 SRF Funding	800,111,000	454,406,000	1,254,517,000	
Difference from 2024	(77,686,004)	(50,237,446)	(127,923,450)	

Also in draft FY25 bills:

- WIFIA: \$72.3M (-\$7.7M)
- Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant (OSG): \$41M (-\$9M)
- Sec. 319: \$175.5M (-13.5M)
- Sec. 106: \$225.685M (-\$63M)
- Stormwater Centers of Excellence: \$3M (+\$1M)
- Tech. Assist. To Wastewater Treatment: \$27.5M (+\$2M)
- Water Workforce: \$5.4M



27

Funded in Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (A.K.A. BIL)

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CW SRF)

- ✓ \$1.9B in FY22
- ✓ \$2.2B in FY23
- ✓ \$2.4B in FY24
- ✓ \$2.6B in FY25
- **\$2.6B in FY26?**

CW SRF Emerging Contaminants Grants (PFAS, Microplastics, 6PPD)

- \$1B FY22 – FY26:
- ✓ \$100M in FY22
 - ✓ \$225M in FY23
 - ✓ \$225M in FY24
 - ✓ \$225M in FY25
 - **\$225M in FY26?**

Needs Annual Appropriations

Potential Additional Funding: \$25B

CW SRF

- ✓ FY22 \$1.6B (-\$444M)
- ✓ FY23 \$1.6B (-\$863M)
- ✓ FY24 \$1.6B (-788M)
- ✓ **FY25 \$1.6B (-\$916M)?**
- ✓ **FY26 \$3.25?**

WIFIA

- ✓ FY22 \$63M
- ✓ FY23 \$68M
- ✓ FY24 \$64M
- ✓ **\$5M for Stormwater Centers of Excellence**
- ✓ **\$280M for Sewer Overflow Grants (OSG) FY24**
- ✓ **\$6M for Water Workforce Development Grants**
- ✓ **\$25M for Tech. Assist. To Wastewater Treatment**

Still Needs Initial Funding

- Resilience & Sustainability Grants**
- Small POTW Grants**
- Connecting to POTWs Grants**
- Energy Efficiency Grants**
- Stormwater Planning & Implementation Grants**



28

Legislation Update

Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act (WIPPES)

- H.R. 2964 passed House in June 2024
- S. 1350 bipartisan bill pending in Senate

Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

- S. 1430, Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)
- H.R. 1267 Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA)

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

- S. 3830, Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)
- H.R. 8032, Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL) and Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR)



Cybersecurity is a top priority

Free resources for water and wastewater systems:

CISA: <https://cisa.gov/water>

EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/epa-cybersecurity-water-sector>

NIST: <https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework>

FREE CYBER VULNERABILITY SCANNING FOR WATER UTILITIES

WATER SECTOR COORDINATING COUNCIL

OVERVIEW

Drinking water and wastewater systems are an essential community lifeline. It is important to protect your system from cyberattacks to maintain its safe operations. You can reduce the risk of a cyberattack on your utility by annually scanning your network for vulnerabilities caused by publicly facing devices. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) can help your drinking water and wastewater system identify and address vulnerabilities with a no cost, vulnerability scanning service subscription. CISA, the Water Sector Coordinating Council, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators encourage drinking water and wastewater utilities to use this service.

BENEFITS

CISA's vulnerability scanning can help your utility identify and address cybersecurity weaknesses that an attacker could use to impact your system. The benefits of this service include:

- Identifying internet-accessible assets
- Identifying vulnerabilities in your utility's assets connected to the internet, including Internet-Exposed Computers and internet-accessed services commonly used for remote access by third actors and some residential gateways
- Weekly reports on scanning status and recommendations for mitigating identified vulnerabilities
- Significant reduction in identified vulnerabilities in the first few months of scanning for newly enrolled water utilities
- Ongoing detection and reporting with continuous scanning for new vulnerabilities

HOW DOES IT WORK?

CISA uses automated tools to conduct vulnerability scanning on your external networks. These tools look for vulnerabilities and mis-configuration that attackers could use to compromise a system. CISA's scanning provides an

Figure 3: Sample Page in Report



Cybersecurity in Congress -- The Good

Water System Threat Preparedness and Resilience Act of 2023

118th Congress -- S. 660, by Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA)
H.R. 1367, by Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)

- Funding for eligible water utilities to join the WaterISAC
- Supported by all major water associations

Other Policy Recommendations by WEF & NACWA

- Require wastewater utilities to conduct risk and resilience assessments, and provide funding. Similar to DW from AWIA 2018.
- Provide more funding and support to EPA & CISA for utility training, response, preparedness, TA, and BMPs.



31

The Not-So-Good

WEF & NACWA Opposed to:

Water Risk & Resilience Organization (WRRO) establishment bill
118th Congress -- H.R. 7922, by Rep. Crawford (R-AR)

Opposed because:

- *Another layer of bureaucracy.*
- *Additional costs to utilities.*
- *Another delay towards preparedness.*
- *Levels of preparedness between DW and WW dissimilar.*
- *Many water utilities already under local government cybersecurity rubric.*
- *Legislative language too vague toward future regulatory authority.*



32



National Water Policy Fly-In 2025

April 8-9, 2025
Washington, DC

More details at
www.waterweek.us



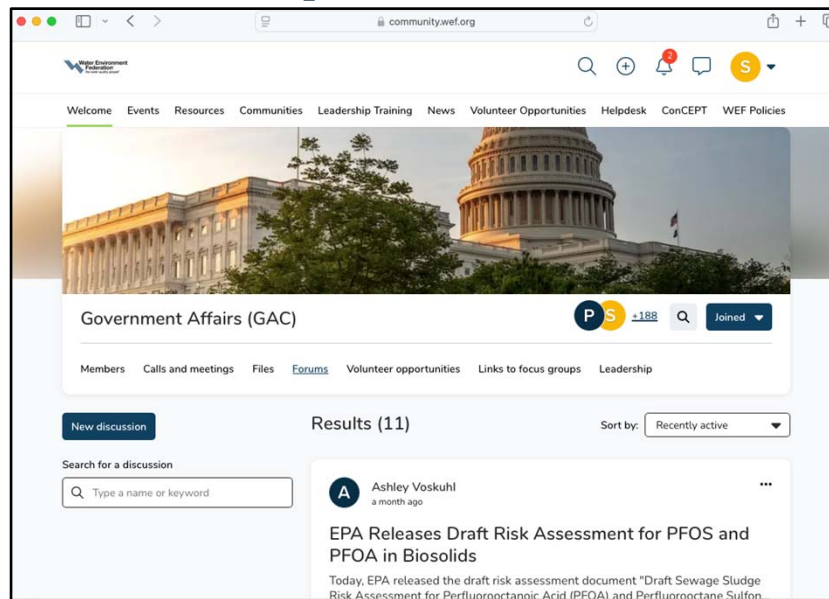
Join hundreds of water professionals from around the nation in Washington, DC, to advocate before Congress and the Administration on the issues that are important to the water sector.

Co-hosted by WEF, NACWA, WaterReuse Association, the Water Research Foundation, **AWWA** and **AMWA**!



33

WEF Unity – Join the GAC!



34



WEF Water Advocates Program

How YOU can help NOW!

1. Go to WEF Water Advocates website:

bit.ly/wef-water-advocates

2. Click the call-to-action buttons:

- Biosolid support
- PFAS CERCLA Liability Exemption for Water
- *Soon:* Co-sponsor Wipes Labeling Legislation
- *Soon:* FY26 Budget
- *Soon:* LIHWAP

3. Fill out your info!

4. Share on social media!

