

[Home](#)

[WWEMA On-Demand F&CA Meeting](#)

[Members Only](#)

[Join Us](#)

MARKET WATCH

NATIONWIDE

\$3B for Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to implement a series of programs, called Investing in America's Communities, to help communities 'build back better'. More on program's priorities [HERE](#).

NATIONWIDE

\$307M in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants to modernize rural drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in 34 states and Puerto Rico.

NATIONWIDE

EPA is seeking applications proposing to accelerate water innovation, information availability, and engagement to advance clean and safe water reuse and other goals. Closing date is September 29, 2021.

LOUISIANA

\$300M in Federal coronavirus aid for improvements to public water and sewage systems. Application period open until September 24, 2021.

SAN DIEGO, CA

\$120M WIFIA loan to construct a new water recycling facility to produce 30 mgd of purified water. The project also includes new pump stations and conveyance systems, expansion of the existing North City Water Reclamation Plant, and improvements to the existing Miramar Reservoir Pump Station.

CLEARWATER, FL

The City of Clearwater, Florida is soliciting sealed bids for ductile iron pipes, fittings, mechanical joint restraints, and polyethylene tubing. Bids due September 23, 2021.

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

\$110.3M for 14 projects in British Columbia, Canada, including adding a new drinking water system and units and replacing an existing lagoon with a new aerated wastewater treatment lagoon system.

WWEMA NEWS

WWEMA Participates in Made in America Office Briefing



On August 9, Vanessa Leiby, WWEMA Executive Director, participated in a briefing with the newly created Made in America Office within the Office of Management and Budget. During the briefing, Celeste Drake, Director of the Made in America Office, provided an overview of the Biden Administration's approach to domestic preference legislation and policy. Specifically, Drake discussed the Administration's "whole-of-government" approach to increasing domestic preferences and the importance of minority and disadvantaged business access to government procurement. She noted three primary functions of the Office: 1) centralized oversight of waiver programs with the goal of standardizing criteria across Federal Agencies; 2) centralized and transparent enforcement and implementation; and 3) identifying data-driven policy gaps and opportunities for entrepreneurs. WWEMA was one of a limited number of groups, along with U.S. defense contractors and others who attended the briefing that was arranged by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Following the call, WWEMA held an all-member meeting chaired by its Legislative and Regulatory Committee to educate our members on possible new legislative requirements and discuss the implications of these new requirements on company operations including supply chains and project costs and delivery schedules. Based on issues discussed at the Legislative and Regulatory Committee meeting, WWEMA prepared and forwarded a list of questions to EPA Assist Administrator for Water, Radhika Fox and other senior EPA Office of Water leaders. WWEMA will keep our members updated on their response and any additional developments.

Inside this issue:

WWEMA News	1	White House/Executive Agency News	2	On The Hill	3
EPA News	5	State News	6	Other Industry News	7
International News	8	Follow Us	8	Save the Date	8

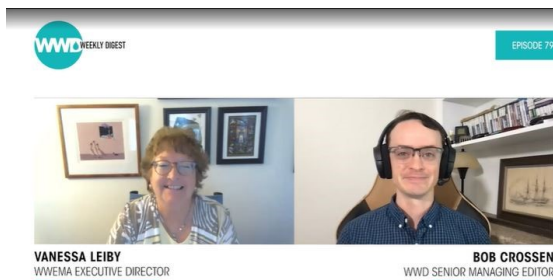
WWEMA NEWS (CONTINUED)

WWEMA Participates in Council of Manufacturing Associations Roundtable

On September 1, 2021, WWEMA participated in a roundtable discussion of the Council of Manufacturing Associations (CMA) focused on return-to-work challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. CMA is part of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and provides a number of resources and opportunities including a monthly CEO roundtable where issues of current relevancy are discussed. The September roundtable discussion identified several resources that may be of interest to our member companies in managing their workforce. Specifically, there is an e-book titled [*The Four Culture-Driven Decisions that will Make or Break Your Return to the Workplace*](#). The second resource is a [guide](#) that was produced by the Manufacturing Institute and the University of Florida Center for Public Interest Communications that looks at the issue of vaccine hesitancy among manufacturing employees and how to effectively communicate with them. We hope you find these resources valuable in managing your workforce through challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.



WWEMA Executive Director Shares Insight on Potential Changes to Buy American Federal Procurement Requirements

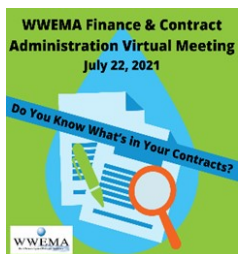


Vanessa Leiby, WWEMA Executive Director, was recently interviewed by Bob Crossen, Senior Managing Editor at Water & Wastes Digest, a WWEMA-member company. Leiby sat down with Crossen to share insights about what proposed changes to domestic preferences for both direct and indirect Federal procurement could mean to water industry costs, schedules, and technology selection. In the interview, Leiby explained the differences in scope and applicability of similar, yet distinct existing requirements for Buy America, Buy American, and American Iron and Steel. She also highlighted actions WWEMA has already taken on behalf of its members and the broader water industry to both educate the industry on possible changes to Buy America(n) requirements and to collect, analyze, and disseminate information about impacts of these changes to the government, utilities, industry, and the public. She

noted the importance of tracking proposed changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) requirements that affect Federal procurement for agencies such as Department of Defense and General Services Administration, particularly as these changes might serve as a model for how future Buy America(n) requirements are implemented more broadly across Federal procurement and funding programs. WWEMA's Legislative and Regulatory Committee took a 'deep dive' into the proposed FAR regulatory language and compared it with other regulatory language in the U.S. EPA American Iron and Steel requirements and language included in H.R. 3684—the *Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act*—with the goal of better understanding potential impacts on our members. To hear the complete interview, go [HERE](#).



On-Demand WWEMA Finance & Contracts Meeting Now Available in WWEMA Virtual Store



WWEMA is pleased to announce that an on-demand version of its July 22, 2021 *Finance & Contract Administration (F&CA) Meeting* is now available for purchase in its virtual store [HERE](#). The \$79 purchase price not only includes access to all presentations in video format; it also includes copies of presentation slides, videos of question-and-answer sessions, and the ability to network with other meeting attendees in the online Whova event platform. The meeting offers attendees an opportunity to learn from experts who cover a range of issues from terms and conditions, R&D tax credits, potential new Buy America(n) requirements, honing your negotiation skills, and more. Additionally, it includes a special *Contracts 101* session for those new to contracting or seasoned contract specialists wishing to refresh their skills. Find out what you need to know to succeed by registering you and your staff for this training! Post meeting reviews of the content and value were very positive with most rating the meeting as Excellent or Very Good.

WHITE HOUSE/EXECUTIVE AGENCY NEWS

President Biden Signs Executive Order Promoting U.S. Competition

On July 09, 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order (E.O.) promoting U.S. competition. The E.O. is officially titled *Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy*. A Fact Sheet explaining the E.O. states "President Biden is taking decisive action to reduce the trend of corporate consolidation, increase competition, and deliver concrete benefits to America's consumers, workers, farmers, and small businesses." The E.O. is taking a broad whole-of-government approach directing more than a dozen Federal agencies to work with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) "to address over-concentration, monopolization, and unfair competition in the American economy". The E.O. establishes a White House Competition Council, led by the Director of the National Economic Council, to monitor progress on finalizing the initiatives in the Order.



WHITE HOUSE NEWS (CONTINUED)

President Biden Signs Executive Order Promoting U.S. Competition (continued)

The Order:

- encourages the FTC chair to address third-party repair practices that may inhibit competition, potentially loosening manufacturer prohibitions on third-party equipment repair and threatening intellectual property protection
- requires the FTC and DOJ to reexamine previously completed mergers and review the guidelines for both horizontal and vertical mergers
- curtails the use of non-compete clauses and other clauses or agreements that may limit worker mobility

A copy of the E.O. is available [HERE](#). The companion White House E.O. Fact Sheet is available [HERE](#).

ON THE HILL

Bipartisan Infrastructure Passes Senate, but Stalls in the House



After several fits and starts, a bipartisan bill on U.S. infrastructure advanced in the U.S. Senate. On August 10, 2021, the U.S. Senate passed its version of a long-awaited infrastructure package with a 69-30 vote. The *Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act* provides approximately \$1.2 trillion of traditional infrastructure funding. The vote was primarily along party lines with 30 Republican Senators opposing the bill's passage. Not only is the bill large in term of funding level, its text is also large at 2,700-plus-pages. Passage of this bill represents the culmination of several months of negotiations between the White House and a group of bipartisan Senators committed to passing major infrastructure funding legislation. In addition to expanding domestic preference requirements, the legislation invests approximately \$55 billion in clean water. More specifically, contained within the bill is the *Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act*, which authorizes the following:

- Both the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds are funded in the following amounts by year: \$2.4 billion for FY 2022; \$2.7 billion for FY 2023; \$3 billion for FY 2024; and \$3.2 billion for each of FY 2025 and FY 2026.
- Lead service line replacement activities are substantially funded with \$15 billion, \$3 billion for each of FY 22-26.
- \$4 billion to address emerging contaminants with a focus that includes PFAS that is equally distributed over FY22-26.
- The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program will receive \$250 million annually for FY 22-26 with less stringent requirements that reduce the number of opinion letters from rating agencies from two to one.

A copy of the bill can be found [HERE](#). The bill appears to have lost momentum in the House partially due to other national priorities including the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, the increase in national COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant, and recent mixed economic news including sluggish growth in the August nonfarm payroll employment. It remains to be seen if the House can unite when it returns later this month to pass the bill and move it on to the President for signature. A lot will depend on whether the House accepts the Senate bill as transmitted or if they open it up for additional changes and amendments that will require more negotiations with the Senate.

In a related note, on August 23, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a \$3.5 trillion budget blueprint that paves the way to address the so called 'social' infrastructure—significantly expanding the safety net for people and substantially expanding programs to address climate issues. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is trying to tether passage of the *Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act* to the social infrastructure package which has an even larger price tag of \$3.5 trillion. She is facing challenges both within her own party and across-the-aisle with centrist Democrats growing more hesitant and vocal. Specifically, on September 2, 2021, in a *Wall Street Journal* Op-Ed piece, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) called for a 'strategic pause' in moving forward with the massive \$3.5 trillion plan. He noted, "I, for one, won't support a \$3.5 trillion bill, or anywhere near that level of additional spending, without greater clarity about why Congress chooses to ignore the serious effects inflation and debt have on existing government programs."

In the Senate, all Democrats along with two Independents plus Vice President Kamala Harris, who can break ties, must vote affirmatively to have the \$3.5 billion legislation win passage, given the bill is now working under a process known as reconciliation, which is immune to the filibuster and as a result significantly lowers the bar in terms of the votes needed to secure passage. However, this isn't necessarily carte blanche for the Democrats because something referred to as the "Byrd Rule" permits any Senator to object to any add-ons or amendments not related to the budget or reducing the U.S. deficit. In the U.S. House of Representatives, the margin is slightly more flexible, with up to three Democrats being able to oppose the package and have it pass (assuming all Republicans remain opposed to the package).

In prior *Bulletin* articles, member communications, and during a meeting of WWEMA's Legislative and Regulatory Committee, WWEMA has worked to educate our members on the possible expansion of domestic content requirements of direct and indirect Federal procurement beyond the current American iron and steel requirements placed on the state revolving loan funds and WIFIA. This expansion would include "manufactured goods" and a component test of 55% for a product to be considered domestic should the current infrastructure package be enacted into law. More importantly, we are engaged in understanding how this will impact our members and the greater water industry and working to communicate those impacts to key policy makers and legislators. Specifically, we are dialoging both with EPA and the newly created Made in America Office within the Office of Management and Budget regarding the potential impact these requirements might have on the water industry costs, schedules, and technology selection.

ON THE HILL (CONTINUED)

House Committee Advances U.S.-China Competition Bill Without Republican Support



On July 15, 2021, the *Ensuring American Global Leadership and Engagement Act (or EAGLE Act)*, passed the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee by a vote of 26-22 along party lines with all Democrats voting in favor of the bill and all Republicans opposed. The legislation's aim is to address challenges posed by China by including provisions that will strengthen American diplomacy and leadership in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region. Republicans opposed the *Act*, saying it called for too many studies and fails to take meaningful action like control of technology exports to Beijing. Additionally, they say it will fund the *United Nations Green Climate Fund*, which many Republicans consider a "slush fund" for the worldwide body.

The bill strengthens the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) by increasing its liability cap from \$60 billion to \$100 billion. The U.S. DFC seeks to make America stronger and more competitive globally with a greater ability to partner with allies on transformative projects. The bill also extends by three years key provisions to the *Asia Reassurance Initiative Act* that supports U.S. priorities in the Indo-Pacific that are set to expire in 2023. Representative Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, issued a statement following the passage of *Act* by the Committee. In the statement, he said, "The *EAGLE Act* that passed out of committee today is comprehensive legislation which addresses the challenges posed by China, not only to the United States, but to the international rules-based system and global economy."

House Votes on PFAS Bill

On July 22, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives voted on the *PFAS Action Act of 2021*, which would designate two PFAS compounds as hazardous air and water pollutants, and require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set drinking water regulations for these contaminants within two years of enactment. The bill passed with a 241 Yea-183 Nay vote, which was primarily along party lines with 218 Democrats voting in favor of the bill. The bill is co-sponsored by Michigan Democrat U.S. representatives, Debbie Dingell and Republican Fred Upton. The bill also had support among other Republican representatives from Michigan including Reps. Huizenga and Meijer. Michigan is a state with many PFAS contamination sites and that is likely spurring its aggressive approach to PFAS management within the state. Exactly a year earlier on July 22, 2020, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) announced that the state of Michigan would adopt some of the nation's most comprehensive regulations limiting PFAS contamination in drinking water.



Within five years, the bill also requires EPA to determine whether additional PFAS substances should be designated as hazardous substances. The bill provides incentives to address PFAS, such as grants to help community water systems treat water contaminated by PFAS. Section 7 of the bill amends the *Safe Drinking Water Act* to establish a grant program. It specifies that no later than 150 days after the date of enactment of, and every 2 years thereafter, the EPA Administrator must publish a list of treatment technologies after providing an opportunity for public comment, EPA determines are effective at removing all detectable amounts of PFAS from drinking water. A copy of the bill is available [HERE](#). PFAS are man-made chemical substances that have a host of adverse human health effects including cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma and thyroid disease. PFAS is found in a variety of products including firefighting foam and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, and stain and water-resistant items such as clothing, rugs, and couches.

Senate Introduces Water Reuse and Resiliency Act



On July 22, 2021, the U.S. Senate introduced the *Water Reuse and Resiliency Act*—a bill designed to help U.S. communities adopt water reuse by providing Federal assistance. The *Act*, which was introduced by Senators Alex Padilla (D-CA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and Jon Ossoff (D-GA) authorizes a total of \$1 billion over five years for an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pilot grant program titled *Alternative Water Source Grants Pilot Program*.

Senator Padilla is quoted as saying, "Projects to modernize our water infrastructure have to be considered a national priority. This bill will boost funding for alternative water source projects that are key to improving our resiliency against drought." The bill has the support of the following Associations and others: the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and the WaterReuse Association. Patricia Sinicropi, Executive Director of the WaterReuse Association, commented, "This legislation provides tools and investments to help communities address complex and evolving challenges through the adoption of water reuse." A copy of the *Act* is available [HERE](#).

Senate Holds Hearing on Infrastructure Cybersecurity Risks

On July 21, 2021, the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) held a hearing on cybersecurity threats to the nation's physical infrastructure. The hearing consisted of two panels, including testimony by Evan Pratt a member of the American Public Works Association Government Affairs Committee and John Sullivan, Chief Engineer of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission. Pratt's testimony noted it is essential for Congress to consider strategies to safeguard our communities from potential cyberattacks on increasingly automated and connected

(continued on page 5)

ON THE HILL (CONTINUED)

Senate Holds Hearing on Infrastructure Cybersecurity Risks (continued)



systems. Pratt also urged Congress to support flood control and other water infrastructure through continued and flexible Federal funding, financing, and regulatory streamlining to ensure public works agencies have the required resources to protect against cyberattacks. Sullivan, who also serves on the Board of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) presented testimony on behalf of AMWA. Sullivan noted the difference in negative consequences for attacks on business or enterprise systems (e.g., email or billing databases) and attacks on industrial control systems like the recent attack in Oldsmar, Florida. To view the video of the full hearing and copies of associated written testimony, go [HERE](#).

EPA NEWS

EPA Announces New Wastewater Regulations with New PFAS and Updated Nutrient Limits

On September 9, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its *Preliminary Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15 (Preliminary Plan 15 or Plan)*, which identifies opportunities to better protect public health and the environment through regulating wastewater. The *Plan* notes EPA will undertake three new rulemakings to reduce contaminants, including PFAS and nutrients, from key industries. Specifically, EPA has determined revised effluent limitations guidelines and pretreatment standards are needed for:

- Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers category to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) discharges from facilities manufacturing PFAS
- Metal Finishing category to address PFAS discharges from chromium electroplating facilities
- Meat and Poultry Products category to address nutrient discharges



The *Preliminary Plan 15* also discusses the Steam Electric Power Generating category rulemaking that EPA announced on July 26, 2021. More information about that rulemaking is available [HERE](#). To learn more about the current plan, visit [HERE](#). Regarding the *Plan*, Assistant Administrator for Water, Radhika Fox, is quoted as saying “This *Plan* illustrates one way that EPA is following science to better protect public health and the environment. Importantly and for the first time, EPA is committing to limit PFAS in wastewater discharges.”

EPA Publishes List of Drinking Water Contaminants It May Regulate



On July 19, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a [Federal Register](#) notice containing a draft list of contaminants that are currently not subject to any *Safe Drinking Water Act* regulations, but may be in the future due to their known or anticipated occurrence in public drinking water systems. The list, which is referred to as the Fifth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 5), includes 66 chemicals representing three broad groups (PFAS, disinfection byproducts, and cyanotoxins). The list also includes 12 microbial contaminants. PFAS substances are proposed as a group, with the exception of PFOA and PFOS because EPA is moving forward with national primary drinking water standards for these two contaminants. The list also contains 1,4-Dioxane, which is used as a stabilizer for chlorinated solvents such as trichloroethane and trichloroethylene.

1,4-Dioxane is also an unintended contaminant of chemical ingredients used in many personal care products such as bubble bath, shampoo, soap, skin cleanser, and other consumer products such as adhesives and antifreeze. Even foods may contain trace amounts of 1,4-dioxane from some additives and packaging materials. As a result, some states have begun to regulate this chemical. New York was the first to regulate 1,4-Dioxane by establishing a maximum contaminant level of 1 part per billion.

EPA plans to consult with the Science Advisory Board (SAB) on the Draft CCL 5 in the Fall of 2021. Additionally, the Agency will consider public comments in developing the Final CCL 5 list, which is expected to be published in July 2022. Comments on the list of contaminants must be received on or before September 17, 2021. Comments should be identified by Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0594 and can be submitted via the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#). This submission is the Agency's preferred method, although comments can also be submitted via U.S. mail to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460. More information about the CCL 5 list is available on EPA's website [HERE](#).

EPA Announces Chair of Environmental Financial Advisory Board

On August 12, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that Kerry E. O'Neill has been selected as the Chair of the Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB), succeeding Joanne Throwe, whose six-year term as a board member is ending. The 32-member EFAB is a chartered Federal advisory committee that provides feedback and advice to the Agency on ways to lower costs and increase investments in environmental and public health protection. O'Neill is the Chief Executive Officer of Inclusive Prosperity Capital Inc., a nonprofit investment fund. The fund operates at the intersection of community development, clean energy finance, and climate impact using a collection of products and strategies that match capital supply with project demand through partners on the ground.



(continued on page 6)

EPA NEWS (CONTINUED)

EPA Announces Chair of Environmental Financial Advisory Board (continued)

O'Neill is quoted as saying, "EPA is answering the call to tackle the most significant issues facing our people and our planet today, and the Environmental Financial Advisory Board is going to provide the expertise on financial solutions needed for success. We need to meet this moment at the scale required, including leveraging public-private partnerships, and with strategies that ensure our most vulnerable communities aren't left behind."

EPA Releases Web Tool to Monitor Cyanobacteria



In a July 21, 2021 Press Release, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the release of a new tool, CyANWeb, that can help Federal, state, Tribal, and local partners identify when a harmful algal bloom (HAB) may be forming where people swim, fish, and boat. The tool uses satellite data to alert users based on specific changes in the color of the water in over 2,000 of the largest lakes and reservoirs across the United States. Under certain circumstances, Cyanobacteria or blue-green algae can form HABs increasing water treatment cost, posing a potential threat to human health, and limiting recreational water uses. More information on EPA's CyANWeb is available [HERE](#).

STATE NEWS

Maine Bans PFAS Chemicals in New Law LD1541

On July 15, 2021, the state of Maine became the first in the nation to adopt a law that broadly bans the sale of products containing intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The law, which was adopted as an emergency measure, would ban the use of PFAS compounds (about 9,000 of them) in all products by 2030, except in some 'currently unavoidable' instances. The law does not contain any exceptions for manufacturers producing only small amounts or quantities of products containing PFAS substance; however, it includes some exemptions for businesses that make less than \$5 million in gross annual revenue during the previous year. Starting on January 1, 2023, manufacturers must report the presence of PFAS chemicals in their products and other data including the substance's purpose and quantity to the Maine Department of Environmental Quality. The law will create an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program for packaging waste and requires manufacturers to share in paying part of their product's recycling and disposal costs by paying into a packaging stewardship program. Similar EPR laws exist in Maine for electronic waste, paint, and products containing mercury.



PFAS chemicals are often referred to as 'forever chemicals' given their ubiquitous use and limited biodegradability. These substances are often incorporated in products that contain stain or water-resistant surfaces such as furniture, carpets, food packaging, cookware, and firefighting foam. They have been linked with several adverse health effects including cancer, liver damage, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, and hormone suppression. Some suspect the state of Oregon will follow Maine's lead and enact its own similar law.

While environmental groups and health advocates had come out in support of the law, others including the American Chemical Council have been quick to point out its implications, calling the law 'misguided' and saying it would ban critical products consumers have come to rely on.

The law was signed one day before the Environmental Working Group released an analysis showing the number of PFAS manufacturers and users is significantly higher than previously thought. The analysis, which was prepared with data released from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, found 29,900 industrial sites that are known or suspected of using toxic PFAS, including:

- More than 4,700 using PFAS for electroplating and polishing
- More than 3,000 petroleum stations and terminals
- More than 2,300 chemical manufacturers
- More than 2,200 metal product manufacturers
- More than 2,100 commercial printing facilities
- More than 1,800 plastics and resin manufacturing sites
- More than 1,500 paint and coating manufacturers
- More than 1,200 semiconductor manufacturers
- More than 1,000 electric component manufacturers

The EWG previously identified 2,501 facilities that were already reporting industrial dischargers to the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory, a Federal database of toxic chemical releases by industry, and were known or suspected of discharging PFAS into air and water. An interactive dashboard where you can locate known or suspected users of PFAS, airports that historically required use of aqueous fire-forming foam, and landfills and sewage and waste treatment plants is available [HERE](#).

STATE NEWS (CONTINUED)

California Releases Document for Proposed PFOA/PFOS Public Health Goals



The California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has announced the availability of a [draft technical support document](#) for proposed Public Health Goals (PHGs) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) in drinking water. The PHG level is the level of a drinking water contaminant at which adverse health effects are not expected to occur from a lifetime of exposure. The support document presents the available scientific information on the toxicity and health effects of PFOA and PFOS and explains the PHG. The proposed PHG for PFOA is 0.007 parts per trillion (ppt) and the proposed PHG for PFOS is of 1 ppt. The document's availability was announced on page 985 in a July 30, 2021 [notice](#) OEHHA published in the *California Regulatory Notice Register*. The notice indicate comments on the document will be accepted through September 28, 2021 and can be submitted electronically [HERE](#). However, the online portal notes the submission deadline is October 28, 2021.

OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS

AWWA Releases State of the Industry Survey Results

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) supports the water industry by providing solutions to manage the world's most important resource—water. AWWA has released its 2021 *State of the Water Industry (SOTWI)* report. The report was first developed by AWWA in 2004 to:

- Identify, explore, and track significant challenges facing the water industry
- Provide data and analysis to support water professionals as they develop and communicate strategies to address current issues
- Highlight and potentially mitigate problems on the water industry's horizon



The 2021 *SOTWI* report contains results from a survey conducted between September and November 2020 that asked utility and non-utility participants from the United States and Canada to rank the water sector's most pressing challenges. The top six reported concerns are:

1. Renewal and replacement of aging water and wastewater infrastructure
2. Financing for capital improvements
3. Long-term water supply availability (ranked 3rd in last year's survey)
4. Emergency preparedness (ranked 8th in last year's survey)
5. Public understanding of the value of water systems and services (ranked 4th in last year's survey)
6. Watershed/source water protection (ranked 5th in last year's survey)

In addition, cybersecurity increased in the ranking of top water sector challenges to No. 12 from No. 16. Although the survey was completed before several highly publicized cyberattacks in 2021, instances of ransomware attacks and data breaches were already demonstrating the need for water utilities to be vigilant in preventing similar attacks. A copy of the Executive Summary for the report is available [HERE](#). Interested persons can obtain a copy of the full report [HERE](#) on AWWA's website.

US Water Alliance Names Mami Hara New CEO

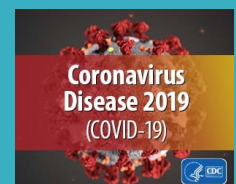


On July 29, 2021, the Board of Directors of the US Water Alliance announced that Mami Hara will be the organization's next CEO. Hara currently serves as general manager and CEO of Seattle Public Utilities and previously served as the first deputy commissioner at Philadelphia Water. With over three decades of experience in water and land management, Hara advances sustainable practices through investments, workforce development, cultivating leaders and partnerships, inclusive community participation, science-based decisions and planning, and knowledge sharing. The Water Alliance Board of Directors also announced that Oluwole A. (OJ) McFoy, General Manager of the Buffalo Sewer Authority, will serve as the new chair of the US Water Alliance Board of Directors. Previously, McFoy served as Board Vice-Chair.

Do You #?

- #WWEMA
- #WeAreWWEMA
- @WWEMAtweets

[WWEMA COVID-19 FACT SHEET](#)



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NAM-Sponsored Report Highlights Implications for Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income and Other Biden Budget Proposals

On August 12, 2021, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) released a study that analyzes potential economic impacts of proposed changes to the global minimum tax (known as GILTI-Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income). Conducted by EY, a multinational financial professional services firm, the study analyzed three proposed changes to GILTI:

- Raising the effective GILTI tax rate to 21%;
- Eliminating the deduction for a 10% rate of return on tangible assets (i.e., QBAI deduction); and
- Changing the basis of the GILTI tax assessment from worldwide to country-by-country.



These changes are based on President Biden's budget proposal and are similar to those included in the [Wyden international tax framework](#). The study found that these changes would result in the loss of up to 1 million jobs and \$20 billion in investment. You can read an executive summary of the study [HERE](#) and view the entire study [HERE](#).

Spotlight: Department of Commerce — U.S. Advocacy Center



Did you know that if you are competing for foreign government procurements, the Department of Commerce's U.S. Advocacy Center can help? The Center advocates directly with host governments to win foreign government project awards. Every year, trillions of dollars in foreign government procurement are solicited through a competitive bid process. The Center acts as a resource to level the playing field for U.S. business by providing free business assistance to of all types and sizes companies. However, you must apply and qualify to receive this assistance. Advocacy assistance may involve:

- Meetings between key foreign decision-makers and high-ranking U.S. Government (USG) officials
- Direct support from USG officials stationed abroad
- Letters to foreign decision-makers
- Coordinated action by USG agencies
- The U.S. Advocacy Center Creates Its First U.S. Field Position in Dallas



You can learn more about the Advocacy Center [HERE](#).

FOLLOW US



SAVE THE DATE—CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ensuring Business Success in a Post-COVID-19 World
WWEMA Virtual Meeting
[\(Now On-Demand\)](#)

Presidents Council
September 16, 2021
Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport
Chicago, IL 60666

113th Annual Meeting
November 3—5, 2021
The Palms Hotel and Spa
Miami Beach, FL 33140

Finance & Contract Administration Meeting
July 22, 2021
WWEMA Virtual Meeting
[\(Now On-Demand\)](#)

WEFTEC 2021
October 18—21, 2021
Chicago, IL
Booth #4226