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December 19, 2024



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TODAY'S NEWS

Biden administration faces lawsuit over lead pipe rule

The American Water Works Association has filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements rule, citing insufficient funding to replace all drinking water lines containing lead by 2037. Environmental advocates have been critical of the lawsuit due to the public health risk associated with lead exposure. "We need clearly crafted policies, regulators to help water systems through the process, and adequate funding to meet the mandates EPA has set out," said Erica Walker of consultancy Arcadis. **Full Story:** [Bloomberg Law](#) (12/19)

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

EPA designates next 5 priority substances under TSCA

The Environmental Protection Agency has designated five substances -- vinyl chloride, acetaldehyde, acrylonitrile, benzenamine and 4,4'-methylene bis -- as high-priority substances requiring risk reviews under the Toxic Substances Control Act. It has also confirmed that benzene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, styrene and 4-tert-octylphenol will be prioritized for further review.

Full Story: [Chemical Processing](#) (12/18)

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CIRCULAR WATER ECONOMY

Ariz. farmers innovate amid Colorado River challenges

Farmers in Yuma County, Ariz., are adapting to water scarcity as the Colorado River, their primary water source, dwindles due to drought and climate change. With reservoir levels at historical lows, farmers are adopting innovative technologies to improve water efficiency and cope with reduced river flow. **Full Story:** [PBS](#) (12/16)

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INFRASTRUCTURE WATCH

USACE Caribbean District plans \$1B in 2025 contracts

The US Army Corps of Engineers Caribbean District says it will likely award \$1 billion in contracts in 2025, focusing on major projects in Puerto Rico. Key initiatives include the Rio de La Plata Flood Damage Reduction Project, which involves channel improvements and levee construction, and the Caño Martín Peña Ecosystem Restoration project, which includes extensive dredging and channel construction. **Full Story:** [The Construction Broadsheet](#) (12/16)

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FUNDING AND FINANCING

NFIP reauthorization included in government spending bill

A funding bill that would extend government operations until March 2025 includes a reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program. The proposal also includes \$100 billion for disaster relief, a farm bill extension and restrictions on US investments in China. **Full Story:** [E&E News](#) (12/18), [Politico](#) (12/17), [The Associated Press](#) (12/17), [Reuters](#) (12/18)

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STORMWATER

Columbia River Treaty update shifts flood management to US

The US and Canada have reached a stopgap update to the Columbia River Treaty that shifts most flood risk management to the US while allowing it to retain some hydropower previously sent to Canada. The change leaves the US with less than half the previous support in managing spring runoff, potentially increasing flood risk in areas such as Vancouver and Portland. **Full Story:** [The Columbian \(Vancouver, Wash.\) \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (12/14)

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Opinion: S.C. depends on strong stormwater systems

South Carolina's stormwater systems, dams and water treatment facilities are crucial for resilience against natural disasters, writes John Collum, a vice president at Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson. Collum highlights the need for investment and maintenance to mitigate the impact of extreme weather, emphasizing the role of the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services and local authorities in ensuring safety and functionality. **Full Story:** [The Post and Courier \(Charleston, S.C.\) \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (12/12)

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RESEARCH, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Selecting optimal sewer rehab methods for aging pipes

Aging sewer infrastructure poses a significant challenge as many lines surpass their expected lifespan, leading to potential catastrophic failures. A study by the Utah Water Research Laboratory found that 20% of water mains are beyond their useful life, requiring \$452 billion in replacements. Sewer rehabilitation offers a less disruptive alternative to replacement, and methods such as corrosion-resistant coatings and cured-in-place pipe have proven effective. **Full Story:** [Utility Contractor](#) (12/17)

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WORKFORCE

Find your purpose to escape career doldrums



Leaders can escape career doldrums by building relationships, finding purpose and being authentic with employees, writes LaRae Quay, a former FBI undercover and counterintelligence agent. "Leaders can significantly improve their lives by focusing on self-awareness, developing meaningful relationships and committing to a life of value and purpose," Quay writes.

(Arne Weitkaemper/Getty Images)

Full Story: [SmartBrief/Leadership](#) (12/18)

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TODAY AT WEF

WEF sets the standards for water

Based on the expertise of hundreds of water quality experts WEF's current, nationally applicable, peer-reviewed standards document the established best practices in the water sector. Check out the newest titles: *Standards for Automation of Water Resource Recovery Facilities*, *WEF 21-24* and



Standards for Operation of Nutrient Removal Facilities, WEF 37-24. [Learn more about WEF's latest standards today!](#)

   

(WEF)

Sound off on your stormwater challenges



Calling all U.S. MS4 permittees: Do you have 20 minutes to help WEF advance the stormwater sector? Participate in the 2024 U.S. MS4 Needs Assessment Survey to make your voice heard on the challenges you are facing, the resources you need, and where you are excelling. This data helps WEF take a national-level pulse of the state of the U.S. stormwater sector. [Complete the survey by December 31.](#)

   



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