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TODAY'S NEWS

EPA seeks public input on redefining "waters of the US"

The Environmental Protection Agency is gathering public feedback on redefining "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act, following the Supreme Court's 2023 Sackett v. EPA decision that limited wetland protections. The EPA aims to align with the ruling, reduce red tape and lower permitting costs. "I believe it's important that this be something that could be determined 24/7, 365 days a year. It should not be based on flow duration or flow regime," said Vincent Messerly of the Stream and Wetlands Foundation during an EPA listening session. **Full Story:** [WNIJ-FM/WNIU-FM \(DeKalb, Ill.\)](#) (5/7)

   



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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Federal cuts hamper algal bloom monitoring in Great Lakes

Budget cuts to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have resulted in staffing cuts at the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and other changes that are making it difficult for the lab to monitor toxic algal blooms in the Great Lakes region. The reductions have delayed the launch of data-collecting buoys and disrupted the collection and dissemination of critical data. Algal blooms, often caused by excess nutrient runoff, pose serious risks to water safety, and the lab's work has been crucial in preventing water crises like the one in Toledo, Ohio, in 2014.

Full Story: [ProPublica](#) (5/6)



CIRCULAR WATER ECONOMY

Major US cities sinking due to groundwater extraction



Research published in Nature Cities reveals that 28 major US cities are sinking by 2 to 10 millimeters per year, with Houston experiencing the fastest subsidence. The study, conducted by researchers from Virginia Tech and other universities, attributes the sinking primarily to massive groundwater extraction, which poses a significant risk to infrastructure. "Even slight downward shifts in land can significantly compromise the structural integrity of buildings, roads, bridges, and railways over time," said Leonard Ohenhen of Columbia Climate School. **Full Story:** [Newsweek](#)

(tiered subscription model) (5/8)



Interactive map highlights data centers' water intensity

AI data centers consume massive amounts of water for cooling and electricity, with about two-thirds of new facilities since 2022 located in areas of high water stress, according to a Bloomberg analysis. The trend is evident in the US, where 160 new centers have emerged in such areas in the past three years, as well as in arid regions of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. This piece explores the trend, as well as emerging technologies such as closed-loop cooling that aim to mitigate impact.

Full Story: [Bloomberg](#) (5/8)



INFRASTRUCTURE WATCH

Engineer warns of flooding if Gross Dam work halts

A federal judge in Denver is considering whether to halt the \$531 million expansion of Gross Reservoir Dam in Boulder County, Colo., after a recent ruling raised environmental concerns.

Engineer Mike Rogers says stopping work could lead to flooding. **Full Story:** [The Colorado Sun \(Denver\)](#) (5/8)



WATER ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH

Read more from Water Environment Research (WER) [here](#).





- Environmental fate and ecotoxicological behavior of complex contamination of antibiotics and metal ions in aquatic systems (5/8)
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- Spatiotemporal dynamics of Ramsar wetlands and freshwater resources: Technological innovations for ecosystem conservation (5/5)

FUNDING AND FINANCING

Birmingham, Ala., to buy water system for \$1

The city of Birmingham, Ala., has agreed to purchase Birmingham Water Works for \$1 following the passage of Senate Bill 330 by Gov. Kay Ivey. The bill dissolves the current board and requires a move to a regional board within 20 years, but it's possible the sale won't be able to advance due to the transition process. The board has been criticized for not arranging the sale before the bill's passage. **Full Story:** [WBMA-TV \(Birmingham, Ala.\)](#) (5/8)

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STORMWATER

Tampa Bay moves to curb inland flooding after storms

Many parts of the Tampa Bay area experienced significant inland flooding after Hurricane Milton and local communities are taking steps to prevent future occurrences. Sarasota County has updated its Watershed Master Plan and allocated \$75 million in federal funds for creek dredging. Tampa is investing in new pumps and generators, while public meetings are being held to discuss solutions.

Full Story: [WUSF-FM \(Tampa, Fla.\)](#) (5/8)

   

RESEARCH, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Intense April storms linked to climate change

A report from the World Weather Attribution group found that human-driven climate change made the deadly storms and flooding in Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and neighboring states in early April more intense and more likely to occur. The analysis determined that climate change increased the storms' rainfall by 9% and made such extreme events about 40% more likely than in the pre-industrial era, with at least 24 deaths and widespread damage from the severe weather.

Full Story: [The Associated Press](#) (5/8)

   

WORKFORCE

6 practices to develop grace-based leadership



(filadendron/Getty Images)

Grace-based leadership is essential in today's stressful work environment, where fear and frustration are common, writes leadership expert and author Julie Winkle Giulioni. Such leadership involves meeting employees with patience and compassion while maintaining accountability. Winkle Giulioni outlines six practices of grace-based leaders, including making space for humanity, assuming positive intent and responding rather than reacting.

Full Story: [SmartBrief/Leadership](#) (5/8)

   

TODAY AT WEF

Get best practices on membrane bioreactors



Membrane Bioreactors, MOP 36, 2nd Edition, is a must-have for engineers and utility managers looking to implement or maintain membrane bioreactors in water resource recovery facilities. It provides the most up-to-date information on facility design, process design and operation of membrane bioreactors. [Order today!](#)

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