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Subject: Government shutdown takes effect as funding expires | Closed-loop geothermal tech combats water loss | Study: Too many smart water plans sit idle

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October 1, 2025



The water sector's most relevant news

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Today's News

Government shutdown takes effect as funding expires

Congress failed to reach an agreement to extend funding for the federal government and a widespread shutdown took effect early Wednesday morning. The Environmental Protection Agency has a contingency plan in place, but will stop most inspections, permitting, grants, research and Superfund cleanups during the shutdown, continuing only essential work required to protect public health under the law. "So if your water tastes off later this week, there will be no one at EPA to pick up the phone," said former EPA official Marc Boom.

Full Story: [CNBC](#) (10/1), [The Associated Press](#) (10/1), [National Public Radio](#) (10/1), [CNN](#) (10/1)



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Environmental Protection

Campbell Soup admits to 5,400 Clean Water Act violations

Campbell Soup Supply Co. has admitted to over 5,400 violations of the Clean Water Act at its Napoleon, Ohio, facility between April 2018 and December 2024. These violations involved exceeding permitted discharge limits for pollutants such as ammonia, E. coli, phosphorus, total residual chlorine, oil and grease, and pH. The pollutants entered the Maumee River, which ultimately flows into Lake Erie. The company's acknowledgment is part of a stipulation in federal court following a lawsuit by environmental groups, with Campbell's stating it has since taken steps to improve compliance.

Full Story: [USA Today](#) (9/18)



Circular Water Economy

Closed-loop geothermal tech combats water loss

XGS Energy has completed a field test of its closed-loop geothermal system in California's Mojave Desert, paving the way for a 150-megawatt project that will support Meta's data centers in New Mexico. The technology presents a pathway to scale geothermal for data centers in water-sensitive regions because it eliminates water loss concerns associated with traditional geothermal solutions.

Full Story: [Canary Media](#) (9/30), [Heatmap News](#) (9/30)



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Infrastructure Watch

DC Water begins major repairs on 72-inch sewer line

DC Water has begun repairs on the Rock Creek Main Interceptor, a 72-inch collection system line that carries over 100 million gallons of wastewater daily. The first phase of the project, prompted by structural vulnerabilities found in May, involves restoring a critical gate to manage wastewater flow and will necessitate the closure of part of the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail and one lane of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. The second phase will involve the internal restoration of about 3,000 feet of the collection system line.

Full Story: [Underground Infrastructure](#) (9/2025)



New treatment site in Minn. features ozonation tech

St. Paul Regional Water Services in Minnesota has opened the \$250 million McCarrons Water Treatment Plant in Maplewood, replacing a century-old facility. The project uses ozonation for water purification and can treat up to 84 million gallons daily. Ozonation enhances taste, odor control and disinfection -- adding a robust layer of protection against current and future contaminants in the region's drinking water supply.

Full Story: [Yahoo/Pioneer Press \(St. Paul, Minn.\)](#) (9/26)



Water Environment Research

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



- **Rethinking Activated Sludge Modeling: A Critical Review of Modeling Strategies and the Role of Hybrid Integration (10/1)**
- **Application of Ion-Exchange Membranes With Graphene Oxide in the Removal of Metal Ions Using the Electrodialysis Process (9/30)**
- **Innovative Use of Discarded Clay Cups in Constructed Wetland With Ipomoea carnea for Saline Water Treatment (9/23)**

Funding and Financing

Kaua'i proposes \$1.3B water system overhaul to tackle wildfires

Kaua'i's Department of Water in Hawaii has proposed a \$1.3 billion overhaul of the island's aging water infrastructure, aiming to address critical repairs and help defend against wildfire risk. The plan, which replaces an outdated 2001 strategy that left 60% of projects incomplete, identifies 150 necessary repairs, with 70 prioritized for completion within 20 years.

Full Story: [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (9/30)

Stormwater

Dearborn, Mich., invests \$25M in stormwater management

Dearborn, Mich., has invested more than \$25 million to upgrade stormwater infrastructure, aiming to prevent flooding like the severe events of 2018 and 2021. Initiatives include sewer separation, clearing logjams on the Rouge River, implementing a smart flood monitoring system and creating green infrastructure.

Full Story: [WDIV-TV \(Detroit\)](#) (9/29)



Research, Innovation & Technology

Study: Too many smart water plans sit idle

Only 10% of US utilities' smart water plans are executed consistently, according to a survey conducted for Schneider Electric. Yet, three out of four US city leaders foresee water infrastructure challenges surpassing other infrastructure risk. Schneider's Sustainability Research Institute estimates the US loses 7 billion gallons of treated water daily.

Full Story: [WaterWorld](#) (9/25)



Workforce

Encourage questions, debate to prevent narcissism



Narcissism on the organizational level can undermine performance as employees are reluctant to challenge strategies or share negative feedback because they feel pressured to present a positive front and align with prevailing narratives, writes leadership consultant Nik Kinley. To combat this, leaders should actively encourage debate, reward questioning and invite diverse perspectives, Kinley writes.

(Cemile Bingol/Getty Images)

Full Story: [SmartBrief/Leadership](#) (9/30)



Question of the Day

POP QUIZ: Where have 15-foot-high levees been built to protect against flooding due to rising sea levels?

Ganges River - **18%**



Lake Corpus Christi - **25%**



San Francisco Bay - **42%**



Delaware River - **14%**



Today at WEF

The primary reference for nutrient management



Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal, MOP OM-9, is the primary reference for nutrient management! Expanded content in the new edition includes an updated process control section with step-by-step examples for calculations, a new laboratory chapter with detailed directions for common process control tests and an introduction to using modeling for process control. [Buy today!](#)

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WEF looks to the future of wastewater permitting



WEF has issued a series of concept sheets aimed at transforming the water sector into a Circular Water Economy (CWE), a future-focused model that reimagines wastewater systems as engines of sustainability, resilience, and resource recovery. [Download WEF's free concept sheets](#) for insights into the need for new, adaptive permitting frameworks to drive the water sector's CWE transformation.

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