



Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Friday July 25, 2025



AEA Offers Toolkit for Educating the Public About PFAS

At the request of the NJPDES Committee, AEA has worked with Renati Solutions on easy-to-use illustrations combining text with images to **educate the public about PFAS**.

In particular, the committee wants to help our members' customers to understand the true extent of the PFAS pollution problem. The committee hopes to further messages explaining that approaches to solving the PFAS problem, to be truly effective, **must be much broader than regulating water and sewer utilities**. Members can use the illustrations as they are or customize them. Renati is also on hand to help members do the customizing.

To see and download the illustrations, use this link form: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/127BGBhBVePKjA4BHF5-TTmO4peB47ATE>.

Don't forget to tag AEA or let us know if you use these on social media or on your website.

Review Proposed PFAS Settlement; Provide Comments Individually and/or through AEA

On Monday, July 21, the NJDEP issued a public notice for comments on the proposed settlement with 3M over PFAS contamination at Salem County and Middlesex County sites and in firefighting foam statewide. The proposed settlement was announced in the news in May of this year.

Terms of the agreement include payment of \$450M over 25 years to the State. The majority of funds are marked for PFAS remediation throughout the state, including the Salem County site.

The notice provides instructions for submitting comments, which must be submitted to the State on or before September 19, 2025. AEA is reviewing the notice and anticipates submitting comments.

Feel free to send any comments you wish AEA to consider to Karen Burris (karen@aeanj.org) on or before August 18th. The NJPDES Committee's next scheduled meeting is September 3rd at 1pm. Comments received on this matter and any other relevant business will be on the agenda. This is a topic of great importance that may impact each utility differently.

The AEA encourages each utility to review the settlement with their legal counsel and submit comments to NJDEP directly.

For your convenience, links to the websites of 3M's and NJDEP's settlement websites are provided below:

<https://investors.3m.com/news-events/press-releases/detail/1887/3m-resolves-pfas-related-claims-with-the-state-of-new-jersey>

<https://dep.nj.gov/3m/>

Connecticut Bans PFAS in Fertilizer

We are passing on this information from Bob Shertenlieb, Director of O&M at OCUA:

Earlier this month, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture released a notice to fertilizer and soil amendment registrants stating that “no person shall use, sell or offer for sale in this state any fertilizer intended for land application or soil amendment that contains any biosolids or wastewater sludge that contain PFAS.

Registrants whose product contains biosolids must provide a certificate of compliance stating the product does not contain PFAS. **Products containing biosolids that have PFAS must be removed from Connecticut stores by August 31.**”

Bob and many in AEA are watching carefully to see the implications of this announcement, if any, in New Jersey

Good News/Bad News on Water Funding

Earlier in July, according to the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations released an



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appropriations bill with a **proposed 23-percent cut to the EPA overall budget.**

The proposal is not as drastic as what was proposed in President Trump's original Budget Request, but unfortunately is still severe. NACWA says that funding at **this much-lower level will strongly affect critical water infrastructure** funding and key programs.

The proposed House appropriations include:

- A total EPA budget of \$7.01 billion, which is \$2.12 billion below the enacted FY 2025 budget.
- State and Tribal Assistance Grants Total at \$3.7 billion, \$679.8 million below the FY 2025 amount. Included in that is \$1.2 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is \$430 million below FY 2025 enacted. \$559 million of the \$1.2 billion is directed toward Community Project Funding or earmarks.
- WIFIA is proposed at \$64.6 million, \$7.7 million below FY 2025 enacted.
- Geographic Programs are proposed at \$651 million or \$31 million below FY 2025 enacted.

A "rider" included in the proposal would restrict any funds from being used to finalize or implement the Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS).

The Senate has yet to release its Interior and Environment appropriations bill text. NACWA expects that cuts to the EPA and key water infrastructure funding proposed by the Senate will not be as severe as the House's version. Congress will need to reconcile any differences between House and Senate versions of all subcommittee's funding bills (there are twelve) before the end of the Fiscal Year on September 30, 2025.

NACWA is urging utilities to contact their Members of Congress and advocate for the highest possible levels of funding for key clean water programs, including the CWSRF and the WIFIA program.

The House's rejection of the more draconian cuts originally proposed reflect our sector's successful efforts to get the message about the need for federal water infrastructure investment out there and to Members of Congress.

[Click here to download a template letter](#) provided by NACWA

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