

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
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The PFAS and the P furious

“Forever chemicals” are like bad house guests. Sure they were invited and sure it was nice to have them around for a while but like [Things 1 and 2](#), they have overstayed their welcome. Those chemicals, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS for short, were designed to fight fires, make water/stain resistant fabrics, and create nonstick surfaces, which is more than a bit ironic since PFAS themselves apparently stick around a very, very long time (hence their nickname). Persistence would not be so bad if they were not also pervasive and [potentially dangerous, especially when they get into water supplies](#). PFAS are the subject lots of talk [and brewing regulation by EPA](#) but the [Attorney General of Wisconsin is not waiting and has filed suit against 18 companies](#) that made PFAS seeking to recover the costs of investigating and remediating PFAS pollution in addition to punitive damages. Rumor has it the cases will be vigorously contested. By the way, PFAS contamination has been found in 41 public supply systems in 18 Parishes in Louisiana.

What Ya Gonna Do When...

When the pond goes dry? Well [you sit on the banks and watch the crawdads die](#), of course. But what will you do if the river runs dry? In that case you can sit on the banks and watch the shipping economy die—which is starting to be a worry on Europe’s fabled Rhine River. As Europe bakes in what is [either an unprecedented heat wave or a harbinger of things to come](#) the consequences of changing hydrology are being felt on the Rhine where the [navigability of the storied river is now in question](#). Though always important, the [strategic importance of the Rhine has become clearer as Germany pivots from Russian fuel to sources that barge oil and diesel up from Rotterdam](#). If that weren’t enough, remember that those same waters are used for drinking water, energy production, industrial and agricultural development, tourism and as ecological support so the ripple effects this shortage could be far reaching.

And the Winner is...

https://www.nola.com/news/business/the_roux/article_4c0f75e2-03dc-11ed-9f3b-ff37a554586b.html

Bulletin: This Just In

Dateline: Mexico. Reports confirm the collapse of [Mayapan](#), a Mayan city in the Yucatan peninsula. Sure, this happened some 800 years ago, but it is still worth talking about, especially in light of a [new](#)

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and legal stewardship of water.

Coming Up:

[Webinar: Integrated Approaches in Community Nonpoint Source Nutrient Management](#); Aug. 24

[ABA SEER 30th Fall Conference](#); Sept 21- 24

[Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force Fall Meeting and Workshop](#); October 22

Water jobs:

[Water Quality Technician](#); Pontchartrain Conservancy; Metairie, LA

[Legislative Analyst, Coastal and Flood Resilience](#); Environmental Defense Fund; Washington, DC

[Adapting the Existing Built Environment Earth Network Fellowship](#); Columbia Climate School; New York, NY

[Clinical Instructor Tulane Environmental Law Clinic](#); New Orleans, LA

[Associate Attorney, Senior Attorney, and Paralegal](#); Earthjustice; Multiple Locations

[Coordinator – Resisting Dirty Energy Campaign](#); Healthy Gulf; New Orleans, LA

[Legislative Analyst, Coastal and Flood Resilience](#); Environmental Defense Fund; Washington, D.C.

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[study](#) that suggests that abandonment of the city was [related to civil unrest and political strife that might have been linked to drought](#). So, enjoy the study and be thankful that such a thing could never happen again.

Dateline: Tulare County, California. Reports confirm that the town of Tooleville has run out of water (again) due to dropping groundwater levels. Restrictions on agricultural use of surface water in the region have driven farmers to rely more and more on wells, which add to Tooleville's problems. Drying wells and residual groundwater contamination have left the town with few options. Most of the town's water has been trucked in for a while and the state has been supplying bottled water since 2014. The other options seem to be leaving (no one's preferred option) or sharing water with the nearby community of Exeter (not Exeter's preferred choice up till now). Negotiations between the two towns are under way, but no matter what is suggested it will probably require someone to pay for it. And [that is never anyone's preferred option](#).

Dateline: Chicago. The Great Lakes states have hemorrhaged population for decades, but some now see hope on the horizon for drawing people to it from western and southwestern states. So, what is the attraction? Well-run governments? Great schools? Good old-fashioned polite civics? Maybe, but probably not. No, the [attraction is water and landscapes that are not ablaze](#). No word on whether Chicago is doing outreach to Tooleville.

Do You Drink the Tap Water?

Should you? Do you need to filter it, first? Get these questions answered and more from our Water Health IS Public Health Webinar! But unless you've got [a DeLorean](#), [TARDIS](#), or [a time turner](#), you'll have to catch the [recording on Youtube](#)—just in time for the weekend.