



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

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Gallup's Annual Environment Poll: Americans more concerned about water pollution

From their website

“WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Americans are more concerned about water pollution than they have been since 2001. The latest percentages of Americans who are worried "a great deal" about the pollution of drinking water (63%) and of rivers, lakes and reservoirs (57%) have inched past the elevated levels of concern seen since 2014.

The latest data are from Gallup's annual Environment poll, conducted March 1-5, 2017.

The continued elevated levels of concern about both types of water pollution come as President Donald Trump signed an executive order to roll back environmental regulations put in place by his predecessor to protect American waterways from pollution. Meanwhile, the Environmental Protection Agency under Trump has committed \$100 million in federal funding to address the ongoing drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan. The discovery of elevated lead levels in Flint's public drinking water in 2015, and subsequent news about a range of other contaminants in the Flint water system, has put a national spotlight on the issue of water pollution.

Gallup first polled on environmental worries in 1989 and began tracking these concerns regularly in 1999. Since then, between 48% and 72% of Americans have expressed a great deal of worry about the pollution of drinking water, and between 46% and 66% have expressed this level of worry about the pollution of rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

Concerns about these issues were highest around the turn of the millennium, and lowest between 2010 and 2012, perhaps reflecting the state of the economy during those times. Americans tend to give a [higher priority to environmental matters](#) when the economy is healthy than when it is not.”

Read the remainder of the article, including graphs, on their [website](#).

New USGS Study on Pesticides in Midwestern Streams

From ASDWA Weekly Update, August 11, 2017

“A new study by the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) on the prevalence of pesticides (including mixtures) in the Midwest, and potential impacts on aquatic insects was recently published. More than 180 pesticides and their byproducts were detected in small streams throughout 11 Midwestern states, some at concentrations likely to harm aquatic insects, according to the [new study](#). (To read a free copy of the article, see the “unformatted article” under the Pesticides Prevalent in Midwestern Streams (August 2017) on this [website](#).)

On average, 52 pesticide compounds were detected in each stream. At least one pesticide in at least half of the 100 streams sampled exceeded a threshold predicted to cause harm to aquatic insects and other stream organisms. Pesticides were not measured at levels predicted to be toxic to fish in most streams.

While numerous pesticides were detected at low levels, only a few—atrazine, acetochlor, metolachlor, imidacloprid, fipronil, and organophosphate insecticides—were predicted to be major contributors to toxicity. The first three are widely used agricultural herbicides, and the latter three are insecticides used in both residential and agricultural settings. This is one of the most extensive assessments of pesticides in streams to date: 1,200 samples were collected at 100 Midwest streams over a 12-week period during the 2013 growing season and analyzed for 228 pesticide compounds. This study is one component in the first in a series of five USGS [regional stream quality assessments](#).”

AWWA Utility Disinfection Survey Open Until September 5th

From ASDWA Weekly Update, August 11, 2017. Assistance from states was requested to get a larger pool of utilities to respond.

“The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is conducting a survey of water utility disinfection practices that is open until September 5th. The [2017 Water Utility Disinfection Survey](#) should only take a half-hour to complete. The survey is being conducted by AWWA's Disinfection Committee, and is the fifth in a series of disinfection surveys since 1978.

Through these surveys, the Disinfection Committee seeks to:

- Compile information on key disinfection-related practices and issues at drinking water utilities;
- Identify trends in disinfection based on recent changes in legislation, costs, system effectiveness, and other factors; and
- Assist the drinking water industry by providing a basis for development of best management practice, educational efforts, and additional research on disinfection-related practices and challenges.

Responses are strictly confidential and will be reported only in aggregate form or in a manner that does not allow individual responses to be identified.”

EPA Webinar: Successfully Protecting Your Investment in Drinking Water Infrastructure

From EPA Region 7, 8/9/2017

USDA and EPA are co-hosting a webinar on Wednesday, August 30th, to showcase two systems' approaches to asset management. The new asset management document, [Successfully Protecting Your Investment in Drinking Water Infrastructure: Best Practices from Communities and Local Experts](#), is now on the website and we are co-hosting a roll-out webinar with USDA on Wednesday, August 30th. Two case studies from the document will be highlighted. Larry Paine (Hillsboro, KS) and Mario Leone (Monaca Borough, PA) will discuss some of the challenges faced by their water systems and how asset management provided them with solutions and benefits for their communities.

Date and Time: August 30th, 1:00 – 2:00 CDT

[Registration](#).

IDNR WS Staff Speaking Engagements

Iowa DNR staff in the water supply program areas are scheduled to speak at the following events. The date, sponsor and event, location, subject, and contact for more information are listed.

- August 28-29, 2017, AWWA Fall Short Course, Ankeny. “IDNR Water Supply Update.” [Website](#) for brochure and registration.
- September 12 - 13, 2017, IRWA Fall Conference, Okoboji. “IDNR Water Supply Update.” [Website](#) for brochure and registration.
- September 12, 2017, EPA Region 7 Environmental Finance Center (Wichita State), St. Joseph, MO. “Regional Water Finance Forum.” [More information](#).
- September 28, 2017, SHL 50th Annual Laboratory Symposium, Ankeny. [Website](#) for brochure and registration.
- October 10-12, 2017, AWWA Annual Meeting, Council Bluffs. “LUST Sites and Water Mains; IDNR Water Supply Update; Cyanobacteria.” [Website](#) for brochure and registration.
- October 10 - 11, 2017, IRWA Fall Conference, Dubuque. “IDNR Water Supply Update.” [Website](#) for brochure and registration.

For other professional development opportunities, see the “Training Calendar” at programs.iowadnr.gov/opcertweb/.