

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
November 19, 2021

The Best “Energy Drink”? Make Mine...Sodium?

It seems that every time you turn around there is big news about some new development in “green” energy and more often than not, it involves water (looking at you biofuels). [Well, turn around again and you will see Bill Gates announcing his plan to build a carbon friendly nuclear plant in Wyoming.](#) Nukes? How can that be new or a good idea? The latter question we will leave to others, but the answer to the former is quite a lot—at least with regard to water. Up to now, commercial nuclear plants were behemoths with huge [water-fed cooling towers](#). Even in the hands of [skilled technicians](#) things could go [very, very wrong. So much so that public acceptance of the technology dipped](#), and many thought the technology to be a thing of the past in the USA. Not Mr. Gates and his TerraPower team, who think they can build a power plant that is safer and uses lots less water (a good thing, given the limited water budget of Wyoming). The key is using [molten sodium instead of water as the medium for turning heat into power and storing it](#). At the least, that part is intriguing. Excited? Want to buy in? Well, all us Yanks already have since half of the projected \$4 billion cost is coming from the federal [government](#).

Does Flood Insurance Cover This?

We know a thing or two about floods here in New Orleans, and we know that it can sting to size up your losses and even more when dealing with your insurers. But we confess that those are nothing compared to the stings experienced in Aswan, Egypt. As a result of rain-induced flooding, homes have been abandoned and the residents have moved into other communities that are now also feeling the sting. That’s because the [displaced residents are scorpions](#), [deathstalker scorpions](#), and in the span of one night, over 500 scorpion sting cases were reported. Whether such injuries would be covered by whatever gecko or pair of hands you are insured by, this is at least a reminder that more than human communities are on the move because of water driven risks.

Who You Gonna Call?

Floods on the Nile and noxious infestations may call to mind [biblical levels of water risk management](#), but if you are someplace a bit more down to Earth, say New Mexico, who are you going to call when the going gets tough—and dry? The answer to that depends. If you are property owner, rancher, or local government you just might call the State Engineer because that shop is supposed to help manage the state’s water resources. If you are the [State Engineer you might call the state legislature because you don’t have the staff](#)

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:

[The Water Runoff: A City Council Debate](#); Nov. 30

Water jobs:

[New Orleans Climate Justice Coordinator & Communications and Outreach Coordinator](#); Healthy Gulf; New Orleans, LA

Louisiana Bucket Brigade; [Campaign Director](#), New Orleans, LA; [Economic Development Manager](#), River Parishes, LA; [Liquefied Natural Gas Campaign Coordinator](#), Lake Charles, LA

[National Distributed Organizing Representative](#); Sierra Club; LA/TX/DC

[Adaptation Program Director](#); Georgetown Climate Center; Washington, D.C

[Sustainability/ESG Director](#); PwC; multiple locations

[Research Associate](#); University of New Orleans; New Orleans, LA

[Outreach Coordinator](#); Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana; New Orleans, LA

[Communications Specialist](#); Environmental Defense Fund; New Orleans, LA

[Director of Finance](#); Pontchartrain Conservancy; New Orleans, LA

[Co-Director](#); Common Ground Relief; New Orleans, LA

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[or the resources to do what needs doing](#) and the legislature could fix that if only they would [please, please help](#) you. But they haven't, even when faced with few water resources to begin with and then compounded by drought and regional water competition. So, what else can a State Engineer do? If you are New Mexico State Engineer, John D'Antonio and are feeling down with your independence vanishing in the haze you [update your resume and resign](#). This sort thing is unfathomable to us in Louisiana (and quite a few other states) where this just would not be possible. We don't have a State Engineer to undermine and inadequately fund. [Pretty smart](#).

[Catch You on the Flippity Flip](#)

Next week we'll be taking a week off from TUWaterWays while we gather round the table with friends and families and ponder the oncoming end of the semester. If you run out of everything we've covered in TUWaterWays over the past few weeks and need some more water topics to share around your table, maybe you can get together and hunt for all the water-related pieces of the [funding bill](#) that just passed the House this morning. Like [Bunco](#), it's fun for the whole family!