

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
April 25, 2018

Denial Ain't Just a River in Egypt

A massive [Ethiopian dam](#) is making the Egyptian government nervous about the future of its share of the [Nile River](#), which provides virtually all of the freshwater for Egypt's 100 million people. In response, Egypt is now [playing with the big boys](#) of water consumption by [passing a law](#) that allows the government to restrict the cultivation of crops that require a large amount of water, including rice and bananas. Violators may be facing prison time and a fine of up to \$3,000.

Crops such as alfalfa, almonds, pistachios, and pasture consume lots of water here in the United States. Agriculture accounts for approximately 80 percent of the nation's consumptive water use and increased water scarcity will intensify the urban/agriculture competition for water. But at least we will have Mariah and Whitney reminding us about the resolutions that we can achieve [when we believe](#).

Climate Change is Raining on Boulder's Parade

[History has its eyes](#) on the growing group of [lawsuits](#) over the fossil fuel industry's role in global warming. Boulder, CO and San Miguel County are joining [the song of angry men](#) in [their suit](#) against two fossil fuel companies over the costs of dealing with climate change, highlighting water resources and management issues in their complaint. Plaintiffs are arguing that these fossil fuel companies are [the guilty ones](#) who caused the loss of water flow into the Colorado River and extreme drought conditions. They [miss the snowpack on the mountains](#), which is critical for the state's agriculture, water supply and \$5 billion ski industry. Plaintiffs are arguing that fossil fuel companies knowingly and substantially contributed to the climate crisis and [should have told](#) consumers about the dangers associated with the use of fossil fuels. It may seem [impossible](#) to quantify the monetary impact that the fossil fuel companies' contribution to climate change had on cities like Boulder, but the complaint faces this [uphill climb](#) by listing specific costs such as the \$100 million that was spent fixing 150 miles of roads and 30 bridges after an extreme rainstorm that brought nearly a year's worth of rain over eight days. The plaintiffs are not asking to stop fossil fuel production but, rather, are asking for the defendants to bear the cost of climate change rather than the tax payer. However, defendants are arguing that climate change was caused by [them and us \(but mostly us\)](#).

The Cold Never Bothered the Glaciers Anyway

In 2013, Elsa taught us that if you are splitting the ice apart, you need to [beware the frozen heart](#). A [new study](#) has shown that that

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 stewardship of water.

Coming up:

[10X Water Summit](#)

Baton Rouge, LA
May 16 and 17, 2018

Water jobs:

[Intern Water Policy and Regulation](#)

The International Water Association
The Hague, Netherlands

[Data Centre Water Specialist](#)

Facebook
Dublin, Ireland

[Climate Change Specialist](#)

Inter-American Development Bank
Washington, DC

[Water Policy Specialist](#)

Water Now Alliance
San Francisco, CA

Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy

6325 Freret Street, 1st Floor
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-865-5982

tulanewater.org

TWITTER: [@TulaneWaterLaw](https://twitter.com/TulaneWaterLaw)

melting Antarctic glaciers are freshening the ocean around them and reducing the formation of Antarctic Bottom Water, confirming the previous predictions of both Elsa and computer simulations. The melting water stratifies the ocean column, with cold fresh water trapped at the surface and warmer water sitting below. Then, the part of the glacier in contact with this lower layer gets to [find out what happens to solid water when it gets warm](#): a positive feedback loop is initiated; more melt water is created; seas rise; and glaciers lose mass. Eventually, the circulation in the North Atlantic Ocean may slowdown, which would have major impacts on the global climate. There is already evidence that, [for the first time in forever](#) 1,600 years, the circulation system of the North Atlantic Ocean is weakened.

Water Torture

Water experts often discuss how the public's behavior influences water resources but the city of Daye in China is finally asking how water can influence the public's behavior. Pedestrians who choose to ignore traffic signals are at the city's busiest intersections are [getting sprayed with water](#). If this works as a disincentive, maybe we should look into [spraying people with a little water](#) when they waste a lot.

Give NOLA Day is on it's Way

Every spring, Greater New Orleans Foundation sponsors fundraising for hundreds of New Orleans area nonprofits, and our dear Institute is one of those organizations. Anything donated on that day will be augmented by GNOF's Lagniappe Fund, so donations will be worth a little bit more on that day. GiveNOLA Day is May 1st, but donations can be scheduled ahead of time, starting this week. If you enjoy TUWaterWays and the work we do here at the Institute, then this could be the best time for you to support our work. You can check out [GiveNOLA Day's website](#) to learn more, and [our Institute's page](#) to see about donating directly to us. Thanks in advance for anything you may give, and, as always, thanks for reading.