

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy  
May 13, 2014

## **Water and Climate, Part 1: USGS Climate Tracker Lets You See What Climate Models Say; On Grand Isle, NOAA Says the Water Is Rising Fast**

Keeping track of what climate models do and don't say can be hard and more than a bit wearisome. Now thanks to the United States Geological Survey it can be a bit easier thanks to their [climate tracker](#) web site. It is not Mine Craft but it might help see what might be in store. In the case of Grand Isle, Louisiana it doesn't take a model or a website to know the water is rising and rising fast. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, [sea level has risen 1.32 inches](#) over the past 5 years due to the combined effects of the land sinking and sea level rising. These rates are among the highest on the planet and not going to make coastal protection and restoration efforts any easier.

## **Water and Climate, Part 2: New Climate Change Assessment Says Impacts Will be Global and Local; Antarctic Ice Sheet Melt Fuels Concerns**

A new [National Climate Assessment](#) from the U.S. Global Change Research Program serves notice that a changing climate is having significant global and local impacts that deserve serious attention. Among the predictions are an [additional 1-4 feet of sea level rise in coastal Louisiana](#). This news was not made any better by a new [NASA report](#) that finds that the melting of key glaciers in Antarctica has passed a tipping point and is no likely to be [irreversible](#), an event that not been included in many of the already pretty depressing sea level rise models.

## **Clean Water by the Book**

Most of the time our drinking water is fine to drink but recent cases of chemical spills, boil water advisories and other incidents remind us that clean water cannot be taken for granted. If only there was a book that would tell us how to keep our water clean. Well now there is, sort of. The organization [Water is Life](#) has released a [Drinkable Book](#) whose pages actually are a water purification system. Each page supposedly can treat enough water to provide a person with at 30 day water supply. Some book.

## **TU/ELI Release Report on Deep Water Horizon Funds**

Once upon a time following the tragic explosion on BP's Deep Water Horizon well, there was wide spread hope that at the least some good might come from that catastrophe in form of money for good deeds and important

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:

May 14, 11:30-1:15 2014

[Horizon Initiative Water Committee](#) Meeting  
Garden Study Center, City Park  
New Orleans, LA

May 14, 9:00-12:30 pm

French-American Coastal Protection and Natural Hazard Management  
Tulane Law School  
New Orleans, LA

## Water jobs:

[Chief Resilience Officer](#)  
City of New Orleans

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projects across the Gulf Coast. In practice, things have moved much slower and more confusion than cash seems to be in circulation. To clarify the picture a bit, the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy and the Environmental Law Institute have published [How Much, Going Where, and For What](#), a report that sheds some much needed light on the sources, uses, and in some cases restrictions on uses of funds coming from the Deep Water Horizon spill. Special thanks go to the Tulane Center for Bioenvironmental Research and the Walton Family Foundation for their support of the project.

### **The Future is Now: Water is Driving More Business Decisions**

In the hard-nosed world of business decision makers have to cut the chase and focus on those things and decisions that are crucial to building profitable businesses. Increasingly those hard-nosed types are thinking about water. According to new [report](#) from the Pacific Institute and Vox Global, a survey of more than 50 U.S. based companies reveals that water is already a major challenge and will likely be more of one in the future. Apparently water issues are shaping profitability, growth prospects and decision on where to locate. Maybe they know something.

### **Conferees Agree on WRRDA Compromise**

After more than 6 months of wrangling (interspersed with dinners, other meetings, vacations and the like) House and Senate conferees have announced that they have [agreed](#) on a compromise version of the [Water Resources Reform and Development Act](#), a bill that will authorize a bunch of water related public works projects and could well rewrite the rule book for how those projects are developed. No public draft is currently available but rumor has it that the compromise includes an authorization of the [Morganza to the Gulf](#) hurricane levee system for south Louisiana. Whether the funds ever show up to build any of these projects is of course another matter altogether.

### **EPA Begins Move to Require More Fracking Disclosure**

EPA will be seeking public comment on a [proposal](#) that could require greater disclosure of the make-up of the fluids in the growing but controversial practice of hydraulic fracturing to access oil and gas reserves. The regulation and oversight of fracking varies widely from state to state and concern about what the fluids use in the fracking process has grown along with concerns about the safety of freshwater supplies. The comment period will be open for 90 days.