

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy

August 9, 2016

CEQ Releases NEPA Climate Guidance (and the crowd goes wild)

It's barely August, there's one more beach weekend on the docket, and you have finished the new Harry Potter book and Star Wars: Bloodline so what do you do? Rest easy beach basker, the White House Council on Environmental Quality has your well sun-screened back. Yes, we are talking about the new [guidance memo](#) on how climate change and greenhouse gas emissions should be factored in to National Environmental Policy Act reviews. Translation: How does climate change fit into the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements. Actually with both major presidential candidates promising [massive public works](#) projects (no slight intended [Gary](#) and [Jill](#)) and big ecosystem-scale projects on tap in Louisiana, the Everglades and elsewhere this is actually very timely, both for purposes of encouraging greenhouse reductions but also for crediting the potential environmental benefits of proposed actions.

"Open Rivers" Tests Novel Approach to Understanding Water

Faced with the fact that centuries of mythology, myopic laws, stultifying reports and soul killing public meetings had not produced much in the way real public appreciation and stewardship of the Mississippi River the University of Minnesota decided to try something crazy: Why not do something thoughtful, engaging and eclectic? The result is [Open Rivers: Rethinking the Mississippi River](#), an online journal that is actually readable and informative. Aside from wondering how one can rethink something that has not actually been thought through in the first place, we have no reason not to commend this journal to you. Who knows where this kind of thing might lead?

Happy Anniversary, Hope You Like Cash!

This time last year, we reported on the Gold King mine spill. EPA workers attempting to clean up the abandoned mine accidentally overflowed a tailing pond, sending a toxic cocktail of beryllium, zinc, arsenic and [old lace](#) other chemicals into the Animas River. To celebrate, the EPA paid out \$1.2 million to different groups affected by the spill, much of it reimbursement for response costs borne by state and local officials.

Upstream, the effects of the spill have [mostly washed away](#); like the [snows of yesteryear](#), gone from this earth. What

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:

[The 19th Annual Conference on Litigating Takings Challenges to Land Use and Environmental Regulations](#)
New Orleans, LA
November 4, 2016

[RAE/The Coastal Society Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration](#)
New Orleans, LA
December 10-15, 2016

Water jobs:

[Junior Researcher/Advisor Groundwater](#)
Deltares
Utrecht, Netherlands
Closes August 19

[Delta Science Fellowships](#)
California Sea Grant/Delta Stewardship Council
Closes August 17, 2016

[CLEE Water Fellow](#)
UC Berkeley School of Law
Berkeley, CA

[Executive Director](#)
Galveston Baykeeper
Houston, TX

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looked like [a river of sorrow](#) last summer has bounced back, and with it the recreation and tourist economy vital to towns like Durango, CO. One brewery has even turned the spill into a punchline with their [EPA IPA](#), a fittingly yellow and turbid tipple.

Downstream, it's a [different story](#). In the Navajo Nation, the largest reservation in the US, many farmers lost their entire year's harvest. Worse, some [Diné](#) have lost faith in their water supply and the officials charged with protecting it. The Navajo Nation has received around \$600,000 in spill response dollars, including money for continued monitoring of the river. But with thousands of mines leaking a combined [5.5 million gallons per day](#) throughout the Southwest, tribal leaders and environmentalists are irritated by the EPA's "small steps and half measures" to address the threat.

Fancy a Drink? Urine Luck!

Belgium: De facto [home of the EU](#), ([adopted](#)) home of [Dr. Evil](#), birthplace of [Jean-Claude Van Damme](#). It's a nation known for its waffles, chocolate, and maybe most of all, [its beer](#). From Duvel to Chimay, Hoegaarden to De Koninck, the small nation produces a bevy of alcoholic beverages for sale around the world. Now, thanks to researchers at the University of Ghent, "[Sewer to Brewer](#)" beer can be added to that list.

A team of scientists at U. Ghent has developed a machine that collects urine and uses solar power to evaporate water from the waste material. As it evaporates it is filtered through a membrane and then recollected as pure water, clean enough to drink or, if you're Belgian, make beer with. The team deployed their innovation at a music festival recently, [recovering 1,000 liters](#) of water. The brewing helps the research garner public attention but the [more valuable application](#) of the solar-powered technology will be in areas without electricity or running water. Still, given the choice between a post-consumer *peelsner* and a [tall glass of cockroach milk](#), we'll take the beer.