



TUWaterWays

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

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This Mississippi River Thing is Supposedly Important, but Who's Actually In Charge of It?

It's the thing on everyone's mind. Whether it's another prolonged drought, record breaking precipitation, or a clever [new proposal to send the Mississippi River out west](#), it's clear that conditions along the river are changing. But how can we address these new challenges and demands?? It's the [million-dollar](#) question. Before we figure solutions, it's worth knowing what who the decisionmakers are and the laws that govern them. All this talk is a roundabout way to tell you, we have a resource for just that! The [latest white paper from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy](#) looks at these key legal authorities and statutory regimes along the Mississippi River Corridor. Spoiler alert: there are a lot of players in the game at all levels of government. We can't expect everyone to be as obsessed with the Mississippi River as we are, but that certainly won't stop us from trying.

Oh, Insurance. Where Are We Going to Be Without You? ([Nowhere, mon frere](#))

This summer feels like some kind of [inflection point for climate](#). [Heat record after heat record](#) is [getting obliterated](#), and there are bizarre events like [hailstorms leading to icy floods in the streets of Italy](#) (if they don't play baseball there, how do they know how big the hailstones are?), but we as a species have blown through plenty of those warnings already, so don't put too much stock in it. But the insurance industry? Yeah, they seem to be paying attention. It's [starting with property insurance](#). It would be one thing if it were just affecting small, unimportant markets like Florida and California, but it's even becoming an issue in the center of the universe, Louisiana! Luckily for coastal Louisiana, [brand new industrial facilities are still finding a way to get insurance](#). Who cares if no one can afford to live close enough to work at your plant? You've probably got not-so-secret plans in a drawer to go fully automated anyways! In [Florida, property insurance is also becoming more expensive and harder to find](#), and Farmers Insurance is not renewing some policies. Luckily [the state's Chief Financial Officer has figured out the problem: wokeness](#). Apparently those famously flamboyant actuaries in the insurance industry just can't keep their wasteful agenda off the spreadsheets. But it still seems unlikely that those same woke accountants are responsible for [the fires, storms, and floods that are repeating themselves across the country and pointing the way towards a nationwide meltdown](#).

So, what's being done about it? Well, [some people have been paying attention to this for a while](#). At the federal level, the [Treasury's Federal Insurance Office has been asked to look for options](#) for avoiding this meltdown. Some insurers in certain US states are [reporting their climate preparedness at the highest global level](#) for financial disclosure. [Disaster-proof homes](#) might be swell, but can they get insurance in these places where the industry is pulling out? At least [Jamie Lee Curtis has written a climate-themed horror graphic novel](#)?

The sense of urgency seems to have spread widely within the industry. Somehow, though, that sense of urgency doesn't seem to have yet made it to the American homebuyer. A new [study](#) shows that [far more people are moving into the country's most disaster-prone counties than are moving out](#). Populations in counties most exposed to flood, fire, and heat extremes are growing from coast to coast. Even counties in Florida walloped by Hurricane Ian last year

continue to grow like gangbusters. The one place where the climate memo seems to have been received? Coastal Louisiana. Parishes on the Gulf of Mexico are losing population, but a big part of that may be the increasing insurance prices driving them away. Once again, it's clear that places will be unaffordable before they will be uninhabitable. All of this speaks to a system so broken it's like the entire country has taken a trip to [Cedar Rapids](#).

The Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy Hereby Calls "Dibs" on Newly Discovered Water Source

Who cares that it's 370 light years away? Water is water, and [water's a hot investment](#). It's [gold, Jerry, gold](#)! So, to those water speculators out there, why get all twisted up with water in Colorado that's got who knows how many claims up on it? We've got water so fresh and pure, it's untouched by property claims, [microplastics](#), and [PFAS](#). We've got water so fresh, it's not even planetary. "What magical source is this?" you ask? Why, it's the [newly discovered water vapor in the inner disk of planetary system PDS 70](#)! NASA's Webb Telescope discovered it in the vicinity of rocky protoplanets of the sort that could one day be Earth-like. And, since we didn't hear anyone else call "dibs" we are. The bidding for speculators interested in purchasing our claim will start Monday morning when the bell rings. Don't you dare doubt our claim. [We have a flag](#).

If you're less interested in the interplanetary play, NASA's got you covered, with the [improved calibration of its SWOT satellite](#) aimed back at our planet and measuring water across the globe so closely you'd think people needed it to live or something.

Coming Up:

[14th Louisiana Water Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, August 2-3](#)

Tulane Environmental Law Summit, New Orleans, February 23 & 24, 2024 (save the date!)

Water jobs:

[Senior Campaign Coordinator](#); National Wildlife Federation; New Orleans, LA

[Program Director, Southern Aquatic and Coastal Programs](#); National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Washington, DC

[Senior Attorney](#); The Nature Conservancy; Remote

[Community Outreach Specialist, Louisiana](#); Environmental Defense Fund; Remote



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.

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