

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
October 8, 2012

From the News/Rumor Mill: Deep Water Horizon Settlement Could Circuit Circumvent RESTORE Act, Unhappiness Ensues

Media reports about settlement negotiations between the federal government and BP and others for the environmental damage done by the Deep Water Horizon blow-out have raised the ire of some Gulf states and their congressional delegations. At issue is whether a settlement might shift dollars away from the elaborate process set out in the RESTORE Act to direct 80% of Clean Water Act fines and penalties to the Gulf region and Gulf states. If a settlement directs the lion's share of any dollars to the Natural Resource Damage process and away from the classification of fines or penalties it could significantly reduce the dollars available to states that received very little oiling from the spill.

[Rumors about BP fine settlement talks raise ire. Nate Monroe, pnj.com, October 2, 2012.](#)

National Research Council Paints Bleak Picture of Army Corp's Water Infrastructure

A new report from the National Research Council concludes that the vast system of water projects built by the Army Corps of Engineers is wearing out faster than it is being replaced or rehabilitated and that America faces some hard choices about how to how it authorizes (or deauthorizes), prioritizes, budgets, and funds the water projects that it really needs. This is a must read for anyone interested in the state and future of America's water risk and value investments.

[Corps of Engineers Water Resources Infrastructure: Deterioration, Investment, or Divestment?](#)

Water Literacy, Part 1. Water Could Make Brazil a Super Power

As water supplies essential to agriculture and development dwindle in the United States, new agricultural practices and a rich water supply have transformed Brazil from an importer of food into a major exporter. According to a new book, *Brazil is the New America*, that water advantage could also make a Brazil a future super power.

[Why is Brazil the new America? Hint: water. James Dale Davidson, The Christian Science Monitor, September 26, 2012.](#)

Water Literacy Part 2. Most American's Still Don't Know Where Their Water Comes From, Need to Become "Water Literate"

Expanding on a survey by The Nature Conservancy that showed that 77% of American's did not know where the water the use comes from the Conservancy's Brian Richter has taken a stab at beginning to change that in a posting on National Geographic's Water Currents site. The notion that good water stewardship is a lot to ask of people

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:

[October 15,](#)

Prof. E.O. Wilson and Alex Harris
"Why We are Here"
Dixon Auditorium
Tulane University
7:30 pm

[October 17, 2012](#)

America's Wetland Foundation
"Big River Thrives"
Memphis, TN

[October 20-25, 2012](#)

Restore America's Estuaries Conference
Tampa, FL

[February 22-23, 2013](#)

18th Annual Tulane Environmental Summit

Tulane Institute
on Water Resources Law & Policy

6329 Freret Street, Suite 155G
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-865-5982

<http://www.law.tulane.edu/enlaw/>

who do not know much about water and water management is one that we at this Institute share. Raising the “water literacy” bar is one of our priorities.

[Visualizing Water. Brian Richter, National Geographic News Watch Water Currents, September 25, 2012.](#)

Louisiana Seeks Comments on Proposed to Pipe Treated Sewerage to LaBranche Wetlands DEQ

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources is taking comments on a proposal by the City of Kenner to build a two mile pipeline to send treated effluent to the struggling LaBranche Wetlands in adjacent St. Charles Parish. This effluent is currently chlorinated and discharged into the Mississippi River. The notion behind this and similar projects is to use a portion of community’s treated waste water to provide needed fresh water and nutrients to areas in need of them.

[Kenner's sewage could help LaBranche Wetlands. Drew Broach, NOLA.com, October 2, 2012.](#)

News Flash: Water Supply Policy May Actually be Working

In a midst of the deepest and widest drought the United States has seen in over 50 years, good news has been in short supply, but there are glimmers hope according to a report by Circle of Blue that found that Kansas’ integrated approach to surface and groundwater management actually seems to be working to both conserve water resources and buffer the effects on agriculture.

[Ruinous Drought Tests Kansas Model for Supplying Water to Farms. Brett Walton, Circle of Blue, September 26, 2012.](#)