

David Ross Event

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

12:12 PM

What Utilities Need to Know about EPA Priorities

1. David, can you tell us a little bit about yourself what kinds of things you worked on in Wisconsin and elsewhere relating to water?
2. I read an article recently in which you were quoted as saying “aging infrastructure is priority 1, 2 and 3” for EPA when it comes to water. The respondents to our annual State of the Water Industry would agree. Do you feel like we are making adequate progress in renewing water infrastructure, and what can EPA do to help communities address the issue?
3. Given your experience in both state and federal environmental protection roles, what's the right way for EPA to engage with states and local communities as it considers regulations?
4. Administrator Pruitt has talked about using a lot of WIFIA funds for lead service line removals. How do you see this working and what will it do to the overall structure of the program, i.e. support for large-scale infrastructure investments?
5. We live in a time when many voices say the standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act are not strong enough to protect public health. How can EPA and utilities communicate drinking water risks in a way that produces the appropriate level of concern?
6. Water quality concerns can arise after water has left the water system. There is increasing concern about Legionnaires' disease outbreaks. How does EPA view the water utilities' role in keeping water safe after it has left the water system?
7. Let's shift a bit and talk about source water protection. AWWA has been advocating strongly for measures that encourage collaboration between utilities and farmers to reduce nutrient runoff. Do you see a role for Clean Water Act programs in providing source water protection for drinking water sources?
8. On Thursday, I will be interviewing some of the water sector's leaders about concerns on water affordability during the Water Utility Issues Forum. What factors should be top of mind for utilities when they consider the affordability of water?
9. Is there anything else you'd like to add before we take some questions from the audience?