

## **Drinking Water and Energy Provisions in S. 3021**

The “America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018” is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that reauthorizes the Safe Drinking Water Act for the first time in 20 years and provides significant funding to state and local governments that are in dire need of upgrading their drinking water infrastructure.

### **Title II, Drinking Water System Improvement, will help communities around the nation modernize their drinking water infrastructure.**

*Specifically, the bill:*

- Provides a substantial increase in the authorization of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, from the current authorized level of \$1 billion to \$1.95 billion in 2021.
- Establishes a grant program to fund replacement of leaded drinking water fountains in schools, strengthens monitoring for lead in school drinking water, and requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess the costs to replace all lead service lines in use by public water systems nationwide.
- Makes drinking water quality reports to consumers more frequent, more comprehensive, and more understandable.
- Establishes a grant program to assist drinking water systems with resiliency to extreme weather and other threats and establishes new requirements to assess and address vulnerabilities to those threats.
- Provides \$100 million for grants to extend access to safe drinking water into areas impacted by natural disasters.
- Increases monitoring for unregulated contaminants, such as PFAS, in small communities.
- Increases funding for Public Water System Supervision grants to states.
- Raises the cap on special assistance to disadvantaged communities under the State Revolving Fund and sets a floor for such assistance to guarantee help for those communities.
- Requires EPA to develop a strategic plan to improve transparency and accuracy of water monitoring data.
- Authorizes a WaterSense program at EPA to encourage water efficiency in consumer products.
- Authorizes “Buy America” requirements for iron and steel products for five years.

### **Title III will modernize hydroelectric relicensing and provide for greater review of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) actions.**

*Specifically, the bill:*

- Promotes hydropower development at existing dams without power production capabilities.
- Ensures proper administrative and judicial review in cases where rate changes take effect despite a deadlocked FERC or lack of quorum.
- Provides incentives for hydropower licensees to make investments to improve equipment, safety, efficiency, and environmental performance of hydropower projects prior to entering the relicensing process.

- Expedites licensing for closed-loop pumped storage hydroelectric projects, which move water between two reservoirs to store energy.
- Expands the scope of projects that qualify for the existing fast track procedures for conduit hydroelectric development.
- Gives FERC enhanced authority to extend hydroelectric construction licenses that would otherwise have to be approved by individual Acts of Congress.