

- Small and rural community water utility personnel have to comply with federal operator certification requirements equally as stringently as large cities (differences in levels of certification are primarily based on treatment techniques). If there are discrete examples of regulators that have chosen to "give up" on enforcement on certain small communities, there are certainly examples of primacy agencies that have done the same for large cities, and further examples of regulators who have chosen to enforce regulations beyond what is reasonable in large and small communities. Isolated cases are not indicative of the national drinking water system that delivers some of the safest water anywhere in the world.
- More regulation is not the answer to ensure the safety of drinking water supply in rural American communities. Some violations are found in communities with economically disadvantaged populations and where they are acting in good faith to provide public drinking water and comply with the federal rules. Nobody thinks it would be good public health policy to fine these citizens as a penalty for lacking technical and financial capability. This is why regulators often fail to enforce the rules with fines (they know help and education are the solution and a fine would only harm a struggling community). The current federal regulatory construct for drinking water safety is not the appropriate policy for a problem that results from lack of resources and not malfeasance. Decisions need to be made by the people who are drinking the water and paying for its treatment and delivery, and they need to accept the responsibility. If local citizens won't take responsibility for protecting

themselves, you will get more confusion, lack of accountability, and an ever-increasing bureaucracy.

- The city of Flint drinking water crisis and the examples highlighted by USA Today should serve as a wake-up call for the public to support and participate in their local government and accept responsibility for its operation.
- The small community paradox in federal water policy is that while they supply water to a minority of the country's population, small and rural communities often have more difficulty providing safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation due to limited economies of scale and lack of technical expertise. Also, while smaller communities have fewer resources, they are regulated in the exact same manner as a large community and the water service is often a much higher cost per household. In 2016, there are rural communities in the country that still do not have access to safe drinking water or sanitation due to the lack of population density or funding. More regulation will not bring drinking water to these communities.

Mike Keegan is a policy analyst with the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) in Washington, DC. He represents NRWA's membership before Congress and the Federal Agencies, advocating for the best possible manner for small and rural communities. From February 2014 through August 2015, Mike participated in the deliberations of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council's (NDWAC) Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Revisions Workgroup to craft recommendations for changes to the current LCR. The final report is available on the NDWAC's homepage (www.epa.gov/ndwac).



COMPLETE PUMP AND MECHANICAL SERVICES

VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL

LARGE TO SMALL





DOUGLAS PUMP SERVICE

SUBMERSIBLE

LARGE TO SMALL



Emergency Service

Complete Machine Shop

Repair Shafts and Sleeves

Balancing and Vibration Analysis

All Types of Pump Repair

Blowers and Mixers

Deep Well Service

Gear Boxes

Tel: 913-236-8222 Fax: 913-262-8992 • 4719 Merriam Drive • Overland Park, KS 66203 • www.douglaspump.com