



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF WATER COMPANIES

SINCE 1895

NARUC Water Committee Business Meeting

Robert F. Powelson, President & CEO, NAWC

July 28, 2025

Who is NAWC?



Robert Powelson
President & CEO, NAWC

- Former FERC Commissioner
- Former PA PUC Chair
- Former NARUC President
- Former Chair, NARUC Water Committee



NAWC Priorities



Emergency
Preparedness



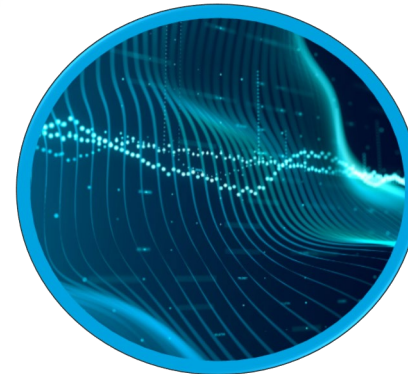
Water Quality



Affordability



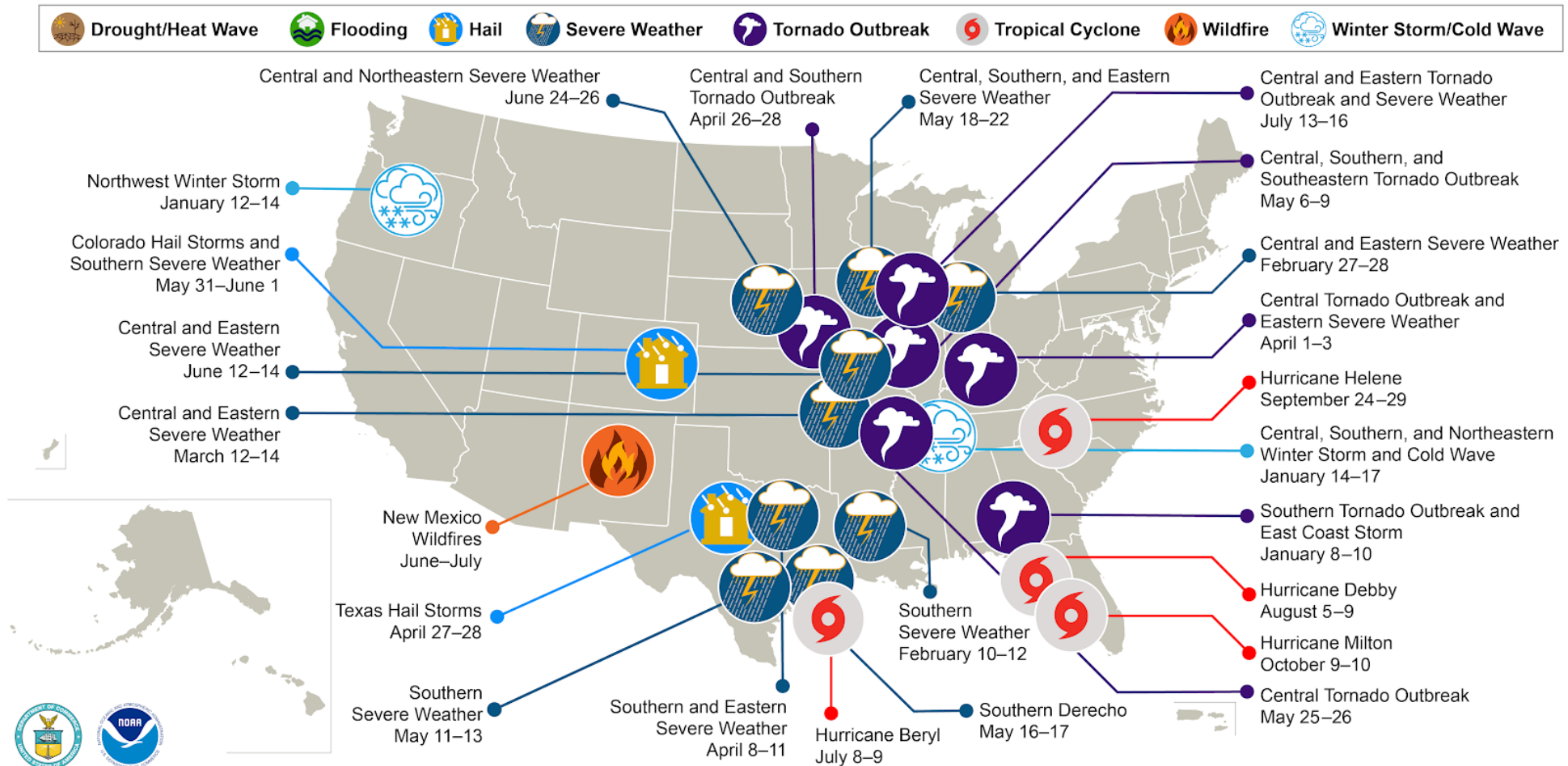
Combatting Forever
Chemicals (PFAS/PFOA)



Cybersecurity

Emergency Preparedness is Crucial for Utilities

U.S. 2024 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the **24 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters** that impacted the United States through October 2024.

Source:
NOAA National
Centers for
Environmental
Information
(NCEI)

Infrastructure Needs 2016 - 2025

ASCE Infrastructure Report Card



Drinking water



Wastewater

Estimated Funding:

\$45 Billion

Total Needs:

\$150 Billion

\$105 Billion Investment Gap

Many water mains and pipes laid in early to mid-20th century **with lifespan of 75-100 years**

56 million new users will be connected to centralized systems over next 20 years

240,00 water main breaks occur each year in U.S.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Parity Act

H. R. 3862

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2025

Mr. BOST (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make certain projects and activities eligible for financial assistance under a State water pollution control revolving fund, and for other purposes.

All water utility customers pay taxes, and so all customers should benefit from federal grants under the SRF program.

Focus on Water Quality - PFAS

- Source water impacted nationwide
- Linked to adverse health effects
- Customers concerned and engaged
- Regulated utilities ready to act
- Hold polluters responsible

Final regulation
established

2024

Monitoring
required by

2027

Compliance
deadline

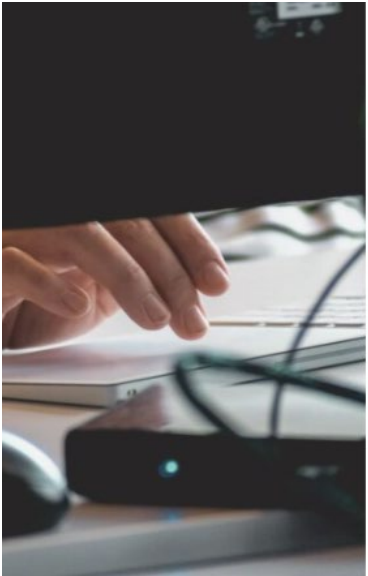
**2028 -
2029**



H.R. 1267: PFAS CERCLA Liability Exemption for Passive Receiver Water and Wastewater Systems: Bipartisan legislation that would provide liability protections for water utilities to ensure that polluters, not passive receivers, pay for PFAS Superfund site cleanup

Black & Veatch Study = cost to comply \$47 billion

Cybersecurity



OP-ED

WATER COMPANIES MUST STEP UP ON CYBERSECURITY

The critical importance of ensuring the safety and reliability of the nation's water cannot be overstated.



By Rob Powelson, NAWC

PROTECTING THE NATION'S MOST VALUABLE
RESOURCE

OVER 90%

of NAWC members have a cybersecurity plan in place, however, NAWC's members are the exception, not the rule, when it comes to preparedness and cybersecurity in the water sector

Cybersecurity for water systems:

- H.R. 2594, the Water Risk and Resilience Organization Act, legislation which would establish a new governing body, the WRRO, with cyber and water-system expertise to develop and enforce cybersecurity requirements for drinking and wastewater systems.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)



**How has
LIHWAP impacted
households in
need nationally?**

Individuals Served:⁶

890,656

Disconnections prevented:

295,677

Water services restored:

35,499

Water bill reductions:

157,511

Average LIHWAP benefit:

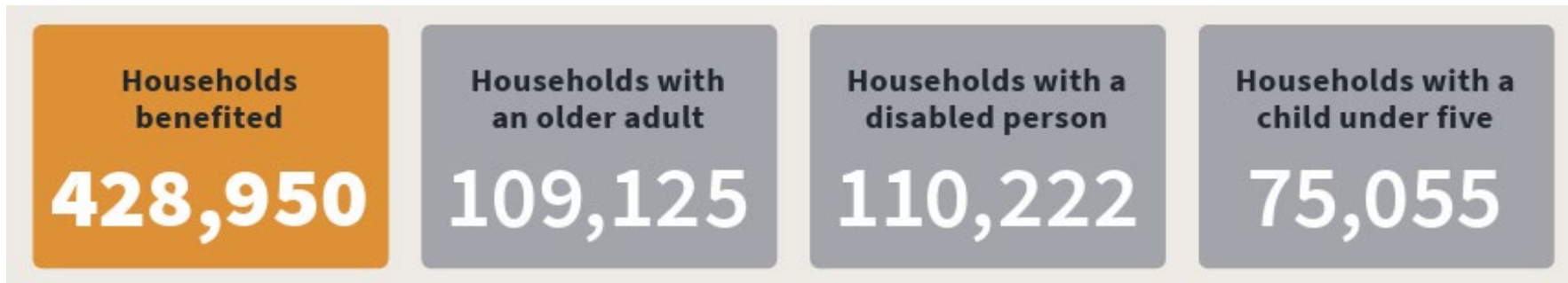
\$411.62

(Weighted average)

LIHWAP was the first-ever federal water assistance program to help meet unmet water needs across the country by helping low-income households pay for their water and wastewater bills.

Who benefitted program the program?

LIHWAP benefitted households with the lowest incomes, and who paid a high proportion of income for drinking water or were facing water disconnection. This includes:



LIHWAP Bill

H.R.4733

Introduced July 23, 2025 by Representative Sorensen (D-IL-17) before the House Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce Committees to authorize the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program.

Future Challenges to Consider



Affordability amid major capital investments



Climate impacts



Pressure on rates: CapEx, water costs, declining usage, regulatory compliance



Communicating value of water and wastewater service



Need for efficiency, plus operating and regulatory solutions



Physical and cyber security



Emerging contaminants



Support for uniform accountability standards for regulated utilities and munis

Stay in the Know

- Week in Water
- Education & Engagement Opportunities
 - Water Summit –
September 29-October 1





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Questions?
Please reach out

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