

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**May 27, 2002**

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LAST WEEK**WATER MANAGEMENT AND RURAL WATER SUPPLY IN SOUTH DAKOTA SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING-**

The Water and Power Subcommittee (Chairman Calvert, CA) of the House Resources Committee held a hearing on May 22, 2002, on legislation reauthorizing the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project in South Dakota and to establish a 21st Century Water Policy Commission. Testimony from witnesses focused primarily on legislation that would establish a 21st Century Water Policy Commission to study all aspects of water management by federal, state, local, and private entities. Witnesses expressed concern over the role and responsibilities for the proposed Commission offering that water is a very complex legal issue and suggested further refinement to the legislation.

FY 2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

On May 22, 2002, the Senate Appropriations Committee (Chairman Byrd, WV) marked up legislation that would make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2002. The legislation provides funding for defense, homeland security and other emergency needs. The Emergency Watershed Protection Program was provided \$100 million to meet existing needs for recovery work. The legislation awaits action by the full Senate following the Memorial Day Recess.

HOUSE PASSES FY 2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - On Friday, May 24, 2002, the House passed an FY 2002 supplemental appropriations providing funding for homeland security, defense, and other emergency needs.

MTBE CONTAMINATION HEARING - The House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials (Chairman Gillmor, OH) held a hearing on May 21, 2002, concerning MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) contamination in groundwater. Testimony was provided from EPA, USGS, in addition to others specifically addressing the need to identify the scope and complexity of MTBE contamination in groundwater and its possible human health impacts. Ben Grumbles, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, provided testimony that ongoing studies through EPA to analyze this issue are still not conclusive. Other witnesses discussed the need to establish more uniform groundwater quality guidelines linked to human health impacts to facilitate cleanup.
