

# Ahead of hurricane season, Wicker and Hyde-Smith seek to ensure FEMA prepared for workforce shortage

Lawmakers Question Demands on Agency Taxed by COVID-19 Response & Border Crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) are among a group of Senators from coastal states seeking to ensure the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) workforce is ready for the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season.

The Mississippi Senators signed a letter to FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell requesting information on the FEMA workforce and capabilities ahead of hurricane season in light of ongoing agency obligations to disaster response, COVID-19 assistance, and the border crisis.

Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) led the letter, which was also signed by Sena-

tors Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), and Tim Scott (R-S.C.).

“While FEMA performed admirably under the difficult circumstances the past year presented, we are concerned by the strain that has been placed on FEMA and the potential impact on preparation and readiness for the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins on June 1,” said the letter.

The Senators requested a response to the following questions:

\* What is the state of FEMA’s current workforce posture? How many employees does the agency have on hand for emergencies?

\* How does FEMA intend

to handle a workforce shortage that could arise in the event of hurricanes and natural disasters?

\* What steps has FEMA taken to ensure state and local governments are as prepared as possible for the upcoming hurricane season?

The letter is printed below. Dear Administrator Criswell:

*We are grateful for the work that you and the employees at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) do to keep Americans safe and respond to disasters. The last year presented significant challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic demanded an immense investment of time, resources, and staffing power. All the while, natural disasters continued their course. While FEMA performed admirably under the difficult circumstances the past year presented, we are concerned by the strain that has been placed on FEMA and the potential impact on preparation and readiness for the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins on June 1.*

*FEMA has provided critical resources, expertise, and manpower to state and local governments throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This work continues as FEMA operates and assists in vaccination sites across the country to help reopen our economy fully and safely. As you are aware, the Biden Administration has also activated FEMA to respond to the ongoing crisis on the southern border. These demands add to FEMA’s heavy load that included significant wildfires in the West, severe weather in Texas, and tornadoes throughout the country.*

*Given the extensive demands placed on FEMA’s workforce and capabilities, we ask that you provide Congress with information on the*



I hustled to make it to my second set-up that morning. I was trying to get in a quick hunt before attending my church service. I thought, for sure, my initial location would be my best opportunity. The toms are there most every morning, and I had arrived about an hour before daylight. But to my surprise, I never heard the first gobble. After realizing time was running out, I made my way back to my truck and traveled another 20 minutes to give it one last shot. As I got closer to my destination, the fog got thicker and thicker. And even though the sun was burning it off quickly, it was lingering in the bottoms. I parked, got out of my truck, and immediately heard a gobbler a few hundred yards away, on the edge of a field. I decided to forgo stealth and head straight for him, hoping the fog would keep me hidden. So far, so good. As I arrived to the top of the far hill, I realized the bird was farther away than I originally thought. I started calling aggressively and he began answering aggressively as well. After a few minutes of this back and forth, I came to the conclusion he was not going to make the effort to come my way. However, about that time, the fog lifted just enough for me to see him with my binoculars, in the distance. He was coming my way! I watched him

until he dropped under the hill below me. I got ready. After a few minutes, I heard a gobble to my left. I thought he had been detoured by another hen. My chance had slipped away. I slowly stood up behind some briars and carefully scanned the hill in front of me. There he was. His white head gave him away. The gobble I heard to the left was another tom. I eased back down and waited without calling. He was gobbling but I was not going to give away my location. So, I let him look and look as he got closer and closer. Finally, he came within a comfortable range, and I bagged my bird. By the time I tagged him and got back to my truck, I was going to have to forgo a shower and shave to make it to my 10:00 a.m. service. And my camo hat would also have to be my Sunday morning accessory. I made it in time and was thankful I looked no different than many others who were there.

Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.” I think Jesus would say the same thing about Sunday, the day most Christians set aside today. That is, I’m sure he would be happy for any of us to enjoy whatever we want to do on Sunday, as long as we don’t neglect the opportunities to come together for our encouragement. It’s okay. I



Being on the same page is vital to your family’s future Dear Dave,

My wife and I are in our 20s, and together we make about \$80,000 a year. Our first baby is due in early 2022, so being debt-free has become a top priority in my mind. Right now, we have two cars. The one I drive is paid off and has a lot of miles on it, but it’s in really good shape. We still owe \$30,000 on the other one, and the rest of our debt is about \$90,000 in student loans. My wife puts 40,000 miles a year on the other car traveling for work. I talked to her the other day about us moving down a little in car, but she’s particular about what she drives. I even found out she has her eye on a newer vehicle that costs about \$48,000. I don’t know what to do. Can you help?

Zach

Dear Zach,

Okay, let’s start slow. I’m glad you’ve seen the wisdom in getting control of your money and getting out of debt. That’s the first step toward financial peace.

Now, where the car thing is concerned, there’s not a chance in the world I’d do this. And honestly, I don’t give a crap what your wife is particular about. You guys are broke! You’re up to your eyeballs in debt, and now she’s talking about buying a \$48,000 car—when you still

following questions:

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

owe \$30,000 on one—then putting 40,000 miles a year on it and destroying its value quicker than you can say “fast.”

This whole idea and attitude is dumber than a rock. Absolutely not! You may have seen the light where your finances are concerned, but it sounds like your wife is still in the dark and needs to grow up some. You two should have a long, serious talk about things, and get on the same page financially—especially with a baby on the way. Your family’s future depends on it.

I hope I wasn’t unclear.

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time

#1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 16 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

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2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
Accona Water Association  
PWS#: 0260001  
May 2021

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Edwin Tolbert at 662.834.3122. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Accona Water Association Office on HWY 17.

Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer. The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Accona Water Association have received a moderate susceptibility ranking to contamination.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2020, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
10. Barium	N	2020	.0042	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2018/20	.1	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride	N	2020	.104	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2018/20	0	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	2019*	65000	50000 - 65000	ppb	0	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
76. Xylenes	N	2019*	.0026	.00063 - .0026	ppm	10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>								
81. HAA5	N	2020	17	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
82. THMl (Total trihalomethanes)	N	2020	13.9	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2020	1.4	0 - 2.5	mg/l	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

\* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2020.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The Accona Water Association works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.