Mealey’s Water Rights Law Report follows federal, state and local litigation involving water rights. This monthly Report also covers federal and state regulatory and legislative developments, as well as rulings by administrative agencies tasked with creating policy and writing regulations governing access to water.

Litigation Snapshot
Litigation over rights to surface water has expanded to groundwater rights due to overuse and, in some states, drought. Several states have sued neighboring states in the U.S. Supreme Court over groundwater. In California, which is experiencing a drought of historic proportions, the state government has begun issuing orders limiting even senior or legacy water rights, resulting in litigation. The United States recently published the Clean Water Rule: Definition of Waters of the United States. Several states, water utilities, industry associations and environmental groups have sued the federal government, alleging that the rule violates the Clean Water Act and the Administrative Procedure Act and could usurp state control over water.

Areas of Coverage
» Clean Water Act
» National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
» Civil actions by property owners against other property owners
» Lawsuits by and against water-using businesses
» Litigation involving utilities and Native American tribes
» Drought-related litigation
» Environmental regulation effects on water rights
» Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
» Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
» Litigation involving water use regulation by water districts, local municipalities, regional water authorities, state government and various federal agencies

Who Needs to Know
» Environmental lawyers
» Toxic tort lawyers
» Water rights specialists
» Corporate compliance officers
» Regulators

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