



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

June 27, 2005

OFFICE OF
WATER

Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson:

On behalf of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC or Council), I am pleased to forward to you the *National Drinking Water Advisory Council Report on Water Security*.

In November 2003, NDWAC chartered the Water Security Working Group (WSWG) of 16 representatives from drinking water utilities, wastewater utilities, technical assistance providers, state and local public health communities, rate setters, academia and public interest groups. This working group was asked to:

- identify, compile, and characterize best security practices and policies for drinking water and wastewater utilities,
- consider mechanisms to provide recognition and incentives that facilitate a broad and receptive response among the water sector to implement these practices and policies, and
- assess mechanisms to measure the extent of implementation of these practices and policies.

The results of the WSWG's efforts are presented in the attached report and are organized into 18 findings (for this report, the Council considers findings to be synonymous with recommendations). Specifically, findings 1 through 6 establish consistent expectations for what constitutes an "active and effective" water security program and identify features that all active and effective security programs should demonstrate. Forging closer partnerships between the utility and public health communities and development of practical, affordable contamination surveillance and monitoring technologies are addressed in findings 7 and 8. Findings 9 through 15 recommend that EPA, DHS, state agencies, utility trade associations and others create incentives for development and maintenance of security programs. The final three findings emphasize the importance of performance indicators that measure and track progress of effective water security programs.

The NDWAC discussed the working group's draft document on June 2 and 3, 2005 as part of its annual Spring meeting and unanimously approved and adopted the findings as recommendations to EPA. In addition, the Council suggested that the Agency work with water sector partners and stakeholders on the development and dissemination of guidance materials for states and water utilities that emphasize the features of an active and effective security program. Furthermore, NDWAC requested that EPA update the Council at a future meeting on water security implementation in general, the distribution of this report, and the water sector's progress in designing security performance measures.

The Council's report to the Agency is enclosed. This report, along with a summary of the June 2005 meeting will be posted on the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water's web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/ndwac/council.html. NDWAC appreciates the opportunity to produce this report and sincerely hopes it will support the ongoing efforts of EPA's water security program.

Sincerely,



Clare Donaher
Designated Federal Officer
National Drinking Water Advisory Council

Enclosure

cc: Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water
Cynthia C. Dougherty, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
Brian Ramaley, Chair, NDWAC