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## News Release

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Editors: A photograph of Dr. Zogorski is available at <http://sd.water.usgs.gov/pressrelease/press.html>

### Secretary of the Interior to honor local USGS scientist

Dr. John S. Zogorski, a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) hydrologist with the South Dakota Water Science Center, will receive the Department of the Interior's highest honor award on May 9, 2007 from Dirk Kempthorne, the 49<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Interior. The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Dr. Zogorski at the 64th Department Honor Awards Convocation in Washington, D.C. for his scientific contributions, in particular, his water-quality research.

Dr. Zogorski has made fundamental contributions to the science of hydrology through his research on the removal of phenols from drinking water by granular activated carbon, urban stormwater runoff, coal hydrology, the effects of surface water and ground water interactions on drinking water supplies, and the assessment of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the Nation's aquifers and streams. VOCs are common components or additives in many commercial and household products including gasoline, diesel fuel, carpets, paints, varnishes, glues, and cleaners.

As part of the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program, Dr. Zogorski led an interdisciplinary team responsible for completing the most comprehensive national assessment of VOCs in ground water based on sampling between 1985 and 2002. About 100 reports were prepared by the team and are referenced by Federal, State, and local agencies concerned with the protection of drinking water supplies.

The Distinguished Service Award, the highest Departmental honor award granted to a career employee, was established in 1948. Employees are granted the Distinguished Service Award based on an outstanding contribution to science; an outstanding skill or ability in the performance of duty; an eminent career in the Department; an outstanding contribution to equal opportunity in Government; an outstanding contribution to energy conservation; or any other exceptional contribution to public service.

Additional information about the USGS NAWQA Program's VOC assessment can be obtained by visiting <http://sd.water.usgs.gov/nawqa/vocns/index.html>.

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