

**American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Association of Water Companies
National Rural Water Association
Water Environment Federation**

September 19, 2007

Robert Stephan
Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection
DHS

Benjamin Grumbles
Assistant Administrator for Water
USEPA

Dear Assistant Administrator Grumbles and Assistant Secretary Stephan:

We are writing to inform you of our joint initiative to determine chemical security practices currently in use by drinking water and wastewater utilities. This survey effort will help inform the direction of future policy decisions as well as voluntary programs sponsored by our associations to enhance the sector's overall security and resiliency. To determine the methods and protocols employed by utilities to secure hazardous chemicals used at their facilities, we will survey a wide range of drinking water and wastewater utilities in all regions and of all sizes. We are in the process of finalizing the survey methods and expect to solicit utility participation within the next week.

In the meantime, we call your attention to the significant progress made by the sector towards the design and implementation of voluntary security and emergency response programs:

- Nearly 100% of community water systems have submitted to USEPA a vulnerability assessment of their facility and certification that their emergency response plan has been updated.
- Over 10,000 drinking water and wastewater professionals have been trained in security and emergency preparedness practices by the associations listed on this letter since September 11, 2001. In addition, on-site training and assistance is available through state rural water associations to implement security plans in every small water supply. Over 20,000 communities relied on this assistance last year.
- Approximately 13,000 drinking water and wastewater utility professionals have access to security and response information distributed by the WaterISAC, which is among the most successful information sharing and analysis centers.

- The water sector has developed sector specific vulnerability assessment and emergency response tools and is in the process of evaluating interdependencies between the water sector and other critical infrastructures and key resources.
- Utilities in most states have organized (or are in the process of establishing) mutual aid and assistance networks, known as Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARNs), to facilitate the rapid response and recovery of drinking water and wastewater utility operations following an incident.

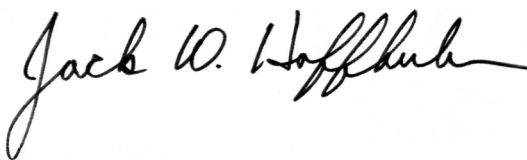
These successes demonstrate the commitment of utilities to ensuring the safety and security of the communities they serve.

Guidance on physical security has been developed for drinking water and wastewater utilities, but it is not specifically focused on securing treatment chemicals. However, the findings of the survey and an evaluation of the practices in other sectors with similar operational needs will help the water sector develop a robust set of practices that may be implemented by utilities to address chemical security. The practices will be developed through a series of expert workshops, which are expected to be completed by summer 2008.

In a parallel effort, the sector will be developing an assessment tool to help utilities evaluate various disinfection strategies and determine future steps. We firmly believe that the choice of disinfection method should be made at the local level taking into account local water quality conditions, regulatory compliance, public health priorities and available technologies and funding. This tool will provide utilities with a consistent method for considering these complex variables.

We appreciate the partnership we have with EPA and DHS, and we look forward to continuing that relationship

Regards,



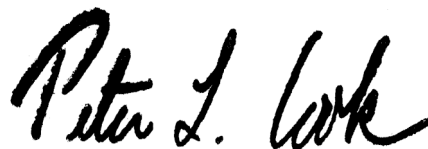
Jack Hoffbuhr, Executive Director
American Water Works Association



Diane VanDe Hei, Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies



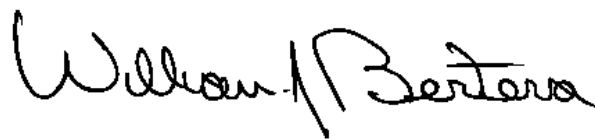
Ken Kirk, Executive Director
National Association of Clean Water Agencies



Peter Cook, Executive Director
National Association of Water Companies



Robert Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
National Rural Water Association



William J. Bertera, Executive Director
Water Environment Federation

Cc: Jim Caverly
Cynthia Dougherty
Tom Dunne
Jan Mares
Larry Stanton
David Travers