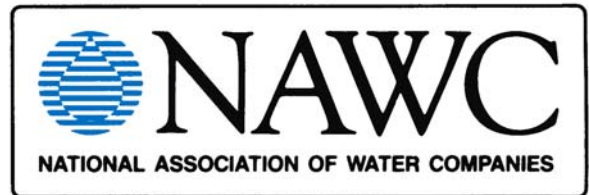


THE WATER SECTOR COORDINATING COUNCIL

THE FIRST EIGHTEEN MONTHS
MARCH 2006



BACKGROUND

Long before September 11, 2001, the water sector was recognized as critical to the nation's homeland security. In 1998, President Bill Clinton issued Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) 63 identifying water as one of the nation's critical infrastructure sectors, and in 2001 President George W. Bush affirmed this designation through Executive Order (EO) 13231. Water is one of 17 critical infrastructure sectors that have been designated by the President as essential to the nation's security and economic well-being. Actions and initiatives being taken to secure the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems will also ensure the viability of numerous other critical infrastructure sectors that depend on the availability and quality of water for their successful operation and protection.

In response to the attacks on 9/11, all levels of government swung into action. One of the first pieces of federal legislation, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, directed EPA to develop baseline threat information for water utilities and directed water utilities to prepare vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans. Other steps followed, including the Homeland Security Act, creating the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and a number of Homeland Security Presidential Directives spelling out the responsibilities of various federal agencies, including DHS and EPA. EPA's drinking water office organized its Water Security Division to oversee many federal efforts on water security. The National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) organized a Water Security Working Group (WSWG) and tasked it with identifying the elements of an "active and effective" security program.

Nor were water utility and utility organizations inactive. The drinking water and wastewater associations conducted hundreds of training events, issued publications, and offered assistance to utilities in meeting water security challenges and new regulatory requirements. The water sector created the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) and the Water Security Channel (WaterSC) as clearinghouses of critical water security information. But as more federal offices and divisions came into play, and as water and wastewater utilities completed their first rounds of security improvements and faced the challenges on what to do next, it became clear that a more strategic direction was needed for water security. Perhaps more importantly, it became clear that a "one stop shop" was needed to coordinate security activities among water utility organizations, and between the water sector and the federal government. At about the same time, the President directed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in collaboration with EPA and other agencies, to develop a national policy to protect critical infrastructure and key resources. Moreover, the President specifically directed DHS to collaborate with the "owners" of the critical infrastructures in developing this national policy. Indeed, the first draft of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), developed by DHS, envisioned coordinating councils established by each of the critical infrastructure sectors, and a mirroring government coordinating council for each sector, composed of government agencies with responsibility for security activities in that sector.

In response to these pressures and developments, in 2004 eight of the preeminent water and wastewater organizations formed the Water Sector Coordinating Council. The founding associations stated its mission succinctly:

The Water Sector Coordinating Council shall serve as a policy, strategy and coordination mechanism and recommend actions to reduce and eliminate significant homeland security vulnerabilities to the water sector through interaction with the Federal Government and other critical infrastructure sectors.

MEMBERSHIP

The WSCC consists of two “owner/operator” representatives, along with one non-voting association staff, from each of the participating organizations. Members of the Council and certain staff from participating associations have received security clearances so they may engage in discussion with federal officials on classified matters. The participating organizations and their voting representatives are included in the list below; an asterisk (*) denotes non-voting association representatives.

- **American Water Works Association (AWWA)**
 - Lynn Stovall, Greenville Water System, WSCC Chair
 - Dennis Deimer, East Bay Municipal Utility District
 - Tom Curtis*
- **AWWA Research Foundation (AwwaRF)**
 - Charles Murray, Fairfax Water
 - Dave Paris, Manchester Water Works
 - Rick Karlin *
- **Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)**
 - Jim McDaniel, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
 - John Sullivan, Boston Water and Sewer Commission
 - Diane VanDe Hei*
- **National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)**
 - Mike Gritzuk, Pima County Wastewater Management Department
 - Robert Steidel, City of Richmond, Department of Public Utilities
 - Paula Dannenfeldt*
- **National Association of Water Companies (NAWC)**
 - Bill Komianos, American Water
 - Scott Para, United Water
 - Peter Cook*
- **National Rural Water Association (NRWA)**
 - Phil Bastin, Bean Blossom Patricksburg Water Corporation
 - Charles Hilton, Breezy Hill Water and Sewer Company
 - Ed Thomas*
- **Water Environment Federation (WEF)**
 - Dan Clark, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
 - Karen Pallanach, Alexandria Sanitation Authority
 - Jim Sullivan*
- **Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF)**
 - Paul Bennett, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, WSCC Vice-Chair
 - Billy Turner, Columbus Water Works
 - Glenn Reinhardt*

FOCAL ISSUES IN THE FIRST EIGHTEEN MONTHS

In its first 18 months, the WSCC has engaged in briefings with federal officials and substantive work on a wide-ranging list of issues. Some of these issues were brought to the WSCC by federal officials for discussion, and other issues have been brought to the attention of federal officials by the WSCC. A great deal of the work of the WSCC in the first 18 months has gone into the following:

1. Input into the development of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), which establishes overall federal policies for protecting the nations' critical infrastructures. The NIPP covers all of the seventeen critical infrastructure and key resources. The NIPP and the National Response Plan (NRP) are complementary plans that span the spectrum of homeland security mission areas, including prevention, protection, response, and recovery.
2. Input into the Water Sector Specific Plan (SSP), which is essentially the NIPP's chapter dealing specifically with the water sector, measures to protect it, and response to an attack.
3. Input into the National Asset Data Base, which identifies critical specific assets that are of particular national importance and receive special attention for federal funding, etc.
4. The development of communications and information sharing policies, including understanding the DHS's Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and its relation to the water sector's Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) and Water Security Channel (WaterSC). It is obviously critical that there be effective and timely two-way communications and information sharing between water utilities and key federal officials, but making this a reality often conflicts with the need to protect sensitive information.
5. Liaison and coordination with other critical infrastructure councils, including the Government Coordinating Council and the National Infrastructure Advisory Council.
6. Understanding DHS's Protection of Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) program and its application to the water sector.
7. Input into the President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) "Sector-Partnership Model," which lays out a recommended partnership approach between the federal government and critical infrastructure sectors, and considers the relation between the coordinating councils and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).
8. Considering the recommendations of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Water Sector Working Group, concerning the elements of an active and effective security program at a water utility.
9. Briefing, discussion, and recommendations on EPA's Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT), include protocols and criteria for user access.

10. Input to EPA's Water System Security Research Action Plan.
11. Input into the Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report to Congress on water security.
12. Briefings, discussion, and recommendations on the effects of pandemic influenza on the water sector, and federal response to such an event.
13. Briefings, discussion, and lessons learned from the federal government's Top Officials 3 (TOPOFF3) bioterrorism exercise. And
14. Briefing, discussion, and comments on EPA's Water Security Division (WSD) strategic plan.

A LOOK AHEAD

In the coming year, much effort will be required to finalize the National Infrastructure Protection Plan and the Water Sector Specific Plan. Sector Specific Plans are being developed by each of the critical infrastructure sectors, and follow the same six-step DHS development process: set security goals; identify assets; assess risks (consequences, vulnerabilities, and threats); normalize & prioritize; implement protective programs; and measure effectiveness. Each of these steps involves difficult technical and policy issues that may take months or longer to completely resolve.

Whatever issues are presented in the coming year, the Water Sector Coordinating Council will stand true to its mission, engaging with other sectors and government agencies to reduce and eliminate significant homeland security vulnerabilities to the water sector.

For more information, please contact any of the participating water or wastewater associations.