



**American Water Works
Association**

Utility Member Benefit

Government Affairs Office
1300 Eye Street NW
Suite 701W
Washington, DC 20005
T 202.628.8303
F 202.628.2846

Headquarters
6666 West Quincy Avenue
Denver, CO 80235-3098
T 303.794.7711
F 303.795.1989
www.awwa.org

The Authoritative Resource for Safe Water[®]

Legislative/Regulatory Alert

TO: AWWA Member Utilities

FROM: AWWA Public Affairs

DATE: February 2, 2011

Who:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
What:	Decision to develop perchlorate regulation
When:	Announcement Today

During a hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced that the agency would move forward with the development of a drinking water regulation for perchlorate, reversing a decision from fall 2008. An EPA press release announcing the decision is available at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/6348845793f4cc5d8525782b004d81ae!OpenDocument>

Following the announcement, AWWA issued a release that read in part:

“EPA’s decision to move forward on perchlorate regulation is perplexing,” AWWA Deputy Executive Director Tom Curtis said following the hearing. “Water providers share the Agency’s interest in protecting public health through the provision of safe water. However, the weight of scientific evidence suggests national regulation of perchlorate in drinking water does not accomplish this goal. AWWA remains committed to working with EPA and its member utilities to inform the perchlorate regulatory process as it moves forward.”

The full AWWA press release is available at:

www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/PressReleases/020211TestimonySenate.pdf

AWWA offered testimony on perchlorate and on chromium-6 at the hearing. The full testimony, delivered by Fairfax Water, Virginia, General Manager Chuck Murray, is available here:

www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/GADocuments/AWWAtestimonyEPWFeb2011.pdf

Background

AWWA concurred with EPA's October 2008 determination not to regulate perchlorate and to issue a health advisory at the time of the final determination. Under its current administrator, Lisa Jackson, EPA announced it would re-evaluate that decision.

The occurrence of perchlorate, while present in at least 26 states and Puerto Rico, was "typically present at concentrations of less than 12 ppb," AWWA's comments from 2008 noted. Even if an MCL of 2 ppb were established, only 4 percent of all U.S. drinking water systems would be likely impacted.

AWWA also noted "the proportion of the population potentially affected would be quite small based on extensive analysis of occurrence, food basket studies, and CDC data. This finding, that the total dietary exposure (food and drinking water) of reproductive age women in the U.S. is approximately one-third of the RfD for perchlorate at the 95th percentile, is complementary to the findings of a joint assessment prepared by EPA-CDC. Given this evidence related to limited exposure potentials and estimated intakes well below the RfD it is clear there is limited potential for perchlorate to present a significant adverse affect on the nation's health, including sensitive subpopulations."

The 2008 comments were based on independently developed assessments of both occurrence and exposure commissioned by AWWA.

To help you respond to media and customer inquiries, AWWA Public Affairs offers information at www.awwa.org/Government/Content.cfm?ItemNumber=1065&navItemNumber=3833.

In addition, utilities may link to consumer-oriented information at <http://www.drinktap.org/consumerdnn/Home/WaterInformation/WaterQuality/Perchlorate/tabid/72/Default.aspx>

Questions? Contact Kevin Morley at AWWA Government Affairs, kmorley@awwa.org, 202-628-8303, or Greg Kail at AWWA Communications, gkail@awwa.org, 303-734-3410.