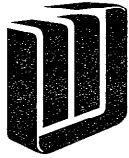


APR 11 1995



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

March 30, 1995

To: Board of Directors (Engineering and Operations Committee--Information)
(Special Committee on Water Quality and
Environmental Compliance--Information)

From: General Manager

Subject: Partnership for Safe Water

Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has agreed to pursue a voluntary partnership program with a number of national drinking water associations. The goal is to optimize conventional treatment process performance to reduce risk due to Cryptosporidium, Giardia, and other microbial contaminants. This program was necessitated due to uncertainties regarding control of Cryptosporidium and other emerging microbial contaminants and difficulties and delays caused by a regulatory approach to protect surface water supplies from these contaminants. This effort, named the "Partnership for Safe Water," (partnership program) has received the direct support of Robert Perciasepe, USEPA's Assistant Administrator for Water.

The partnership program includes planned partnership agreements between USEPA, national associations, and individual utilities and focuses on four components: 1) commitment to basic program requirements for eligible public water systems; 2) data collection and analysis; 3) self assessment of treatment plant performance and voluntary corrective actions; and, 4) third party or peer assessment of treatment plant performance and voluntary corrective actions. Attached is a letter from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AWWA) to its members and subscribers which briefly describes the purpose of each of the four components (Attachment A). Many of the measures that might result from the voluntary partnerships have already been implemented by Metropolitan. The primary measure, optimized treatment, was implemented by Metropolitan in 1989. Monitoring the turbidity at each filter in our treatment plants, another measure, was implemented in 1992/93. Any additional measures that might

help reduce Cryptosporidium risk but would also cost money would be voluntary and subject to Board review and approval.

Metropolitan intends to enthusiastically support the concept of the Partnership for Safe Water and will become a charter member (our participation forms to AMWA and AWWA are shown in Attachment B). This concept ties in with Metropolitan's source protection efforts, our support for voluntary partnerships with USEPA, and our own Cryptosporidium Action Plan which is underway and which has a strong treatment component. The partnership program gives Metropolitan the opportunity to participate in the on-going process of "reinventing the USEPA." Finally, the partnership approach provides a non-regulatory approach to immediately address health concerns associated with organisms such as Cryptosporidium until the state of science regarding microbial monitoring and control is fully developed.

The partnership program presents an opportunity to proactively provide increased public health protection. In return for participation, USEPA would provide an "Administrator's Certificate of Recognition" to a participating utility. Hence, there would be a positive incentive rather than a regulatory mandate to reduce Cryptosporidium risks.

Recommendation

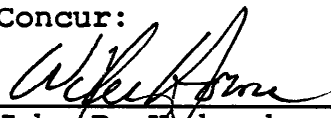
For information only.

John R. Wodraska
General Manager

Submitted by:

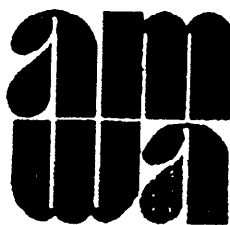
By Mark D. Beuhler
Mark D. Beuhler
Director of Water Quality

Concur:


John R. Wodraska
General Manager

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Attachments



ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WATER AGENCIES

MEMORANDUM BY FAX

Total Number of Pages: 3

TO: AMWA Members and Subscribers

FROM: Diane VanDe Hei

DATE: March 9, 1995

SUBJECT: Partnership for Safe Water: Initial Program Membership; Replies Requested by **March 20, 1995**

AMWA is joining with EPA and other water supply associations in the "Partnership for Safe Water," a voluntary program in which individual water systems seek to optimize filtration processes for microbial pathogen removal. Please consider making a preliminary commitment for your system to participate in the program by signing and returning the attached form to the AMWA National Office by fax not later than **March 20, 1995**.

The program will be announced by EPA Administrator Carol Browner at a March 29 press conference to be held in conjunction with the AMWA 1995 Legislative and Regulatory Conference. The initial goal for the program kick-off is to allow Ms. Browner and the participating associations to announce the "Partnership" along with a preliminary number of water systems that make initial commitments to the program and the total population served by those systems. Additionally, each system would be individually listed in the press packets and provided press materials for simultaneous local release.

Please note that, since technical materials to be provided by the program are still under development, the requested commitment is only preliminary. Final commitment by water systems will be subject to each system's acceptance of the final partnership documents. Systems making a preliminary commitment will be provided with a Partnership Agreement and technical materials for consideration as soon as they are finalized. Technical materials are being developed by the national water supply associations, the AWWA Research Foundation and EPA, and present plans are to have all materials available this June.

The following material provides information on the objectives and benefits of the program, an overview of the program elements agreed to by AMWA, EPA and other participating National Organizations, and an Initial Agreement Form to return by fax.

Partnership for Safe Water Overview

Program Objective Statement: The purpose of the Partnership for Safe Water is to encourage U. S. water suppliers (in addition to meeting all requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule) to survey their facilities, treatment processes, operating and maintenance procedures, operator training, and management oversight practices to identify areas that will enhance the water system's ability to prevent entry of *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* and other microbial contaminants to treated water, and to voluntarily implement those actions that are appropriate for the system.

Program Benefits Statement: In the face of the uncertainties regarding the control of *Cryptosporidium* and other emerging pathogens, and the difficulties inherent in the Information Collection Rule and promulgation of the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, the Partnership for Safe Water seeks to safeguard surface water supplies around the country and demonstrate to the American public that the Federal government and local water suppliers can work together in harmony to protect drinking water supplies.

Program Elements: There are four phases of participation by water suppliers in the "Partnership for Safe Water" Program.

Phase - I: Commitment to Basic Program Requirements: Public Water Supply Systems meeting the eligibility requirements of the Partnership and joining the program are "Partners" and authorized to use the Partnership for Safe Water Program Logo. Basic eligibility requirements are that a system has been in compliance with the Surface Water Treatment Rule for the past 6 months and commits to pursue further stages of the program through at least the self-assessment (Phase - III) stage. Partners will receive a Partnership for Safe Water Program Certificate of Participation.

Phase - II: Data Collection: Partnership for Safe Water Program Partners make the commitment to, within 180 days of joining, collect basic plant and plant performance data for each treatment plant in the system necessary to assess present plant performance, and to begin an evaluation of areas where performance may be enhanced. Background material and other tools will be provided through the program to aid in this evaluation. Additionally, at the Phase - II level, water systems will submit for each plant a baseline report to a committee (Program Effectiveness Assessment Committee) made up of members from the National Partner organizations. The baseline report will consist of that small subset of the assessment data collected necessary to eventually characterize the effectiveness of the program on a national basis.

Phase - III: Self-Assessment and Correction: Upon completion of Phase - II, Partners will undertake a self-assessment which is based on EPA's Composite Correction Program (CCP). The self-assessment starts with the data collected under Phase - II and proceeds through a performance assessment, a major unit process evaluation, and identification and correction of performance limiting factors. Corrective actions short of major construction or major capital expenditures are undertaken by the system to the extent feasible. The self-assessment consists of a series of open ended questions dealing with design, operating, maintenance and administrative factors designed to assist in identifying performance limiting factors. A Self-Assessment Guide will be provided by the program. Additionally, the program will provide a Self-Assessment Tool Kit which provides technical information and references to assist in answering the Guide's open-ended assessment questions. Upon completion of Phase - III and review and approval of a completion report by the Program Effectiveness Assessment Committee, the water supplier will be presented a Partnership for Safe Water "Director's Certificate of Recognition".

Phase - IV: Composite Correction Program: Phase - IV consists of completion of a third party assessment initially using the Composite Correction Program (CCP), an assessment process which was developed at over 50 water systems of all sizes, and has proven effective at improving performance. The CCP consists of the same steps as the self-assessment as noted above, but encompasses an independent and more detailed evaluation. Again, implementation of corrective actions is necessary to complete the Phase, but limited to those actions identified that do not entail major construction or major capital expenditures. The primary tool used in Phase - IV will be the handbook "Optimizing Water Treatment Plant Performance Using the Composite Correction Program" which was prepared by Process Applications, Inc. for EPA. Copies of the handbook will be provided by the program. (Note: Flexibility has been retained to use State optimization programs or the AWWA Peer Review Program being developed by the Quality Utility Service Committee in place of the CCP manual at a future date). Upon completion of Phase - IV and review and approval of the completion report by the Program Effectiveness Assessment Committee, the water supplier will be presented a Partnership for Safe Water "Administrator's Certificate of Recognition".

Initial Agreement
Partnership for Safe Water
Working Together to Protect America's Drinking Water

In recognition that:

Given the uncertainties regarding the control of *Cryptosporidium* and other emerging pathogens, and the difficulties inherent in the Information Collection Rule and promulgation of the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, the Partnership for Safe Water seeks to safeguard surface water supplies around the country and demonstrate to the American public that the Federal government and local water suppliers can work together in harmony to protect drinking water supplies.

And that:

The purpose of the Partnership for Safe Water is to encourage U. S. water suppliers (in addition to meeting all requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule) to survey their facilities, treatment processes, operating and maintenance procedures, operator training, and management oversight practices to identify areas that will enhance the water system's ability to prevent entry of *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* and other microbial contaminants to treated water, and to voluntarily implement those actions that are appropriate for the system.

Therefore, we the undersigned express our interest in the Partnership for Safe Water Program, and make a preliminary commitment to join the program based on the initial program materials provided.

Please forward final Partnership Agreement materials to the undersigned as soon as they are available. Our final commitment to the Partnership will be based on our review and acceptance of the final Partnership Agreement and materials.

System Name: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Population Served: 16 Million

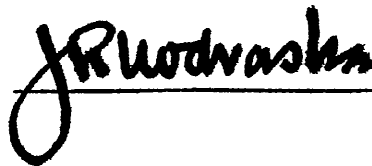
Director's Name: John R. Wodraska, General Manager

Contact Name: Mark D. Beuhler, Director of Water Quality

Contact Address: P.O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, CA. 90054-0153

Contact Telephone: (213) 217-6647 Fax: (213) 217-6951

Signature: _____



Date: 3/16/95

Please fax to the AMWA National Office at (202) 785-1845 by **March 20, 1995**

Initial Agreement

41375

Partnership for Safe Water
Working Together to Protect America's Drinking Water

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Contact Name: Mark D. Beuhler, Director of Water Quality

Contact Address: P.O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153

Contact Telephone: (213) 217-6647 FAX: (213) 217-6951

Signature:  Date: March 16, 1995

This utility also responded to AMWA NAWC Neither

Please Fax to: Jon DeBoer
Director, Technical and Information Division
AWWA
6666 W. Quincy Avenue, Denver, CO 80235
Phone: (303) 347-6169
Fax: (303) 795-1440