



EPA NATIONAL DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

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November 26, 2008

Mr. Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson:

In follow-up to EPA's October 10, 2008 preliminary regulatory determination for perchlorate in drinking water, the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) would like to again convey to EPA the necessity for more thorough health effects research to support Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) related regulations. While NDWAC members do not have a consensus position to relay on the perchlorate decision itself, the members fully support the need for a strong, scientifically valid basis upon which to make such decisions.

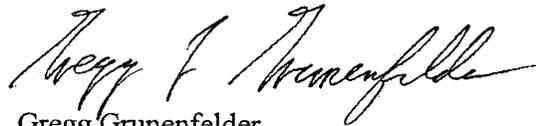
On June 24, 2008, the NDWAC expressed to you our recommendation for a holistic drinking water research plan that includes the needed health effects research for Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) contaminants. The NDWAC strongly supports the CCL process and recommends that EPA consider a refocus of research priorities in order to ensure sound health effects data are available in a timely fashion to better inform future CCL decision-making processes. The availability of this type of information will become increasingly important as issues such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products in drinking water continue to be of concern to the public.

Under the provisions of the SDWA the nation looks to EPA to set drinking water standards which are protective of the public's health. When adequate health effects research information is lacking, important regulatory determinations can be controversial and potentially misguided. Lacking EPA

leadership on standard setting, states can be pressed into making independent regulatory determinations. In the case of perchlorate, at least two different drinking water standards have already been set by California and Massachusetts. In addition, Congress may also be compelled to by-pass the CCL process when inadequate health effects data results in controversial regulatory determinations.

Thank you for your consideration of this key recommendation on research needs. If you have any questions, please contact Veronica Blette, Designated Federal Officer for the NDWAC, at (202) 564-4094.

Sincerely,



Gregg Grunenfelder

Chair

National Drinking Water Advisory Council

cc: Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water
George Gray, Assistant Administrator for Research and Development
Cynthia C. Dougherty, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
Ephraim King, Director, Office of Science and Technology
Kevin Teichman, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development
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