



National Drinking Water
Advisory Council Update
Washington DC

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The following views, conclusions, opinions, etc. are those of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of NDWAC.



National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC)

- The National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) is a Federal Advisory Committee that supports EPA in performing its duties and responsibilities related to the national drinking water program. The Council was created on December 16, 1974 , through a provision in the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974.
- NDWAC provides advice, information, and recommendations on matters related to activities, functions, policies, and regulations required by the Safe Drinking Water Act



National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC)

■ Membership

- “Appropriate State and local agencies concerned with public water supply and public health protection” (5)
- “Water-related or other organizations and interest groups having an active interest in public water supply/public health protection” (5)
- “The general public” (5)
- “Two (2) of the 15 members must represent small, rural public water systems”



Affordability

- Water systems diverse (size, ownership, cost profiles, customer profiles, sustainability)
- Goal is a sustainable system that provides safe, affordable, environmentally sustaining and economically efficient service
- So what does affordability mean?
- June 12, 2009 letter to Administrator Lisa Jackson



Key Points

- 2003 NDWAC report “significant practical, logistical, and ethical issues mitigate against the use of variances”
- Variances based on affordability will result in tiered health standards based on a consumer’s ability to pay



Key Points

- NDWAC recommends
 - Common standard for people served by public water systems, thus variances not allowed
 - Variety of strategies should be employed by state and federal levels for technical and financial assistance
 - Innovation to use limited dollars effectively
 - State responsibility to assess affordability appropriate for their region and demographics
 - Hand-up and sustainability vs. handout
 - Consistent application of available tools by states



Drinking Water Research

■ Emerging contaminants

- being identified by municipalities, national research, media and other
- Not well understood but require a response
- Drinking water community cannot absorb all costs and industry must contribute

■ Funding for Contaminate Candidate List (CCL) and health effects research is on the decline



Other Updates

- Total Coliform Rule
- Airline Drinking Water
- Geologic Sequestration of CO₂
- Review of local water systems and issues (e.g. Philadelphia and Seattle)



Working Groups

- Full Cost Pricing (not currently active)
- Climate Ready Water Utilities
 - Improve the resiliency of water utilities to potential impacts of climate change
 - Attributes and Enablers
 - Australia learnings



For Detailed Information

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ndwac>





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