



# Online Water Security

Be informed. Be prepared.

## From the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) free e-newsletter! When planning for water utility emergencies and responding to physical or environmental threats, WaterISAC believes information may be the best defense. So, as an expansion of our online, subscriber-based service, we will share useful information and ideas via our monthly e-newsletter.

THIS MONTH: We check out the latest activities on Capitol Hill to move legislation that would more closely regulate potentially hazardous chemicals used by some water systems and we shed some light on water security research now underway at the EPA's recently established National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC).

-Editor, [editor@waterisac.org](mailto:editor@waterisac.org)

## CONGRESS CONSIDERS CHEMICAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

Legislative efforts to enhance chemical facility security may be revisited by the 109th Congress. Under legislation likely to be proposed in the coming months, drinking water and wastewater systems subject to the Clean Air Act's risk management program (Section 112r) would have to submit vulnerability assessments and site security plans to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for review.

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2005 AWWA  
WATER SECURITY  
CONGRESS

Drinking water systems are pressing to be explicitly exempted from the requirements because they have already submitted comprehensive vulnerability assessments to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Bioterrorism Act of 2002.

The history behind the currently debated legislation dates back to October 2001 when Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) introduced the Chemical Security Act. The Corzine bill mandated the assessments and gave regulatory control to EPA. Later, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman James Inhofe (R-Okla.) introduced a competing measure that transferred regulatory power to DHS and allowed drinking water utilities and others already regulated to petition for an exemption. However, the Inhofe bill did not provide the option of an exemption for wastewater systems because they are not regulated by the Bioterrorism Act.

For more information, review the "Fact Sheet on Sen. Corzine's Chemical Security Legislation" [http://corzine.senate.gov/priorities/chem\\_sec.html](http://corzine.senate.gov/priorities/chem_sec.html) or contact the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works <http://epw.senate.gov/> or the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs at <http://hsgac.senate.gov/>.

### **NHSRC EPA RESEARCH**

Water systems nationwide can expect to benefit from work now underway at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC). The Cincinnati, Ohio-based facility was made permanent in November 2004. After going through a restructuring from its original temporary charter, the center now boasts 50 employees and three divisions: Threat and Consequence Assessment, Decontamination and Consequence Management and Water Infrastructure Protection.

In an effort to keep stakeholders more informed, the center is releasing fact sheets with updates about its research. Recent fact sheets include information about the development of a device and a methodology for detecting pathogenic microbes in drinking water samples and the Technology Testing and Evaluation Program (TTEP), an outgrowth of EPA's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) program that will focus on commercially available technologies for homeland security and will test performance with a keen eye on the end users' security needs.

For more information about EPA's National Homeland Security Research Center, visit [www.epa.gov/ordnhsrc](http://www.epa.gov/ordnhsrc).

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The WaterISAC ([www.waterisac.org](http://www.waterisac.org)) is the only centralized, secure, online resource of security threats that solely serves America's drinking water and wastewater utilities. The WaterISAC e-newsletter is a monthly electronic publication that highlights useful tips, case studies or analysis about water security.

P.S. Got questions, comments, or ideas for us?  
Email [editor@waterisac.org](mailto:editor@waterisac.org) or call 1 866-H2OISAC (1 866-426-4722).



*Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center*

1620 I Street, NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20006

1-866-H2OISAC

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