

Recommendations of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council May 17, 2001

I. Resolution on Clean Water Act/Safe Drinking Water Act Coordination

The quality of water in the United States is not only important to the health of our environment, but is the vital, common link to our nation's public health.

Ensuring clean, sufficient and reliable sources of water for public and environmental health is a principal goal and responsibility of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

For more than 25 years EPA has independently administered the provisions of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. Separate administration of these programs has led to conflicting, confusing and duplicative requirements. The inefficiencies and frustration of separate administration are shared by all stakeholders.

The National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) commends the efforts by all participants to coordinate programs, however the NDWAC also recognizes that coordination of these programs requires support and direction of the Administrator.

Therefore, the NDWAC recommends that the Administrator develop an integrated and coordinated application of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act programs to effectively and efficiently use all the tools within the agency to achieve the goal of clean, sufficient, and reliable water for all public and environmental health needs of the United States.

II. Recommendation on Benefits Analyses

The National Drinking Water Advisory Committee recommends that the Environmental Protection Agency review the report of the former NDWAC Benefits Working Group to: 1) determine if the agency's actions to develop the January 2001 Arsenic rule were consistent with the NDWAC recommendations; and 2) consider the NDWAC recommendations on benefits analyses while reconsidering the Arsenic Rule in 2001.