

Consumer Confidence Report Working Group - May 8 & 9, 1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Dupont Plaza Hotel,
Washington, D.C.**

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Working Group, formed under the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC), met in May for its third session. All members except Mary Raftery, Diana Neidle, and the Honorable Lucille Brogden attended the meeting.

Robert Perciasepe, the Assistant Administrator for Water, opened the meeting. Mr. Perciasepe encouraged the Working Group to consider the broader themes of public involvement and information in the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as it works to ensure the role of the CCRs as a tool for public information. Mr. Perciasepe suggested that the reports should be simple, convey enough information to allow for personal decisions, and provide a key to open a door through which the public can get more involved in decisions affecting their drinking water.

The NDWAC representatives to the Working Group, Susan Seacrest and Maurice Arel, summarized discussions at the May 2 and 3 Council meeting and provided responses from the Council to the Working Group's questions.

Members then proceeded with a discussion of the second draft of the proposed regulation. The Working Group reviewed the draft to ensure that all mandatory elements were covered. The group also discussed potential additional requirements. There was consensus that some mandatory language should be developed for "at-risk" populations. There was also agreement that the reports should briefly explain the presence of contaminants in drinking water sources.

The Working Group also reviewed three sample reports for content and format and made suggestions for improvement. The issue of whether the report format should be mandatory was discussed at length. As an alternative, the group agreed to look at language that would be fairly specific regarding how to display the data and, where necessary, health effects, but would fall short of mandating a universal format.

The CCR Working Group will meet again on July 8 - 9, 1997, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Alexandria, VA.