

National Drinking Water Advisory Council Water Security Working Group

April 7, 2005 Conference Call Summary

The Water Security Working Group (WSWG) of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) held its second and final full-group conference call on April 7, 2005, from 1:30–3:30 EDT. Marc Santora, the designated federal officer for the WSWG for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), was present. WSWG members Doug Anderton, Jeff Cooley, and Bud Schardein were unable to attend. All other WSWG members were present.

Federal partners present were David Travers from EPA. Other federal partners were unable to attend. Jasper Welsch from the Mississippi Department of Emergency Management was present as an identified outside expert to the WSWG. The meeting was facilitated by Rob Greenwood and Elizabeth McManus from Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd. (Ross & Associates), the support contractor for the WSWG.

The mission of the WSWG is to provide findings to the NDWAC that:

- (1) identify, compile, and characterize best security practices and policies for drinking water and wastewater utilities, and provide an approach for considering and adopting these practices and policies at a utility level;
- (2) consider mechanisms to provide recognition and incentives that facilitate a broad and receptive response among the water sector to implement these best security practices and policies, and make recommendations as appropriate; and
- (3) consider mechanisms to measure the extent of implementation of these best security practices and policies, identify the impediments to their implementation, and make recommendations as appropriate.

The objective of the April WSWG conference call was to finalize the list of discussion topics for the final in-person WSWG meeting. The conference call was open to the public.

This document provides a summary of key areas of WSWG discussion, tentative areas of agreement, and next steps. The summary is organized by key discussion topic area. The meeting agenda and non-draft meeting materials are available through the WSWG website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ndwac/council.html>.

A draft of this document was distributed to the members of the Working Group for comment, no comments were received.

Issues to Discuss at the Final In-Person WSWG Meeting

Based on review and comment on previous drafts of WSWG findings and deliberation, the WSWG identified the following issues for discussion at their final in-person meeting. All other areas of the WSWG findings are considered to be consensus findings at this point, although final consensus will await resolution of remaining issues. Page numbers refer to the March 21, 2005 draft WSWG findings.

- Eliminating or reducing duplication between lists of principles in the discussion of security

- (page 20 and recommendation 4, page 28)
- Formatting, graphics, text boxes, and other ideas for improving the readability of the report
 - Whether there is a need for the multibarrier approach text and, if so, where the text belongs in the draft (page 34)
 - Whether there is a need for recommendation 10, on clear expectations for security (page 39)
 - Background checks (discussion of feature 6 in Appendix A)
 - The principle of transparency (page 29)
 - Addressing incentives and/or assistance for utilities to evaluate and implement inherently safer design practices (no page number)
 - Verification programs and interest in being more open to third-party verification over time (page 47)
 - Regulation and interest in a more positive statement on regulation (page 48)
 - Strict comparability and revisions to comparability text (page 53)
 - The feasibility and utility of national aggregate measures, in general (page 56)
 - The feasibility and utility of national aggregate measure on extent and degree of implementation of security program features (page 58)
 - The feasibility and utility of national aggregate measure on implementation of high-security priorities (page 59)
 - The utility and appropriateness of national aggregate measure on 122(r) data (page 60)
 - The need for listing of the types of measures in feature 14 (feature 14, Appendix A)

Agenda for Final In-Person WSWG Meeting

The WSWG discussed the agenda for their final in-person meeting and agreed to go through the remaining issues (described above) in sequential order as much as possible, with the understanding that issues might be taken out of order to accommodate the schedules of individual WSWG members.

Presentations to the WSWG

The WSWG did not consider any presentations during the April 7, 2005, conference call.

Public Comment

One member of the public chose to offer comment during the April 7, 2005, WSWG conference call. Rufus Young explained to the WSWG that his law firm, BWS Law, provides advice on Safe Drinking Water Act and homeland security issues to water service providers. We referred WSWG members to a model vulnerability assessment protocol that BWS Law uses. The protocol was provided by Mr. Young and distributed to WSWG members. It is attached to this summary as attachment C.

Closed Session

During the April, 7, 2005, conference call the WSWG found no issues which they believed needed to be heard in closed session, and no closed sessions were held.

Attachments

Conference Call Materials—Non-Draft Documents

- Attachment A: Conference Call Agenda
- Attachment B: NDWAC Working Group Ground Rules

- Attachment C: Comments of Roufs Young

Conference Call Attendance and Participation

- Attachment D: WSWG Roster and Contact List
- Attachment E: List of Others in Attendance