

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
RESEARCH AND INFORMATION COLLECTION PARTNERSHIP
STEERING COMMITTEE WEBCAST

May 8, 2009

Conference Call Summary

Webcast Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

- Review and discuss factors that increase vulnerability to contamination; and
- Review and discuss risk management impacts on vulnerability.

I. Key Next Steps

	What	Who	When
1	Send updated matrices to group	EPA	ASAP
2	Provide any additional comments on the matrices to the partners	RICP Steering Committee	By Friday, May 15
3	Send documents to RICP Steering Committee to review prior to 6/22 call	Partners	Two weeks before 6/22 meeting
4	RICP Steering Committee half-day conference call	RICP Steering Committee & partners	June 22, 2009, 1-5 p.m. Eastern

II. Welcome and Introduction

Representatives of the Research and Information Partnership (RICP) partners welcomed participants to the RICP Steering Committee conference call, a follow-up to the Steering Committee's April 2nd meeting. Prior to the call, Steering Committee members received two matrices listing potential factors to consider in the analytical frameworks for the seven topic areas identified by the Total Coliform/Distribution System Advisory Committee (TCRDSAC): one matrix listing factors that increase distribution system vulnerability to contamination; the other listing risk management options to decrease distribution system vulnerability. The partners explained that the purpose of the call was to seek the Steering Committee's input on additional factors to include in the matrices and on how best to organize the factors in preparation for use in the analytical framework models.

III. Analytical Framework Deliverable One Process

In response to questions from the Committee, the partners explained that the goal of the first phase of the analytical frameworks (deliverable one) is to set the parameters for the public health risks for each of the seven topic areas. To do this, it is necessary to first identify the factors influencing contamination vulnerability in the distribution system and the risk management options available to control/manage contamination, and then use this information to determine model inputs and specific research and information collection needs. Where possible, the framework developers will use sensitivity analyses to identify which of the long list of factors and options are most relevant to a determination of risk. In the narrative for deliverable one, the

partners will provide an explanation of the rationale for which factors were included or excluded in the analytical framework models, as well as an endnote library of data sources to support these conclusions.

IV. Factors that Increase Vulnerability to Contamination and Risk Management Impacts on Vulnerability

The Steering Committee reviewed the matrices listing vulnerability factors and risk management options and suggested several additions and revisions to each.¹ In addition to the Committee's suggestions, members and partners made the following points:

- Population behavior and host factors which may influence susceptibility are not included in the vulnerability matrix, but will be included in the exposure estimate that will be part of deliverable two of the analytical frameworks.
- Rather than addressing vulnerabilities associated with small systems by listing them in the matrix (either as a catch-all category or by listing each vulnerability separately), address them in the context of how the model inputs are used. Categorization by system size also would be a way to organize the eventual national characterization of risk.
- Some of the options added to the risk management matrix, such as training, education and outreach programs, are harder to measure than other options. These options also are not under the direct control of utilities. However, to the extent that the information is available, it would be valuable to examine the effectiveness of these programs in controlling vulnerabilities.

The Steering Committee and other participants also discussed ways to organize the factors and options so that the analytical framework developers can assess how best use them in the framework models. The following suggestions were made:

- Use the three categories in the National Research Council report: hydraulic integrity, water quality integrity, and physical integrity.
- Also add a category for administrative integrity.
- Categorize by function (e.g., capital improvements, operations and maintenance options, administrative options, etc.).

The group acknowledged that some factors may fall into multiple categories.

V. Next Steps

1. An updated version of the distribution system vulnerabilities and risk management options matrices will be sent to the Committee after the call.
2. The Committee will send Audrey Levine any additional comments on the matrices by May 15, 2009.
3. Two weeks in advance of the June 22, 2009 Steering Committee conference call, the partners will send out a package of materials, including deliverable one for all seven topic areas and deliverable two (as far as it is developed) for intrusion and storage.

¹ The additional factors can be found in the updated matrices attached to this teleconference summary.

4. The Committee will meet for a half-day conference call on June 22, 2009 to discuss the analytical framework approach and anticipated products.

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Webcast Participants

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