



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 30 2009

OFFICE OF  
WATER

Dear Colleague:

I am very pleased to release the National Water Program's first Research Strategy. The goal of the *National Water Program Research Strategy (Strategy)* is three fold: (1) to ensure the national Water Program's research, science, and technology needs are identified and documented in a comprehensive plan that supports our commitment to collaborative corporate planning, prioritization, and research management to meet the environmental goals of the National Water Program, (2) to expand partnerships and collaborations across EPA and the federal research family, and (3) to engage the broader research community in the investigation of water research needs.

The *Strategy* presents a hierarchy of research needed for EPA's National Water Program to successfully achieve its statutory and regulatory obligations as well as its strategic target and goals. The *Strategy* is one of three products designed to compile, organize, and communicate water research needs. The second is a compendium of the National Water Program's research needs, the drivers behind them, and the environmental challenges they are intended to address. The third component, expected to be available to the public in 2010, is the *Research Management Status Tool (RMST)*; an electronic appendix to the *Strategy* that will provide queriable access to the research needed by the National Water Program.

Our objective through all of these products is to bring a broader diversity of relevant and appropriately vetted science to the National Water Program's regulatory and non-regulatory tools and water management decisions. By expanding the science base we will increase program credibility, expedite the production of the needed tools, and water quality environmental outcomes will be achieved faster and quantified better.

I invite those researchers that are conducting, or considering conducting investigations in the areas identified in the *Strategy* to let us know about their work so we can improve our

communications. The *Strategy* will soon be available on our website at [www.epa.gov/waterscience](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Shapiro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "S".

Michael H. Shapiro  
Deputy Assistant Administrator

Attachment: National Water Program Research Strategy Fact Sheet  
[www.epa.gov/waterscience](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience)