

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

NATIONAL DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. Committee's Official Designation (Title):

National Drinking Water Advisory Council

2. Authority:

This Charter renews the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC or Council) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2. The Council was created by Congress on December 16, 1974, as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, Public Law 93-523, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-5.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities:

The NDWAC will provide advice, information, and recommendations on matters related to activities, functions, policies, and regulations of EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

4. Description of Duties:

The duties of the NDWAC are to provide advice to EPA on Safe Drinking Water Act matters, including the following functions:

- a. Providing practical and independent advice on matters and policies related to drinking water quality and public health protection.
- b. Maintaining an awareness of developing issues and problems in the drinking water area and advising EPA on emerging issues.
- c. Advising on regulations and guidance as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- d. Recommending policies with respect to the promulgation of drinking water standards.
- e. Recommending special studies and research.

- f. Assisting in identifying emerging environmental or health problems related to potentially hazardous constituents in drinking water.
- g. Proposing actions to encourage cooperation and communication between EPA and other governmental agencies, interest groups, the general public, and technical associations and organizations on drinking water quality.
- h. Analyzing sustainable infrastructure issues such as the security and resiliency of the nation's drinking water systems.

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports:

The NDWAC will report the Council's advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator.

6. Support:

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of Water.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years:

The estimated annual operating cost of the NDWAC is \$252,000, which includes approximately 1.0 staff years of support.

8. Designated Federal Officer:

A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO or an alternate will be present at all meetings of the advisory committee and subcommittees. Each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so and will chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the committee reports.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

The NDWAC expects to meet approximately two (2) times a year. Meetings are expected to occur approximately once every six (6) months or as needed and approved by the DFO. As required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA will pay members' travel and per diem expenses when members are "away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council." 42 U.S.C. § 300j-5(c).

As required by the FACA, the Council will hold open meetings unless the EPA Administrator determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c). Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the committee as time permits, and file comments with the NDWAC.

10. Duration:

Continuing.

11. Termination:

As provided in the Safe Drinking Water Act, “section 14(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (relating to termination) shall not apply to the Council.” 42 U.S.C. § 300j-5(d). However, the Charter is subject to the renewal process upon the expiration of each successive two-year period following the date of enactment of the Act establishing this Council.

12. Membership and Designation:

The NDWAC will be composed of 15 members who will serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs). Members will be appointed by EPA’s Administrator after consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. As required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, five (5) members shall be appointed from the general public; five (5) members shall be appointed from appropriate State and local agencies concerned with water hygiene and public water supply; and five (5) members shall be appointed from representatives of private organizations or groups demonstrating an active interest in the field of water hygiene and public water supply, of which two (2) such members shall be associated with small, rural public water systems. 42 U.S.C. § 300j-5(a). In accordance with Executive Order 14035 (June 25, 2021), EPA values and welcomes opportunities to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility on its federal advisory committees. EPA’s federal advisory committees have a workforce that reflects the diversity of the American people.

In addition, up to five (5) federal employees will be appointed as technical advisors to the Council. The technical advisors may include individuals representing EPA’s Science Advisory Board (SAB), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health and National Center for Infectious Diseases, and such additional federal officials as EPA deems necessary for the NDWAC to carry out the Council's functions. Technical advisors may participate in Council discussions, but not Council deliberations.

