


# The Update

December 2007

 Think Big. Go Beyond.

## *USEPA Releases Documents to Aid Public Communication*

*The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has released "Talking to your Customers about Chronic Contaminants," a best practices guide to aid public water systems in communicating with the public about drinking water risks. Chronic contaminants are those that can cause health effects after continuous long-term exposure. The fact sheet discusses the importance of communicating with the public about chronic contaminants - both regulated and unregulated - and suggests effective strategies for disseminating the information. The fact sheet is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/compliancehelp.html>.*

*The USEPA has also published a new case study describing the award-winning strategy used by the Stoughton, Massachusetts School District for conducting a lead testing program for its drinking water that includes a strong communication component. The program stresses the importance of communicating before testing programs are developed and after testing occurs. The case study is available at [http://www.epa.gov/safewater/schools/casestudy\\_stoughtonschools.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/schools/casestudy_stoughtonschools.html).* ■

**T**he American College of Preventative Medicine has developed an online course for medical professionals entitled "Recognizing Waterborne Disease and the Health Effects of Water Pollution." Because the typical water consumer is generally unfamiliar with the effects of exposure to waterborne contaminants, this online reference guide has been developed to provide busy practicing clinicians with informational resources and educational tools to assist

## **Water Professionals Encouraged to Promote Waterborne Disease Training to Physicians**

them in the recognition of waterborne disease and the health effects of water pollution.

The development of

this document is one step in an effort to maintain and protect water quality and safety in the United States by linking those professionals traditionally viewed as public health professionals with the public health services provided by our water industry professionals. To read more about and to refer your local medical professionals to this important resource, visit <http://www.waterhealthconnection.org/index.asp>. ■

## **Centers for Disease Control Address Fluoride Shortages**

For the past three years, a shortage of fluoridation chemicals occurred on a regional level in various parts of the country, but it has recently become more widespread. The shortage of fluorosilic acid has been attributed to several factors, including industry consolidation and closure of several production facilities, an increased number of communities fluoridating drinking water, and an increased demand for fluoride products for non-water treatment applications. As a result of these factors, the cost of fluoride has increased, and the delivery schedule has been extended in some areas. Although new fluoride producers have entered the market, it is expected to take about three years for the added capacity to be realized. As a result, the American Water Works Association Fluoride Standards Committee has recommended that fluoridating utilities obtain full storage levels by June each year, after which the most pronounced shortages have recently occurred. It is also recommended that utilities consider increasing the lead time on orders to prevent running short. If a system exhausts its supply of fluoride, it is important to notify the Primacy Agency and the customers of the situation. The Centers for Disease Control have developed a fact sheet on this topic. To download the information, visit [http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact\\_sheets/engineering/shortages\\_faq.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact_sheets/engineering/shortages_faq.htm). ■

## Save the Date for the 2008 Surface Water Treatment Workshop

Mark your calendars for the 2008 Surface Water Workshop, hosted by the Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota sections of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). The 2008 Workshop will be held from April 29 - May 1 2008 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, MN.

The Workshop will feature facility tours, a poster session, and regulatory, technology, and case study sessions from national and regional experts. A Fundamentals of Surface Water Treatment primer workshop will also be offered.

For more information, contact Jeanette Boothe at 651-201-4697 or by email at [Jeanette.Boothe@state.mn.us](mailto:Jeanette.Boothe@state.mn.us). You may also view information on the Workshop at: <http://www.awwand.org/swtw>. ■

## Your Resource for Current Regulatory and Industry Trends

It has become common practice for the USEPA, American Water Works Association (AWWA), Water Environment Federation (WEF), American Public Works Association (APWA), and other such organizations to sponsor frequent webcasts to keep industry professionals current on prevalent water issues. As part of our commitment to stay on the leading edge of regulatory and other industry trends, we routinely take advantage of educational opportunities such as regional workshops, regional and national conferences, video teleconferences, and webcasts. AE2S also strives to assist in providing educational opportunities to our clients. We have adopted the practice of viewing all webcasts pertinent to the fields of water, wastewater, and stormwater, and subsequently writing a brief summary of the highlights to be provided to interested parties. For some webcasts, such as those sponsored by AWWA, archived versions of the webcasts can be viewed after the original webcast date. We invite you to contact us to request a copy of a particular webcast summary and/or to schedule a date to view a webcast of interest to you.

On December 5, experts from the USEPA, a State health agency, and a water utility examined the effects of the latest revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule in an AWWA webcast. If you are interested in the content of this webcast, please contact Miranda Kleven at 701-746-8087 to either obtain webcast materials or to arrange a date to view the webcast. We will continue to report information from webcasts as they pertain to you and your system in *The Update*. ■

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