


# The Update

June 2009

 Think Big. Go Beyond.

## Swine Flu Virus and Water

**A**ccording to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), tap water that has been treated by conventional disinfection processes does not likely pose a risk for transmission of influenza viruses. Current drinking water treatment regulations provide a high degree of protection from viruses. Recent studies have demonstrated that free chlorine levels typically used in drinking water treatment are adequate to inactivate highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza. It is likely that other influenza viruses, such as novel H1N1 (Swine Flu), would also be similarly inactivated by chlorination. To date, there have been no documented human cases of influenza caused by exposure to influenza-contaminated drinking water.

There has also never been a documented case of influenza virus infection associated with water exposure. Recreational water that has been treated at the CDC recommended disinfectant level does not likely pose a risk for transmission of influenza viruses. Studies have demonstrated that free chlorine levels recommended by CDC (1-3 parts per million [ppm] or mg/L) for pools and 2-5 ppm for spas) are adequate to disinfect Avian Influenza A virus. It is likely that other influenza viruses, such as the Swine Flu virus, would also be similarly disinfected by chlorine.

For more information on this topic, please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or contact AES. ■

**T**he American Water Works Association (AWWA) held its annual Water Matters! Fly-In on March 24-25. The purpose of the Fly-In is to advance AWWA's legislative issues and relay key messages to Capitol Hill via meetings with the constituents of Congress and their staff. The Fly-In also boosts AWWA's name recognition among members of Congress and helps further establish AWWA members as authoritative sources of knowledge and expertise on drinking water issues.

## AWWA Water Matters! Fly-In

The top legislative issues this year were water infrastructure and investment, chemical facility security, climate change, and appropriations.

**Sustainable Water Infrastructure** – AWWA believes the best way to address the needed repairs and replacement of our nation's drinking water infrastructure is through self-sustaining rates. However, the federal government can play a leadership role by helping to lower the cost of capital for water and wastewater investments. AWWA believes the federal government should not impose any tax on water, water use, or water bills. AWWA will strongly oppose a federal water tax in any form.

**Chemical Facility Security** – AWWA believes in taking smart steps to secure our water systems and that any chemical security legislation must:

- Allow decisions about disinfectant choices to be made locally.
- Prohibit the federal government from ordering the shut-down of water facilities. If a water or wastewater utility shuts down, basic fire protection and sanitation services are lost to that community, causing significant public health and safety issues as well as economic disruption.
- Apply only to drinking water systems if they have chemicals of concern above certain threshold quantities.

**Climate Change Legislation** – To help address the threat of global climate change on the world's water resources, AWWA supports legislation that provides funding for water-focused climate change research and the development and implementation of climate change adaptation projects by drinking water utilities. AWWA believes cap-and-trade legislation, if adopted, should direct some of the proceeds from greenhouse gas emissions allowance auctions to these purposes.

**Drinking Water Appropriations** – AWWA supports appropriations that adequately fund several programs which protect public health, including:

- \$3.5 billion for the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund for infrastructure repair and replacement, enhanced wastewater treatment, and security-related investments;

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## "Buy American" Guidance

**T**he USEPA has released a guidance document on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) "Buy American" provision. This provision requires funding by the ARRA through DWSRF and CWSRF to use iron, steel, and manufactured goods that are produced in the United States (US). A federal agency may waive the Buy American requirement under certain circumstances, such as if the USEPA determines that applying these requirements would be inconsistent with public interest; iron, steel, and the relevant manufactured goods are not produced in the US in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or inclusion of iron, steel, and manufactured goods produced in the US will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent. Waiver application instructions and the guidance memorandum can be found at [http://www.epa.gov/water/eparecovery/docs/04-29-2009\\_BA\\_waiver\\_process\\_final.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/water/eparecovery/docs/04-29-2009_BA_waiver_process_final.pdf). ■

## (AWWA Fly-In from first page)

- \$1.5 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the replacement of our aging drinking water infrastructure, additional treatment to comply with new standards, and security-related improvements;
- \$200 million for the state Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) grants to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act;
- \$60 million for drinking water health effects research at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to assist with research on the affects of pharmaceuticals in our drinking water and whether or not drinking water regulation is necessary; and
- \$5 million for the AWWA Research Foundation for applied research on technologies to protect United States drinking water. Research has focused on the most pressing drinking water issues, including the uncertainties associated with climate change events, drought response, desalination, wastewater reuse, energy and water use, preparing for natural disasters, and replacing aging drinking water systems.

More information on the Fly-In topics can be found at [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org) or by contacting AE2S. ■

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Advanced Engineering and  
Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)  
2016 Washington Street South  
Grand Forks, ND 58201