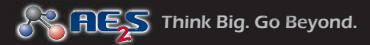


# The Update

October 2009



## *Water and Wastewater Security*

**T**he US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has reached an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), giving the USEPA authority to implement chemical security antiterrorism standards for publicly owned wastewater treatment and drinking water facilities. The current security regulations were originally written so the USEPA would regulate the storage of chemicals at drinking water utilities, while DHS would be responsible for implementing chemical security rules at wastewater utilities.

House Energy and Commerce Committee leaders also introduced the Drinking Water System Security Act of 2009 that would require the USEPA to set standards to regulate the security of public drinking water systems. The legislation would authorize the USEPA to strengthen security at US drinking water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act by requiring the establishment of risk-based performance standards for community water systems serving more than 3,300 people and certain other public water systems with security risks.

More information on this topic can be found at [www.wef.org/governmentaffairs](http://www.wef.org/governmentaffairs) or by contacting AE2S. ■

## *Drinking Water Contaminant List*

**T**he USEPA has published the final draft of the third Contaminant Candidate List (CCL3) for drinking water. The CCL is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act to be published by the USEPA every five years. The CCL3 includes chemicals used in

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**T**he USEPA has announced that it is revising the nationwide waiver of Section 1605 (Buy American Requirement) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The revision includes incidental components of eligible water infrastructure projects where such components cumulatively comprise no more than a total of five percent of the total cost of the materials used and incorporated into a project. This action revises the terms under which incidental components qualify for coverage and permits the use of non-domestic

## **ARRA Buy American Requirement Revision - USEPA Projects**

iron, steel, and manufactured goods when they occur as incidental components of such projects funded by ARRA that may otherwise be prohibited under Section 1605(a).

Water infrastructure projects typically involve the use of literally thousands of miscellaneous, generally low-cost components that are essential for, but incidental to, construction and are incorporated into the physical structure of the project. Such items include nuts, bolts, other fasteners, tubing, gaskets, etc. For many of these incidental components, the country of manufacture and the availability of alternatives are not always readily or reasonably identifiable prior to procurement in the normal course of business. For other incidental components, the country of manufacture may be known, but the miscellaneous character in conjunction with the low cost, individually and in total as typically procured in bulk, enables them to be classified as properly incidental.

According to the Federal Register notice, assistance recipients who wish to use this waiver should determine the items to be covered by this waiver with consultation with their contractors, retain relevant documentation as to those items in their project files, and summarize in reporting documents the types and/or categories of items to which this waiver is applied, the total cost of incidental components covered by the waiver for each type or category, and the calculations by which they determined the total cost of materials used in and incorporated into the project.

For more information on this topic please visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) or contact AE2S. ■

## **Blue-Green Algae**

**B**lue-green algae, which make up a portion of the phytoplankton in many water bodies, have created a nuisance in many water bodies across the Midwest this year and have created some health concerns. However, blue-green algae are generally not eaten by other aquatic organisms, and thus are not an important part of the food chain. Blue-green algae blooms can be quite smelly, and though it is recommended that people never drink raw water, blue-green algae have been known to affect the taste of drinking water that comes from surface waters experiencing a bloom. When a blue-green algae bloom dies off, the blue-green algae cells sink and are broken down by microbes. This breakdown process requires oxygen and can create a biological oxygen demand. Increases in biological oxygen demand result in decreases in the dissolved oxygen concentration in the water, and this can adversely affect fish and other aquatic life, and can even result in fish kills.

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*(Drinking Water Contaminant List from first page)*

*commerce, pesticides, waterborne pathogens, disinfection byproducts, and biological toxins that have the potential to present health risks through drinking water exposure. The list includes 104 chemicals or chemical groups and 12 microbiological contaminants that are known to or could occur in public water systems. The CCL3 is currently not regulated by existing national primary drinking water regulations, but provides the USEPA a priority list for regulatory decision making and information collection.*

*The USEPA will evaluate the CCL3 and determine which contaminants warrant a national primary drinking water regulation. For more information on this topic and to view the list of contaminants, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/ccl/ccl3.html> or contact AE2S. ■*

*(Blue-Green Algae from first page)*

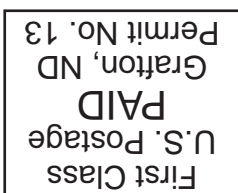
There are no quick or easy remedies for the control of blue-green algae once they appear in a lake or pond. Reducing the amount of nutrients that wash into our lakes and ponds will eventually reduce the frequency and intensity of blue-green algae blooms, but it may take a long time and a lot of public involvement to effectively change the nutrient concentrations in a water body. Regulatory agencies are working with communities around the region to reduce stormwater runoff, and to encourage agricultural practices that reduce soil erosion while maintaining high crop yields.

Blue-green algae are capable of producing several different types of toxins including Dermatotoxins, Gastrointestinal Toxins, Hepatotoxins, Cytotoxins, and Neurotoxins. These toxins can have affects ranging from rashes to asthma, and under extreme conditions can cause paralysis and cancer.

While most municipal drinking water treatment plants with surface water supplies do not regularly monitor for algal toxins, they do use treatment techniques that would remove the toxins if they were present. Conventional water treatment facilities can remove the cells of algae and other growing organisms by adding chemicals that bind them together. As the cells clump together, they become heavier and fall to the bottom of settling basins. Additional removal is obtained by filtration and through the use of activated charcoal.

For more information on this topic, please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae/> or contact AE2S. ■

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