



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

JUN 16 2008

EPA-SAB-08-009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Joan Rose
Chair, Drinking Water Committee
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Rose:

Thank you for writing to transmit the Science Advisory Board Drinking Water Committee's comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's methodology titled *Drinking Water Program Health Outcome Based Performance Measures for Chemical Contaminants and Microbial Contaminants* (Measures Document). The Agency appreciates the insight provided by you and the members of the Committee.

We are currently working to revise the Measures Document to incorporate the Committee's comments on uncertainty and presentation. In particular, we are expanding the uncertainty discussion of both the microbial and chemical measures and adding supporting information, such as the dose-response curves, to the appendix. With regard to the Committee's comment about obtaining compliance data in a centralized way, we will continue to work with our state and federal partners to obtain the data to analyze our target estimates in 2014. Further, we will continue to review the Committee's comments and take them into consideration as we finalize the document.

For future measures, EPA is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to enhance and supplement the waterborne disease surveillance system to enable a more comprehensive measurement of the number of waterborne illnesses attributable to drinking water. Enhanced surveillance data or surrogate indicators are necessary for estimating more precisely the incidence of waterborne illness in the United States and to understand the link between changes in the incidence of illnesses and the impact of our regulations

Thank you again for your thoughtful comments. If you have any further comments, please contact Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water, at (202) 564-5700. We look forward to working with the SAB on future drinking water issues.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Johnson

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Joan -
Thanks again
for leadership!