

Ms. Byrd,

I respect the huge effort which has been made to address water system security. Hach's detection system (NTUs, pH, conductivity, Cl<sub>2</sub>, and TOC), using vector magnitude is laudable. However, my perception is that contemplated technologies are detection based. I have no problem with detection based technologies as a component of distribution system security, however, I doubt they will ever be deployed in a comprehensive enough pattern to provide adequate protection for the citizenry. Furthermore, even if sophisticated detection systems are deployed, communications from the units can be falsified or interrupted. Are we going to respond "code red" every time we lose communications? If not, how much damage will be inflicted between detection and assessment?

There are numerous documented cases of unintentional distribution system contamination caused by fire flow, etc. In addition to this we face growing concern about the "cocktail effect" of numerous micropollutants such as EDCs not typically removed by most treatment plants. I believe the water industry is at a crossroads. We can remove these micropollutants with centralized treatment, but why should we make the necessary investment when we know that only 1/2% of the water purified at a centralized plant is consumed, and that we will never be able to eliminate the possibility of unintentional (or intentional) distribution system contamination? It is time for the water industry to embrace a paradigm shift and support Point of Use technology as the final barrier in our multiple barrier approach to water treatment. If we do so under the premises outlined above, we could essentially eliminate our distribution systems as targets without even drawing attention to the exposure we face from intentional contamination.

I am a water treatment professional with experience at six water treatment plants, however, am writing to you as a citizen (my views are not to be construed as representing those of the municipality for which I work).

John McEncroe 303-271-0523  
2315 Table Heights Drive  
Golden, CO 80401