

ADVISORY

SULLIVAN & WORCESTER LLP WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY

EPA Announces New Strategy to Address Drinking Water Quality

Strategy Presents New Opportunities for Developers of Water Technologies

On March 22, 2010, EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson announced the Agency is developing a new strategy to address contaminants in drinking water. One goal of the new strategy is to promote innovative technologies to meet the needs of water-stressed communities.

EPA's revised drinking water strategy is organized around four key principles:

- Addressing contaminants as a group rather than individually;
- Fostering development of new technologies;
- Using the authority of multiple statutes; and
- Partnering with states to share monitoring data from public water systems.

EPA's new strategy will promote a broader collaboration between the Agency, universities, and technology developers. As part of this collaboration, EPA intends to hold public meetings and webcasts, and use its website to seek input, host workshops on drinking water technologies, and develop a series of demonstration projects to test and refine innovations. EPA also envisions supporting technology incubators, competitions, fellowships, and grant programs. EPA's new strategy could provide technology developers with additional financing as well as the opportunity to demonstrate the efficacy of their technology as part of a government-backed program.

In addition, on March 29, 2010, EPA published a notice in the Federal Register seeking comment on EPA's review of the 71 existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) and the Agency's conclusion that four NPDWRs – acrylamide, epichlorohydrin, tetrachloroethylene, and trichloroethylene – are candidates for regulatory revision. EPA has determined that scientific advances allow for stricter regulations of these four compounds. The comment period ends on May 28, 2010.

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If you have questions about EPA's new drinking water strategy, or need assistance preparing comments regarding the Agency's review of the existing NPDWRs, please contact any member of Sullivan & Worcester's Water Resource Development Group.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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