May 2, 2006

Effective Water Sector Utility Management

Statement of Intent

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)
American Public Works Association (APWA)
American Water Works Association (AWWA)
National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
National Association of Water Companies (NAWC)
Water Environment Federation (WEF)

Introduction: This Statement of Intent is entered into and between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the following organizations: Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), American Public Works Association (APWA), American Water Works Association (AWWA), National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). These organizations are referred to herein as the Signatory Organizations.

Background: Recent events have highlighted the fundamental importance of sustaining our Nation's water and wastewater infrastructure. Effective utility management is key to achieving this goal. Effective management can help utilities enhance the stewardship of their infrastructure, improve performance in critical areas, and respond to other challenges. Addressing the Nation's water and wastewater infrastructure also calls for ongoing collaboration between government, industry, elected officials, and other stakeholders. The Signatory Organizations have a history of collaborating to promote effective utility management and desire to formalize these efforts.

Purpose: The purpose of this Statement is to formalize a collaborative effort among the signatory organizations in order to promote effective utility management. The Statement is intended to describe and facilitate cooperation, collaboration, coordination, and effective communication among the signatory organizations.

Objectives: The objectives of this Statement are to:

o Affirm the belief by the Signatory Organizations in the value of sound and effective utility management;

o Strengthen partnerships among the Signatory Organizations and water and wastewater utilities;

o Establish a framework for working together to advance understanding of the principles and practices of effective utility management, and to encourage and promote their wider application;

o Improve utility performance through the utility-specific application of effective management tools, performance measurement and other techniques and systems; and

o Enhance utility decision making through public awareness and customer confidence.

Outreach to Utilities: Outreach to utilities is expected to occur throughout this collaboration on the following topics:

o key attributes of effectively managed utilities;

o existing utility management resources;

o resource gaps, barriers, and opportunities to encourage more utilities to manage effectively; and

o potential measures of success for utilities to gauge progress.

Recognition: The Signatory Organizations intend to develop a joint strategy to identify, encourage, and recognize excellence in water and wastewater utility management.

Communication: The Signatory Organizations intend to communicate widely about this Statement with their constituencies and encourage them to focus increased attention on utility management systems and programs.

Note: All actions that EPA may take in furtherance of this statement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and the parties to this agreement will not submit a claim to EPA for compensation solely on the basis of this agreement. In signing this statement, none of the organizations listed above, including EPA, are obligating funds nor making any commitment to provide funding to any organization or individuals in the future. Further, EPA cannot endorse the sale or purchase of products or services developed by the participating organizations. This Statement does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or in equity against the other Signatory organizations or EPA, their officers or employees, or any other person. This Statement does not apply to any person outside of the other Signatory Organizations and EPA.

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