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The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

Public Affairs Advisory

**TO: AWWA Leadership
All Utilities**

FROM: AWWA Public Affairs

DATE: November 5, 2009

Who:	Environmental Working Group
What:	Water quality database and public report
When:	Utility review period extended to Nov. 13

In response to feedback from AWWA utility members and members of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), the Environmental Working Group (EWG) said today it will provide utilities with an extra week to review data in its "National Tap Water Quality Database."

Water utilities now have until Nov. 13 to complete their comments/edits on the EWG site.

To access your data, visit <http://www.ewg.org/waterutilities/>. The password is waterutils. *Note: AWWA cannot verify the data and is not involved in the production of this report.*

AWWA first alerted utility members to the upcoming report on Oct. 20. The last such EWG report, published in 2005 and available at <http://www.ewg.org/tapwater/findings.php>, generated significant media interest. Its headline read: "More than 140 contaminants with no enforceable safety limits found in the nation's drinking water."

Since the Oct. 20 advisory, many water utilities have expressed concern about the accuracy of the data, which EWG says it collects from state primacy agencies. Utilities with inaccurate data may therefore also want to be in touch with their state primacy agency. EWG says it is committed to fixing data errors where they are identified.

EWG in the past has coordinated with large media outlets to release its reports. Utilities should be prepared to respond to local follow-up generated by the report and associated news stories. The report is expected to be published sometime before the end of 2009.

Questions? Please contact Alan Roberson, AWWA Government Affairs, aroberson@awwa.org, 202-628-8303, or Greg Kail, AWWA Public Affairs, gkail@awwa.org, 303-734-3410.