



Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Serving the nation's largest publicly owned drinking water agencies

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Diane VanDe Hei

Executive Director

June 12, 2003

Associate General Counsel (General Law)
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Re: Procedures for Handling Critical Infrastructure Information, Proposed Rule

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the "Information Collection Request for Title IV of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002; Drinking Water Security and Safety". As directors and managers of the nation's largest drinking water systems collectively serving over 110 million people, AMWA members believe the protection of their sensitive security information is integral to the protection of public health.

1. AMWA asks that DHS indicate how it would determine that a voluntary submission of critical infrastructure information (CII) is in "bad faith" (Sec.29.6(f)).
2. In regard to Sec.29.6(f), AMWA believes that anyone who submits critical infrastructure information (CII) voluntarily to DHS would want to know if the CII Program Manager concluded that the submission was "in bad faith" and therefore asks that DHS amend the rule to require any and all copies of information be returned to the submitter if such a conclusion were made.

If you have questions about these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me or Erica Michaels on AMWA's staff at the number above or via email at: michaels@amwa.net.

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei
Executive Director

Cc: Janet Pawlukiewicz, USEPA
Cynthia Dougherty, USEPA
Nancy Wong, DHS