

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2008

For more information, contact:

Kathryn Ruckman, Communications
Manager, 303.347.6116,
kruckman@awwarf.org

AwwaRF Announces Report on Method for Evaluating Water Contaminant Warning Systems

(Denver, CO) — Awwa Research Foundation (AwwaRF), the leading nonprofit water research foundation dedicated to advancing the science of drinking water, today announced the publication of a new report on a simulation tool to assess the performance of contaminant warning systems for water utilities.

AwwaRF co-sponsored the study on which the report is based with Sandia National Laboratories to provide water agencies with a method to evaluate contaminant warning system designs before purchasing and installing. Contaminant warning systems provide water utility personnel with early detection of potential chemical or biological contaminants in their water distribution systems.

The simulation method developed in the study models different contamination scenarios so that various sensor types and locations within a water distribution system can be evaluated. In addition, contamination scenarios can be assessed for a utility's specific pipe layouts.

“Water utilities are faced with the ongoing need to provide safe, contaminant-free water to their customers,” said Robert C. Renner, executive director of AwwaRF. “Early detection and response to an accidental or intentional contamination event reduces public health risk and impact. AwwaRF research focuses on providing this kind of valuable information and tools to drinking water suppliers.”

The simulation tool allows utilities to realistically gauge how different operational parameters influence overall system performance. By using the tool, specific sensor attributes can be configured in the simulation so that different commercial sensor options in a utility-specific contaminant warning system design can be compared.

The report [*A Simulation Tool to Assess Contaminant Warning System Sensor Performance Characteristics*](#) (order #91219) is currently available to subscribers of AwwaRF. Subscribers may download a copy of the report free of charge by logging on to the Foundation’s Web site at www.AwwaRF.org, or order a free printed copy by sending an e-mail to rfreports@awwarf.org or calling 888.844.5082.

To learn more about AwwaRF and its research, please go to www.AwwaRF.org.

About the Awwa Research Foundation (AwwaRF)

The Awwa Research Foundation (AwwaRF) is a member-supported, international, nonprofit organization that sponsors research to enable water utilities, public health agencies, and other professionals to provide safe and affordable drinking water to consumers. With more than 900 subscriber members in the U.S. and abroad, AwwaRF has funded and managed more than 1,000 projects. More information on the Awwa Research Foundation is available at www.AwwaRF.org.

#