

Scientists Call for Restoration of Integrity

From the Union of Concerned Scientists

As of mid-December, 10,600 scientists had signed a document calling for the restoration of scientific integrity to federal policy-making. The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) announced the latest numbers at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union. Released in February 2004, signatories of the document include Nobel laureates, National Medal of Science recipients, and members of the National Academies of Science.

At the same meeting, UCS announced the release of an "A to Z" guide that documents dozens of allegations involving censorship and political interference in federal science. The compendium details censorship and political interference in federal science on issues as diverse as air quality, childhood lead poisoning, and prescription drug safety. For example, in late October UCS released documents tying high-level political appointees at the Department of Interior to the manipulation and distortion of numerous scientific documents to prevent the protection of six species under the Endangered Species Act.

Visit www.ucsusa.org to view or sign the document, search the signatories, and look up allegations of integrity abuses.

WEF Expansion Efforts

The 36,000-member Water Environment Federation, a not-for-profit technical and educational organization that focuses on water quality, has been busy growing its resources. Last October, the organization signed a memorandum of agreement with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, an association of wastewater treatment agencies, describing events and activities in which the two organizations will collaborate.

In January, WEF announced the acquisition of the journal *World Water & Environmental Engineering* from a

British publisher, and the subsequent formation of WEF Publishing UK Limited, a for-profit subsidiary. According to a WEF news release, *WW&EE* is a bimonthly international water quality magazine with a readership of 10,000 worldwide. WEF will continue to produce its flagship publication, *Water Environment & Technology*.

Later in January, *WaterTech Online* reported that WEF had approached the American Water Works Association, representing the water supply industry, about a possible merger. AWWA claims 57,000 members, including 4,700 North American water utilities. According to *WaterTech Online*, the proposal received a lukewarm response, with AWWA expressing interest in exploring joint opportunities, but citing the need for a more fully developed proposal before taking any action.

Visit www.wef.org, www.nacwa.org, www.awwa.org, and www.watertechonline.com.

NWRA Meeting Breaks Record

The Nevada Water Resources Association (NWRA) held its 2007 annual meeting in Reno Feb. 20-22 with record-setting attendance of nearly 300. Featured speakers included Lonnie Thompson, a climatologist from Ohio State University who studies the effects of climate change through ice cores, and Gregory James, a lawyer and former director of Inyo County Water Department, who provided a historical perspective on the Owens Valley water transfer.

The technical program featured speaker panels that addressed climate change in Nevada, how the integrated resource planning approach differs from more standard water resources management, updates of 2007 legislation and policy in the state, issues related to consumptive use, quantifying impacts of out-of-basin transfers, and whether an "Owen's Valley situation" could happen in Nevada.

Tom Eakin, co-developer of the oft-used Maxey-Eakin approach for estimating

recharge, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the meeting in recognition of his contributions to the understanding of complex systems in Nevada. The Longley Lane Hidden Valley Membrane Water Treatment Plant received the Major Project of the Year award.

The meeting was preceded by an optional field trip to the Longley Lane Treatment Plant and a geothermal plant, and a workshop on groundwater principles. For those more interested in the frozen form of water, the semi-annual NWRA ski day was held at Mt. Rose ski resort. Finally, the second annual Run for the Water, a 5K race to raise money for NWRA scholarships, attracted a strong field of competitors.

Visit www.nwra.org.

New Alliance for Water Efficiency

Late last year, the Alliance for Water Efficiency announced the formation of a charter board of directors for this new national nonprofit organization dedicated to water efficiency. It is to be a clearinghouse and advocacy group for water efficiency research, evaluation, and education. The 19 individuals named to the charter board represent water utilities, product and appliance manufacturers, irrigation manufacturers, environmental organizations, academic institutions, and others. The board planned to begin formal development of the organization and its membership in February.

The organization was created by the California Urban Water Conservation Council, with financial support from the U.S. EPA, and modeled after existing national organizations devoted to energy efficiency. The goal of the new organization is to represent the needs of the water efficiency community by developing initiatives for improved products, researching new technologies for saving water, and assembling programs for water utility involvement across the United States.

Visit www.cuwcc.org/national_cwe.lasso.