

GOVERNMENT

EPA Waffles on Perchlorate Regulation

Perchlorate, a toxic component of rocket fuel and a drinking water contaminant, might not be regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said Benjamin H. Grumbles, EPA's assistant administrator for water, in a May Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing. In April 2007, EPA said it had decided not to regulate 11 drinking water contaminants, but delayed the decision about perchlorate, citing the need for additional information. In the May hearing, Grumbles said a decision would be made on perchlorate by the end of 2008.

A 2008 study by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration found detectable levels of perchlorate in 625 of 1,065 (59 percent) of the food and beverage samples analyzed,

and a 2007 U.S. Centers for Disease Control study detected perchlorate in all 49 breast milk samples tested. These findings indicate that drinking water might not be the only or even the primary method of human exposure to perchlorate, which some argue makes establishing standards for drinking water even more important. Furthermore, as testified at the hearing, the Colorado River, which provides drinking water to millions, also has been found to contain trace amounts of perchlorate.

California set a drinking water standard of 6 parts per billion for perchlorate in 2007. George Alexeeff, deputy director of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and other experts told the Senate committee there was already enough evidence to act.

Perchlorate is known to affect thyroid function, which could be particularly problematic for fetuses and infants.

Grumbles said there was a "distinct possibility" that EPA would not set a standard, but when hostilely questioned by California Sen. Barbara Boxer, the committee chair, he added that there was also a distinct possibility that it would.

In July, the committee approved two bills introduced by Boxer that could impose a deadline on EPA to act.

Visit epw.senate.gov, www.epa.gov, energycommerce.house.gov/Press_110/FDAStudy.TDSPerchlorate.pdf, and jcem.endojournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/92/5/1673.

Few Farmers Following in Imperial Valley

Imperial Irrigation District (IID) may not meet its Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) following requirements for 2008-2009, reported the *Imperial Valley Press* in May.

In an effort to help California live within its 4.4-million-acre-feet allotment of Colorado River water, the 2003 QSA resolved disputes among IID, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the State of California, and the United States.

As part of the QSA, IID agreed to reduce its water use in exchange for billions of dollars in payments. The program was to start with following, followed by IID delivery system improvements in 2008, and on-farm efficiency improvements by 2013, replacing following entirely by 2018. The conserved water would be transferred to SDCWA, CVWD, and MWD.

In addition, lining of the All-American Canal is expected to conserve water that will be transferred to SDCWA and San Luis Rey Indian Tribes in exchange for money and rights to use some of the conserved water. The QSA allows IID to preserve the agricultural output of the Imperial Valley at virtually no cost, while also minimizing future threats to its water supply.

HydroFacts

Percent of average snowpack for the date in Arizona watersheds, March 1, 2008:	154
Percent of average snowpack for the date in Arizona watersheds, April 1, 2008:	48-67

[Source: Mike Crimmins, University of Arizona]

Percent of average snowpack for the date in 2008 at Phillips Station in the California Sierra:				
January 3: 60	January 31: 123	February 28: 136	March 26: 98	May 1: 11

[Source: California Department of Water Resources]

Lake Mead elevation on June 30
[Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation]



We Find Water!



Aquifer, Science & Technology specializes in geophysical surveys for water resource investigations. We work with Water Agencies, municipalities, industries and their hydrogeologic consultants to provide practical and focused surface and bore hole surveys.

We find water! Let us find some water for you too!

Aquifer Science & Technology

Your Ground Water Resource

A division of Rubert(Med), Inc.

262.542.5733 • www.aquiferscience.com