



June 14, 2019

The Honorable Alexandra Dapolito Dunn
Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Environmental Protection Agency
1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OPPT-2019-0131, *Initiation of Prioritization Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)*

Dear Assistant Administrator Dunn,

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) is an organization representing the largest publicly owned drinking water utilities in the United States. Pollution prevention is paramount in protecting water sources for public water supply, as it is easier to stop pollution at the source than it is to remove these contaminants later during treatment at a drinking water facility at the customer's expense. AMWA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the agency's notice for *Initiation of Prioritization Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)* (84 FR 10491).

Within the notice, EPA uses the phrase "near significant sources of drinking water" when discussing the "relevant information" that interested persons may voluntarily submit. AMWA appreciates EPA emphasizing the vital need to highlight drinking water safety in regard to TSCA prioritization. In the notice, this phrase is lacking definition, particularly what constitutes "near" and "significant". Though defining these terms is not an easy task, it is necessary to do so in order for EPA, industry, and the public to best provide information, data, and feedback. The agency must be clear with its reasoning and expectations for this terminology.

AMWA suggests that EPA consider utilizing the agency's own "Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters (DWMAPS)" to help define "near" and "significant" in this context. The application uses GIS layers and data to help users find information critical to protecting drinking water sources. In particular, AMWA encourages using the data available on sole source aquifers and areas with high concentrations of drinking water intakes and wells, which are grouped by hydrologic unit code to protect disclosure of the exact locations of this infrastructure. This data could be a foundation for EPA's TSCA group to gather possible information for prioritization. AMWA also suggests that the agency's TSCA staff work with the Office of Water's Source Water Protection staff to determine how this tool might be developed further to better inform the agency's work.

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AMWA values EPA's efforts to clarify the agency's data needs. AMWA encourages EPA to continue explicitly outlining the types and quality of data required when listing a chemical for the prioritization process. This will help to guarantee that the agency receives the most useful and relevant data from the public and industry. AMWA appreciates the agency's continued work to engage stakeholders throughout all aspects of the TSCA process and commends EPA for their commitment to transparency. EPA should continue to keep communication open and transparent in order to encourage submission of the most relevant information from the public.

AMWA encourages the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics to continue to work with the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water in order to effectively prioritize chemicals which have the potential of impacting drinking water sources, both ground water and surface water.

AMWA thanks EPA for the opportunity to comment and looks forward to working with the agency to protect drinking water sources in the future. If you would like to further discuss our concerns, please call Stephanie Hayes Schlea, Regulatory and Scientific Affairs Manager, at 202-331-2820.

Sincerely,



Diane VanDe Hei
Chief Executive Officer

cc: David Ross, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
Jeffery Morris, Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
Jennifer McLain, Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
Eric Burneson, Director of Standards and Risk Management, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
Ana Corado, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
Lauren Sweet, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics