

To: Public Water and Wastewater Officials [TANS list]

Title: Threat Advisory Notification System [TANS] Notice #17

Purpose: To forward the National Association of Clean Water Agencies publications entitled "Decontamination Wastewater Guide" and "Wastewater Facilities, Experts' Views on How Federal Funds Should be Spent to Improve Security"

These two documents assist wastewater plants in security efforts.

NACWA, through a cooperative agreement with EPA, finalized and distributed its "Planning for Decontamination Wastewater: A Guide for Utilities." The guide is intended to increase the level of awareness within the wastewater community and provide guidance on how to ensure that wastewater infrastructure is protected in the event of a terrorist attack. Specifically, the guide is designed to ensure managers of wastewater utilities are cognizant of the pre-planning necessary to prevent, detect, respond to and/or recover from the impact of decontamination wastewater containing chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) substances.

It is important to note that water treatment plants also need to coordinate with their wastewater counterparts in situations involving decontamination at the water treatment plant!

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released its report "Wastewater Facilities, Experts' Views on How Federal Funds Should be Spent to Improve Security." The report recommends priorities as to how the federal government should spend its resources in the wastewater treatment security arena. The report concludes that collection systems are among the most vulnerable physical components of wastewater utilities and identifies several areas which require federal financial support.

Here is the link to the Decontamination Wastewater Guide publication:

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-wb-wws-2005WWDDeconGuide.pdf>

Here is the link to the Experts' Views on how Federal Dollars should be Spent Guide:

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-wb-wws-GAOHowSecurityMoney.pdf>