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Press release

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WQA discusses well water treatment options in Congress

Briefing informs members of new ground water study

Washington, DC -- Members of Congress received information today from the Water Quality Association about methods to help ensure safe well water, as a new study revealed the extent of contamination in the nation's ground water.

WQA attended a congressional briefing sponsored by the US Geological Survey's (USGS) National Water Quality Assessment Program and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). During the briefing, the USGS released findings on samples of more than 2,000 wells.

"It is vital for public policy makers to understand what tens of millions of Americans are ingesting and how they can be helped," said Peter Censky, executive director of WQA.

Nearly 45 million people rely on private wells for drinking water, which is not regulated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. According to news reports in previous months, almost one in six Americans may be affected by pharmaceuticals in their household water. Additionally, many other contaminants are often present, either from natural or human sources.

WQA, a not-for-profit alliance of water treatment companies, has become a resource for consumers and public policy makers seeking information about the issue. WQA offers an online fact sheet with answers to the issue of contaminants in water, available at wqa.org. Copies of the fact sheet were provided to members of Congress.

WQA has also joined a task force to develop independent testing standards that will be able to tell consumers what devices are successful at removing many of these newly discovered contaminants.

Filtering systems in the home provide the highest technology available for treatment of drinking water, according to Dave Loveday, director of government relations for WQA.

Fifty percent of Americans believe federal laws governing drinking water are not strict enough, according to a scientific opinion polls conducted for the Water Quality Association. The random sample surveys, conducted by Applied Research-West, Inc., were released by WQA in 2008.

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Only 34 percent of respondents stated that they believed federal drinking water quality laws are “fair.” Additionally, 38 percent said they do not believe their municipality is doing everything it should to make sure water reaching their home is safe to drink.

Overall, just over two-thirds of Americans - 67 percent - are generally concerned about the quality of their household water supply. Americans seem to increasingly believe that responsibility for safe drinking water is a public/private partnership. Seventy percent said they believe that home filtration plays a role, along with their municipality, in ensuring safe drinking water.

For a copy of the WQA fact sheet on drinking water safety and related information, visit the “Breaking News” button on the WQA home page, wqa.org.

The Water Quality Association is a non-profit international trade association representing the residential, commercial, industrial and small community water treatment industry. Its membership consists of both manufacturers as well as dealers/distributors of equipment. WQA is a resource and information source, a voice for the industry, an educator of professionals, a laboratory for product testing, and a communicator with the public. WQA has more than 2,500 members nationwide.