



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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Commissioner

December 16, 2021

Dr. Keith Cooper, Ph.D., Chairman
New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute
401 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Dr. Cooper:

On behalf of Governor Phil Murphy and our team at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), I write to express our profound gratitude for the time and talents that you and your colleagues who serve on the Drinking Water Quality Institute share with the people of New Jersey—most recently in the case of your 1,4-dioxane evaluation. New Jersey has a proud history of leadership in drinking water safety, driven by the best available science and our strongly held values of protecting public health and the environment to the very best of our ability. The DWQI continues to play a vital role in these pursuits, and we thank you.

Your recent efforts in evaluating a health-based maximum contaminant level (MCL) for the contaminant 1,4-dioxane is another example of the Institute's diligence and commitment. New Jersey is fortunate to have an MCL development process rooted in sound science, and which begins with advice from experts in the fields of water treatment, analytical testing, chemistry, toxicology, epidemiology, and environmental health. Having reviewed the Institute's well-researched work, my DEP colleagues and I are pleased to accept your recommendation to establish an MCL for 1,4-dioxane at 0.33 parts per billion (ug/L), and thereby regulate this contaminant under New Jersey's Safe Drinking Water Act.

To further protect public health and the environment, DEP will consider 1,4-dioxane as a priority contaminant for its next MCL rulemaking, which will commence in the new year. In the interim, the public can take comfort that DEP will continue its proactive approach when becoming aware of 1,4-dioxane in drinking water or source water at levels above the Institute's recommended health-based MCL of 0.33 ug/L. Given the time required to promulgate formal regulations, DEP will also engage directly with water systems and recommend that those known or suspected to have elevated levels of 1,4-dioxane conduct monitoring, take all appropriate steps to reduce exposure, and inform customers accordingly.

As DEP pursues formal Safe Drinking Water Act regulation of 1,4-dioxane, we are also attentive to the possible presence of this contaminant in New Jersey's waterways. DEP remains committed

to the identification and track down of potential 1,4-dioxane sources that may impact our waterways, and we will work collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to address the presence of this contaminant in our environment. For example, and as the Institute may know, in response to the detection of 1,4-dioxane in the Delaware River Watershed, DEP has organized an interstate working group to collaboratively investigate potential sources of the contaminant and explore possible remedies.

Again, my DEP colleagues and I thank the Institute for its valuable service to the public and we look forward to continued partnership with the Institute in responding to challenges presented by new and emerging contaminants. Together, we will meet our shared goal of protecting public health and the environment we share.

Gratefully,



Shawn M. LaTourette
Commissioner

