



November 10, 2004

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to request your organization's participation in the testing and evaluation of a new Incident Command Tool for Protecting Drinking Water (ICWater). The primary purpose of this tool is to make critical information rapidly available to incident commanders who would direct first responders protecting the public during a chemical, biological or radiological (CBR) attack on a drinking water source. The tool is designed to enable incident commanders to quickly evaluate the threat posed to the public and take actions to reduce the threat. Secondly the tool also offers forensics capability to track down the sources of contamination and thus applies to law enforcement and forensics operations as well. This tool has been developed by SAIC, under the sponsorship of the federal Technical Support Working Group (TSWG) and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. The technical brief attached to this message describes ICWater.

We would appreciate participation by a member of your department in the test and evaluation of this software tool as it is being developed. The participation will involve:

1. Attending a one-day orientation, training and testing session on the "alpha" (prototype) version of the tool. This session will take place on January 27, 2005 at the SAIC Enterprise Center, located at 8301 Greensboro Drive, McLean, VA 22102. Please come to the 5th floor, Room 5201. The morning session will provide training on how to use ICWater. The afternoon session would be for hands-on user testing. The meeting agenda is attached.

2. In Spring of 2005, installing, utilizing, and evaluating an operational version of tool in actual CBR scenarios experienced by your department or other departments. A test plan is being developed for this purpose and will result in an easy-to-use checklist and evaluation form for your personnel to use. Your evaluation will be compiled with those of other departments and used to improve the product as necessary and provide information to other departments across the country.

As part of our evaluation team, your department may keep the software tool to use, and we will provide you with any updates and improved versions developed as a result of this testing.

We hope that this request will be agreeable to you, and look forward to working with your department. If you agree, please provide us with the contact information for the member of your department who you designate as the test coordinator, and we will work directly with him or her to implement this program.

Thank you again for your help and for being part of our team to combat terrorism.

Please RSVP by January 5, 2005 to Dr. William Samuels (william.b.samuels@saic.com), (703) 676-8043.

Respectfully yours,

Doug Ryan, US Forest Service, Project Manager
Perry Pederson, TSWG, Program Manager
Jim Ball, TSWG, TSWG, Technology Transition Manager
Kevin McCormack, EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
William Samuels, SAIC, ICWater Principal Investigator

Enclosures:

ICWater Technical Brief
Agenda
Map & Directions