

EXHIBIT

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

AUG 05 2021

Mr. Bill Robertson
Paducah Water
P.O. Box 2377
Paducah, Kentucky 42002

Re: Achievement of Area-Wide Optimization Program Microbial and Disinfection Byproduct Performance Goals During 2020

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Congratulations on your success in meeting goals set by the Kentucky Division of Water for optimized drinking water system performance during 2020! In meeting the goals, you provided customers of your system with protection against waterborne disease and disinfection byproducts that extends above and beyond regulatory requirements. Your success signifies a commitment to the standards of excellence that are at the heart of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP), and it is especially exemplary in a year so severely impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Your system's high-quality performance supports the EPA Strategic Plan objective for providing clean and safe water nationwide. Through the partnerships it has helped establish among water systems, state regulatory agencies, and the EPA since beginning nearly 25 years ago, AWOP can point to quantifiable performance results. Just in the Southeast, about 9.3 million people received water from one (1) of 273 water treatment plants that met microbial goals for optimized performance during 2020. Your system's added success in meeting disinfection byproduct performance goals confirms that AWOP's collaborative approach to address this water quality challenge through a focus on treatment and distribution system management is also working.

Organizations participating in AWOP include EPA's Drinking Water Technical Support Center in Cincinnati, six (6) EPA Regional Offices, more than 20 states, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and – most importantly – hundreds of water systems like yours that set high performance expectations for themselves and are willing to try innovative operational approaches to meet optimization performance goals. Water systems investing in AWOP are some of those best positioned to deal with the challenges posed by emerging threats to the safety of the nation's water supply.

EPA looks forward to your continued support of enhanced public health protection through AWOP in the years to come. We are proud of your work and again, congratulations on your accomplishment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Smith".

Brian J. Smith, Chief
Safe Drinking Water Branch