



American Water and WateReuse Foundation Collaborate On First-Of-Its-Kind Research Project

Team works to define *Cryptosporidium* risks associated with reclaimed drinking water

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American Water, the largest water services provider in North America, today announced it has signed a second contract with The WateReuse Foundation to conduct a joint research project on the survival of *Cryptosporidium* following various reclaimed water treatment processes. Titled "Determination of *Cryptosporidium* Occurrence, Infectivity and Genotyping in Wastewater Effluents," this most recent project will examine various conventional and innovative wastewater treatment processes.

"*Cryptosporidium* is a pathogen of medical and veterinary concern and can cause diarrheal disease when contaminated water is ingested," said project leader Dr. Zia Bukhari, Senior Environmental Scientist of Innovation and Environmental Stewardship at American Water.

Numerous outbreaks of human disease have occurred, with the largest to-date reported in Milwaukee in 1993 and another recent outbreak in Ireland. "Water is a precious natural resource, and its scarcity has increased demands for reclaimed water," Bukhari continued. "As water providers, we need to better understand the microbial risks associated with reuse practices."

American Water also will team with Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine to employ state-of-the-art sample collection, cell-culture and molecular methods to gain insight into the performance of various wastewater treatment strategies. Total budget for the 24-month project is \$633,472, with \$340,980 in funds contributed by The WateReuse Foundation and \$292,492 of in-kind support from research partners.

"This is a very exciting research project," said Bukhari. "This should allow the impact of treatment processes, disinfection, storage and system operation to be modeled in a way that will allow application to a wide range of reclaimed water systems." The end report will identify cost-effective strategies to reduce the risks of *Cryptosporidium* infections in reclaimed water systems throughout the country.

American Water is dedicated to the development of sustainable solutions to address numerous water challenges facing the U.S. From infrastructure to rehabilitation, to implementing new compliance regulations and creating new water sources, American Water is considered the definitive industry leader.

The WateReuse Foundation is an educational, non-profit public benefit corporation that serves as a centralized organization for the water and wastewater community to advance the science of water reuse, recycling, reclamation and desalination.

For more information regarding the American Water, Tufts University and WateReuse Foundation research partnership, please contact Zia Bukhari at 856-309-4554, or via email at zia.bukhari@amwater.com.

With headquarters in Voorhees, NJ, American Water employs approximately 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide high-quality water, wastewater and other related services to about 17 million people in 29 states and Canada.

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