

The 'Water Research Foundation' was established in 1966 and is committed to 'Advancing the Science of Water'. They have sponsored more than \$460 million worth of research to understand, manage and solve water utilities' most pressing issues. With more than 900 completed research projects, the Foundation is the largest and most well-established organization in the world dedicated to drinking water research. As such, they have issued a response to EWG (Environmental Working Group) press releases about chromium -6 in drinking water.

STATEMENT FROM WATER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Environmental Working Group Press Release Irresponsibly and Unnecessarily Risks Public Fear

“It's disconcerting that an organization such as EWG would risk creating public fear and hysteria about drinking water, let alone publicly insinuate that there is a massive conspiracy by water providers in a nationwide cover up. It's reckless and irresponsible for any entity purporting to serve a scientific purpose.

Although significantly downplayed, even EWG's own press release indicates that there is a major difference between detection of a substance in source water and what comes through the tap in people's homes. But, EWG's sensationalized presentation overshadows that key point.

The simple fact is that advancement of technologies has allowed the scientific community and water providers to detect even the slightest traces of almost any substance – including hexavalent chromium, which can occur naturally as well as through contaminants. But detection does not equal risk, and not every level of detection equals a high level of risk.

Water Research Foundation has been conducting research on the detection and treatment of hexavalent chromium since the early 2000s. Research reports are provided to subscribers and results are shared with larger audiences via professional conferences, professional journals, trade publications, and other similar venues. In fact, Water Research Foundation is funding two new research projects in 2011. One will review detection techniques and compile information on the occurrence of the contaminant, its sources, treatment options, health effects, and the current status of federal and state regulations in the United States. The other is an initiative co-sponsored by the Foundation and Glendale, CA which is the next phase of a pilot program to explore new technologies and processes to reduce Chrome 6 levels in drinking water.

Industry standards for drinking water treatment are set by state and federal regulators – which are followed and often surpassed by utilities. Hexavalent Chromium is one of 20 substances that currently are being reviewed by the USEPA for possible further regulation.

Hexavalent Chromium can be removed using a handful of proven treatment techniques depending on the level present in the source water, removal goals, other water parameters, competing treatment objectives and treatment waste disposal options.”