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LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EC WORLD

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ABSTRACT: "Chemicals in the water supply" makes for a compelling "teaser" for the evening news. Unfortunately, we hear such stories with increasing frequency today. This is not likely to change. Whether risks posed by chemicals in water are great or small, Americans are not likely to ignore news of contamination (whether real or imagined) that potentially impacts the quality or quantity of water in the environment. Americans care very deeply about the safety (and continued availability) of the water that they and their children use. For better or worse, public concern about emerging threats in the water supply has garnered the attention of policy makers throughout the country. Public pressure to take proactive regulatory action is particularly acute in the West where there is not enough water to go around, and substitute water supplies are either unavailable or prohibitively expensive. Policy makers at local, state and federal levels have taken notice--and now action.

This presentation will assess some of the most recent legislative and regulatory efforts--at both the state and federal level--to address emerging contaminant risks--particularly as they pertain to water resources. The assessment will include discussion of recent Congressional and EPA actions regarding perchlorate, and identify recent state regulations that have gone even further to reduce perchlorate exposure risk. The presentation will then touch upon recent regulatory activities pertaining to endocrine disruptors and other pharmaceuticals of concern in the environment, nanomaterials, TCP, naphthalene, RDX and other potential chemicals of concern.

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