



June 14, 2013

Brent Herring
ABC President

Paul D. Bishop, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
Association of Boards of Certification
2805 SW Snyder Blvd, Suite 535
Ankeny, Iowa 50023
Sent via e-mail to pbishop@abccert.org

Dear Mr. Herring and Mr. Bishop,

We are writing on behalf of our three organizations, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) regarding our joint publication *The Utility of the Future: A Blueprint for Action*. We would like to thank the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) very much for taking the time to provide comments on the report and also for the information on some of your current initiatives and programs. Congratulations on your history of work in the important area of environmental operator certification and your expanding contributions!

Development of *The Utility of the Future: A Blueprint for Action* document was overseen by a nine-member steering committee and informed by input from a task force of almost 50 experts representative the diversity of our memberships. We have been very gratified by the widespread positive response to the report both within our organizations and also beyond, including from policy makers.

As described in the publication, our goal was to document a changing paradigm for clean water organizations in the US (and of course in other parts of the world) and describe the emerging and potential role of these transformed organizations in local communities. We also sought to identify some actions needed to ensure that this potential is realized. The document is very much a beginning and not an end in itself. As described in the Foreword it is “an opening salvo” but one that is intended to inform each organization’s initiatives, advance our collective efforts, and inspire others to work toward making the *Utility of the Future (UTOF)* a reality.

During our Task Force’s deliberations, the importance of the human dimension was raised. Although the information included in the report was of necessity at a high level, we are delighted that it has caught your

attention as well as that of others who agree that access to a highly skilled workforce will be vital to achieving this new paradigm. No doubt issues of workforce skills, training, and credentialing and their relation to utility innovation will continue to be examined within and beyond the *UOTF* context. We would certainly expect that organizations like ABC would be participating and, in some cases, leading the conversation.

We appreciate the invitation to participate in the development of the Plant Point Rating System. We believe that WEF members participated in the related meeting held at your annual conference in San Diego and look forward to more specific information that can help us understand how we can support your effort.

Thank you very much again for providing your comments on the *UOTF* report and for the information on your work and programs. Since WEF has the closest connection with operator education and training, and a long standing relationship with ABC, we offer Jeff Eger and his staff as resources for further questions and expressions of interest in the UOTF program.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Eger', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jeff Eger
WEF Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Kirk', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ken Kirk
NACWA Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Reinhardt', with a stylized, cursive script.

Glenn Reinhardt
WERF Executive Director

CC: Cordell Samuels, Suzanne Goss, Catherine Gerali