

Preface

Drinking water policies and research are intimately linked. It is thanks to the scientific progress made over the last 25 years in identifying and controlling toxic products in drinking water that regulations have developed in such a way that the protection of public health from waterborne diseases has drastically improved. The integration of research outputs into the policy-making progress requires close cooperation among the scientific and policy communities, which is not always straightforward. In the US, drinking water research is an integral part of the US Environmental Protection Agency's base research programme, meaning that research is directly feeding the policy process. In Europe, links have also been established among research and policy development, albeit in a less integrated way. Exchanges between scientific and policy-making communities certainly represent key elements of progress for better environmental protection. In this respect, analytical developments linked to drinking water are at the core of the science-policy debate.

This book reflects this awareness by joining recent analytical developments with policy considerations. The first chapter gives an overview of EU and US drinking water policies, as well as on standardization. Analytical developments are described in depth in Chapter 2, focusing on bromate in drinking water. The third chapter deals with the development of a sampling protocol for determining lead in drinking water, thus mixing analytical development with standardization needs. Finally, Chapter 4 focuses on standardization aspects (pre-normative research) related to materials in contact with drinking water.

This book has been written by experts in the field of drinking water policy and analysis. It does not pretend to give an exhaustive view of drinking water analytical developments, but rather illustrates recent scientific advances in this field, which have contributed to policy development. The gathered information will be of direct use to policymakers, water scientists, researchers and analytical laboratories.

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