

## **Questions for the Record by Democratic Members**

### **Questions from Representative Neguse:**

1. We have received concerns from Colorado's second district regarding the restructuring of the USGS Water Mission Area. What are you doing to respond to employees who feel disenfranchised or ignored as a result of the restructuring process?
2. What opportunities for comments or feedback have been offered to WMA scientists and how have you responded to their comments?
3. The USGS in Boulder located on the east campus of the University of Colorado has had a long history of supporting graduate students, post-doctoral associates and early career scientists, especially students and graduates of the University of Colorado and Colorado School of Mines. These positions are commonly funded by research grants from federal agencies, including USGS. I understand that the USGS Water Mission Area chose to terminate or reassign some of these positions. Why did WMA terminate those positions?
4. Why is NAWQA (National Water Quality Assessment) being terminated?
5. The "National Water Quality Program" is slated to take the place of NAWQA. What is the plan for this program and who will review it? Will any practicing scientists in the USGS review it?

### **Questions from Representative Sablan:**

1. I understand that there is a Saipan Groundwater Availability Study currently underway and that USGS is working with our Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. This study, I am told, will provide an update to work done by the USGS in 2003. Can you provide more details and a timeline for the study and discuss preliminary findings or observations resulting from the work?
2. Please provide information on the streamgage program and other water data collection programs that the USGS operates in the Northern Marianas. There seem to be many inactive water-data collection sites. Please address why these sites are no longer active, what information they collected, how it was used, and whether that data is now available from other sources?

### **Questions from Representative Van Drew:**

1. I'm glad that you mentioned the Next Generation Integrated Water Observing System, or NextGen, in your testimony. As you discussed, NextGen is designed to pair a network of enhanced streamgages and water models to create better water forecasts for an entire watershed, and you've started in my backyard with the Delaware River Basin. NextGen is supported by state and local water managers across the country.

- a. I am very interested in the NextGen System Pilot as an important tool in helping us create better water predictions long-term. What findings have come out of NextGen so far, and what additional information do you expect to learn from the pilot program in the near future?
  
- b. How can what we learn from the NextGen System Pilot be translated to other water basins?
  
- c. Do you believe the NextGen Pilot will significantly improve our understanding of near- and long-term risks from floods and droughts?