# Biological and Chemical Threats Panel 2003 ANSI Annual Conference - Washington, DC October 1, 2003



Director, EPA National Homeland Security Research Center

#### EPA Roles in Homeland Security

- (1) hazardous materials emergency response
- (2) protecting water infrastructure
- (3) clean up following chemical or biological attack
- (4) reducing vulnerability of the chemical & hazardous materials sector
- (5) research to protect water infrastructure & buildings

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Building a scientific foundation for sound environmental decisions

## Research and Development at EPA



- 1,950 employees
- \$700 million budget
- \$100 million extramural research grant program
- 13 lab or research facilities across the U.S.
- Credible, relevant and timely research results and technical support that inform EPA policy decisions

#### EPA Homeland Security Research

- National Homeland Security Research Center
- 3 years, \$50m FY'03
- Chemical/biological terror attack
- Buildings and water infrastructure
- User guidance on protection & response
- collaboration

#### Program Components

- Characterization/Detection
- Prevention/Containment
- Decontamination/Mitigation
- Residue Disposal
- Risk Assessment
- Technology Verification
- Technical Assistance

#### Research Program Scope

- Biological & chemical contaminants
  - Pathogenic bacteria, viruses, bacterial toxins
  - Chemical warfare agents
  - Toxic industrial chemicals
- Radiologic contamination (water)



### Role of Standard-Setting Organizations

- integrate user/provider expectations
- consensus measures of performance
- establish measurement protocols

 coordination among numerous relevant standards organizations

#### Challenges Related to Homeland Security

 matching equipment and operational standards to public health and cost-effectiveness endpoints

 broad array of equipment/systems/ interoperability needs
 e.g. detectors, personnel protection, filtration, alarms, decontamination, treatment, disposal communication . . . . .

### Challenges Related to Homeland Security (continued)

- complexity of contaminants & contamination scenarios
- credible standards vs. time urgency for decisions
- coordination among standards organizations and with government
- coordination among Federal standards setting organizations
- performance verification/certification

for sound

decisions

environmental

#### **Questions for Participants**

- How to move ahead?
  - quickly, but appropriately

• Who needs to be involved?

What areas/activities are most important/first?

Other perspectives?