

## To the Editor,

I read the article on chlorine safety (Fall 2006 *On Tap*) and wondered about the wisdom of storing and using this chemical in a populated area. The City of Syracuse, New York, gets its water directly from Skaneateles Lake—unfiltered. The chlorination is done in a small building located in downtown Skaneateles, right next to a hotel and just upwind of the center of the small village.

I think it would be a good idea to move this chlorination to a point one or two miles downstream from the present downtown site. This would place the threat more away from a population center and the injection point could stay the same if they ran a pipe from the present site down the inside of the line to the new out-of-town site. It would also be an improvement—coupled with other security measures such as alarms, cameras, and regular police patrol—with respect to the issues of environmental terrorism.

## Bill Hecht

Syracuse, New York

## Editor's Response

Zane Satterfield, NESC engineering scientist and author of the chlorine safety article, responds:

*Dealing with chlorine gas in a populated area is always a safety risk. The best arrangement is to store the chlorine downwind and on the outskirts of town. Any water system that deals with chlorine gas in any amount should have any emergency response plan and procedures in place involving the local police, fire, and rescue services. Security must also be addressed, as well as educating local residents about potential hazards.*

