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For Immediate Release
December 17, 2004

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DOH ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL WATER AND PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMIT

-- Conference to Highlight Water Safety Issues, Spotlight Strategic Interagency Collaboration --

TALLAHASSEE– The Florida Department of Health (DOH) will join forces with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to host their first-ever water and public health conference. Entitled *Promoting Public Health through Safe Water*, this conference is scheduled for January 19-20 at the Sheraton World Resort in Orlando, near Sea World.

“Tackling the challenges inherent in maintaining our state’s most precious natural resource is vital to public health,” DOH Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., said. “This conference allows us to link our resources and share insight that will have far-reaching benefits for our state and, ultimately, the nation.”

Public health leaders and environmental health advocates will exchange ideas and share resources to address emerging issues related to water safety.

This day-and-a-half conference will enhance the public’s awareness of issues related to the safety of drinking and recreational water while improving interagency collaboration. Attendees will include government officials, agency regulators, utility managers, consulting engineers, water managers, students and citizens.

Innovative strategies will be spotlighted throughout the conference to provide insight for systematic improvements to water-specific programs and policies at the state, federal and national levels.

Colleen M. Castille, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, will serve as guest speaker. Assistant Administrator Benjamin H. Grumbles of the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Dr. Henry Falk, the Director of the Coordinating Center for Environmental and Occupational Health and Injury Prevention (EOHIP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will also join the featured speakers. Other speakers from Florida and around the nation will provide information on a number of water-related topics including the latest on bacterial source tracking, waste site cleanup programs, the Florida Springs Initiative and emerging chemical and biological contamination.

For more information on the conference and to obtain the registration brochure, visit the Florida Department of Health's website at www.doh.state.fl.us. The conference website is http://www.mcraeco.com/doh_conf.html.

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