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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 1, 2017**

**WQRF to conduct major benchmarking study**

*Research to look at emerging scale prevention technologies*

**LISLE, Ill.** – The Water Quality Research Foundation (WQRF) today announced that it has entered into an agreement with Virginia Tech University for a major research project to benchmark the performance of emerging scale prevention technologies.

“This is an important study that will benefit the consumers as well as the water treatment industry,” said WQRF President Ned Jones. “The study will develop a process that any manufacturer will be able to use to test their products.”

The research study, led by Virginia Tech Professor Marc Edwards, aims to create a repeatable protocol to examine chemical and physical technologies that prevent scale build-up on heating elements, pipes and fittings, as well as the impact on detergent use. The research will look at residential water heaters that operate with watt densities typical of North American households.

The study will look at the effectiveness of such technologies as Cation exchange, media induced precipitation, electrochemical deionization, sacrificial media, electric field generators and magnets. Researchers will seek to determine the benefit of scale reduction products and how well a technology or product performs relative to what is claimed. All brands and manufacturers of products that will be tested will be kept confidential.

The benchmarking study is expected to be completed in 2019. Since inception, WQRF has sponsored numerous research studies which have established best practices, generated essential marketing information, positively impacted legislative change, and helped decrease product testing costs.

*The Water Quality Research Foundation, formerly the Water Quality Research Council (WQRC), was formed in 1949 to serve on behalf of the Water Quality Association (WQA) as a universally recognized, independent research organization. The long-term goal of WQRF is to achieve sustained growth to conduct and fund scientific research on subjects relating to the water quality improvement industry.*

*WQA is a not-for-profit trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry. Since 1959, the WQA Gold Seal certification program has been certifying products that contribute to the safe consumption of water. The WQA Gold Seal program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).*

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