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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Paul Pennington to Dedicate Efforts to Pool Safety Advocacy, Step Aside from Duties at Vac-Alert**

*George Pellington to Take the Reins at Vac-Alert*

WASHINGTON, DC – Feb. 3, 2010 – Paul Pennington, president of pool safety equipment company Vac-Alert Industries, LLC, will step down from his position in order to dedicate his time to pool safety advocacy group the Pool Safety Council (PSC.)

Pennington, who has worked in pool safety for ten years, will be succeeded by Vac-Alert’s own George Pellington, a certified Professional Engineer and one of the inventors of Vac-Alert’s primary product, the Safety Vacuum Release System. Pellington has dedicated over 30 years to swimming pool safety and water hydraulics.

“While it is a difficult decision to step away from my duties at Vac-Alert, pool safety advocacy is an incredibly important component of my life,” Pennington said. “Dedicating myself to PSC will allow me to help guide the group’s efforts full-time.”

PSC, which is based in Washington, DC, is the leading voice in pool safety advocacy and research in the United States. The Council’s focus has centered on preventing drowning, the second leading cause of accidental death among children ages 1 to 14. Through comprehensive published materials and PSC’s website ([www.poolsafetycouncil.org](http://www.poolsafetycouncil.org)), the Pool Safety Council works to provide parents, caregivers and pool operators with the information they need to understand the risks of drowning and know the steps they can take to protect all recreational bathers, utilizing what the Consumer Product Safety Commission calls barriers and “layers of protection.” PSC also actively follows and disseminates important information related to local, state and federal regulations related to swimming pool safety around the country as well as working to educate the public, federal lawmakers and industry professionals about the importance of all the safety equipment necessary to comply with the law and keep swimmers safe.

A non-profit organization, members of PSC include pool industry professionals, child safety advocates, and concerned parents. PSC partners with such prominent safety groups as SafeKids USA and the Drowning Prevention Foundation to combat pool and spa hazards. The organization’s advisory board includes a wide-range of advocates and professionals including: Alan Korn of Safe Kids USA, Gary Duren of Code Compliance, and Dr. Lee Swanger, P.E. Pennington and PSC also have strong ties with former White House and Capitol Hill staff. The group works with Executive Vice President and Director of Federal Public Affairs for McGuireWoods Consulting

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Frank Donatelli, who served in the Administration of President Ronald Reagan with Secretary of State James Baker, as well as Mona Mohib who worked under Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. Paul Unger, who served as the Legislative Director on the Commerce Committee for Sen. George Allen (R-VA), also serves a role. In addition, PSC has been advised by the former South Carolina Governor James Hodges (D), who currently helms his own consulting group and many others. PSC also works with Pamela Gilbert, former Executive Director of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, as well as state legislatures, such as those in Texas and California.

The group is especially proud of working with the families of entrapment victims, helping them spread their firsthand accounts of the dangers of drain entrapment and their calls for safety measures to prevent them.

PSC is also at the pinnacle of technical research. The organization built a world-class pool safety research and testing facility it now uses to perform groundbreaking drowning prevention research, and will soon be receiving research grants for that purpose.

“Paul Pennington is a pioneer on the pool safety field, and his SVRS devices have saved countless lives,” said PSC spokesman John Procter. “PSC will benefit tremendously from his increased efforts.”

For additional information, including guidance on Pool and Spa Safety Act guidance requirements, please visit our website at: [www.poolafetycouncil.org](http://www.poolafetycouncil.org).