

July, 1999



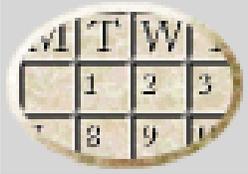
Wastewater News



Clean Water . . . a better environment
Office of Wastewater Management

Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>

Working towards Clean Water



UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

What is happening in July?

Go to the OW Calendar of Events site by clicking here

<<http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/news.nsf/owcalendar?OpenView&Grid=4&Date=1999-07-05>>

Upcoming Events

Urban Water Resource Tools

OWM, in cooperation with Region 5 and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, is co-sponsoring a National Conference on "Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection" in Chicago, February 7 - 10, 2000. The conference will provide participants with practical, applied information on the most effective tools and technology for meeting NPDES permit requirements, and will emphasize the Phase II program's six minimum measures. For more information, see <http://www.nipc.cog.il.us/water_tools_2000.htm> or contact John Kosco on (202) 260-6385.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

EPA is convening a public meeting of the Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) Federal Advisory Subcommittee to discuss the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) standard permit conditions; NPDES regulations and policies for municipal sanitary sewer collection systems. This meeting is open to the public. Advance registration is not necessary; however, seating is limited. The meeting will be on July 28-29, 1999 at the Madison Hotel (2nd floor) at 15th & L Streets, NW. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. EST and end at approximately 4:30 p.m. each day. The four consensus papers to be discussed are listed on the SSO area of the EPA web site: <<http://www.epa.gov/owm/wet.htm>>. Notice of the meeting was published in the Federal Register (which also is listed in the SSO area of the EPA web site. Questions on the meeting or web site: Sharie Centilla on (202) 260-6052.

NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course

The objective of the NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course is to provide the basic regulatory framework and technical considerations that support the development of wastewater discharge permits as required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. The course is designed for new permit writers highlighting the process of developing, issuing and complying with NPDES permits. The format of the course is a combination of lecture, case examples, and practical exercises that are geared to acquaint participants with the tools and resources available to assist them in writing NPDES permits. The training course lasts 5 days and there is no fee for attending. Due to popularity of this course, no space is currently available the rest of the year. New courses will be posted as soon as the dates and locations are confirmed. For more information please visit our website: <<http://www.epa.gov/owm/npdesup.htm>>. For more information, contact Jennifer Sachar on (202) 260-1389.

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC)

3 States Approve NETCSC Courses for Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). New York, Texas, and Oregon have approved several NETCSC courses for Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credit to meet training requirements for State certification programs. New York approved 5, Texas 6, and Oregon 11 training courses that deal with wastewater, drinking water, solid waste, and environmental management. For more information contact Betty B. Ford on (202) 260-8510.

Assessing Wastewater Options for Small Communities Course in Demand. NETCSC will offer one of its most popular courses July 8-9 in Morgantown, W. Va. St. Louis University, the National Onsite Demonstration Project, and the Colorado Environmental Health association will cosponsor the offering. The course overviews treatment technology options, financing, Federal and State regulations, how to select a consulting engineer, and effective teaching of adult learners. To register contact Sandy Miller of NETCSC at West Virginia University; P.O. Box 6064, Morgantown, WVA 26506-6064; tel 800-624-8301 ext 5536.

Wastewater Options Course Offerings Requested in 2 States. NETCSC has received requests for deliveries of the course in Minnesota and Illinois. When scheduled the offerings will be announced on NETCSC's web site: www.netc.wvu.edu. For more information contact Sandy Miller at the above address.

NETCSC's Basics of Environmental Systems Management for Local Officials Course will be offered July 15-16 in Roanoke, Va. The Southeast Rural Community Assistance Program and NETCSC will cosponsor the course. To register and for more information contact Sandy Miller of NETCSC at West Virginia University; P.O. Box 6064, Morgantown, WVA 26506-6064; tel 800-624-8301 ext 5536 or Betty B. Ford on (202) 260-8510.

NETCSC Pilot Tests New Drinking Water Management Course July 17 in State College, Pa. In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association, NETCSC will pilot test a preliminary version of its new drinking water course that will be available this fall. NETCSC seeks feedback from various audiences in different geographic areas to help assure that the course meets audience needs. Peter Shanaghan of EPA Headquarters Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water; James Wheeler, Ben Lesser, and Betty Ford of Office of Wastewater Management; and Charles Pycha of EPA Region 5 Water Division reviewed the course at key stages of development. For more information contact Betty B. Ford on (202) 260-8510.

National Environmental Health Association Annual Meeting

Special Workshop on Management of Onsite Wastewater Systems. The workshop will be held during the Onsite Wastewater Systems Conference July 6 through 8, which is part of the annual Educational Conference and Exhibition of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). The conference will be located at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Presenters at the onsite conference include Steve Hogue of EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, Jim Kreissl of EPA's Office of Research and Development, and Bob Rubin of USDA, who is on temporary assignment to EPA. Topics include a summary of EPA's activity in decentralized wastewater treatment, application of proper designs, and steps to follow in establishing a local management program for onsite treatment systems. For more information, contact NEHA at (303) 756-9090.

3 The Office of Wastewater Management

EPA/WEF Pretreatment Training Courses

Two Pretreatment Training Courses are now offered. The EPA Office of Wastewater Management is continuing to co-sponsor Pretreatment Training Courses with the Water Environment Federation in 1999 by offering both Fundamentals and Advanced courses.

The Fundamentals (or “Basic”) Course is designed to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework on the development and implementation of pretreatment programs. The Course is recommended for environmental professionals responsible for implementing the Pretreatment Program at the local level, for industrial dischargers and consultants, and is especially designed for individuals that are new to the program. The tentative 1999 schedule for this course is: July 19-20 - Detroit, Michigan; September 20-21 - Portland, Oregon.

Industrial User Classification & Permitting (or the “Advanced”) Course uses problem solving exercises and group discussions to reinforce materials presented in lectures, and is recommended for individuals that have pretreatment experience and/or that have taken the fundamentals course. The tentative 1999 schedule for this course is: June 28-29 - Nashville, TN; July 19-21, Detroit, MI.

For more information, contact Patrick Bradley at (202) 260-6963.

Youth and the Environment Training and Employment Program

Start up at the various Youth and the Environment sites will begin in July. There will be approximately 35 students trained in different aspects of the environment.

Please contact Curt Baranowski on (202) 260-5806 for information regarding the above-mentioned matter.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Proposed Rule on Electronic Reporting in the NPDES Program

EPA is proposing changes to its NPDES regulations to allow reports and other information to be submitted electronically. When EPA promulgated the current NPDES regulations, the Agency did not anticipate the need for electronic reporting. Consequently, the current regulations do not specifically address use of electronic reporting technologies. The proposed rule would establish criteria for electronic reporting and a specific process and conditions for electronic reporting of discharge monitoring reports (DMR) to EPA. The proposal addresses electronic signature, certification, and record keeping requirements that permittees would follow when submitting forms to EPA electronically. We expect to publish a proposed rule in July, 1999. For more information, contact Brian Frazer on (202) 260-0101.

Final Rule for NPDES Municipal Permit Application Forms and Regulatory Revisions

The current NPDES Permit Application regulations and forms will be revised to reflect amendments to the Clean Water Act and changes in program requirements and emphasis. This action would also develop a sewage sludge permit application form and revise permit application regulations to foster the issuance of permits implementing the Agency's standards for sludge use or disposal. The proposal was published in the Federal Register on December 6, 1995. Comment review is complete and we are expecting the final rule in July, 1999. For more information, contact Wendy Bell on (202) 260-9534.

**Streamlining the General Pretreatment Regulations
for Existing and New Sources of Pollution
(Proposed Rulemaking #2040-AC58)**

The proposal will streamline portions of the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403) to reduce the burden from technical and administrative requirements that affect industrial users, Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and Regional and State Control Authorities. We anticipate publication of the proposed rule in July. For further information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

Information Collection Request for Construction Grants Delegation to States

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), EPA is soliciting comments on the continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) for the Construction Grants Delegation to States (40 CFR Part 35, Subpart J), (EPA ICR 0909.06 expires December 31, 1999, OMB Control Number 2040-0095). The notice for soliciting the comments on the proposed ICR will be published in the Federal Register in the first week of July 1999. Comments must be submitted within 60 days after publication of the notice. For further information, contact Gajindar Singh on (202) 260-4266.

OTHER INFORMATION

Charter Renewal: Urban Wet Weather Flows Advisory Committee; the Storm Water Phase II Advisory Subcommittee; and the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Advisory Subcommittee

EPA renewed the Charter for the Urban Wet Weather Flows Advisory Committee and its two subcommittees for an additional 2-year period. The renewal was published in the Federal Register last month. For more information, call Sharie Centilla at (202) 260-6052 or Kevin Weiss at (202) 260-9524.

National Drought Policy Commission

The National Drought Policy Act of 1998 established the National Drought Policy Commission to provide advice and recommendations on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies. The six at-large members have been named and background clearances for other Commission nominees are now being conducted. The first Commission meeting and public hearing have been tentatively scheduled for July 22-23, 1999. The Commission will meet a minimum of three times and hold 2-4 public meetings. EPA is represented on three of the five working groups, each of which drafted a section for the Commissioners briefing books. The Interagency Contact Group, of which Mike Cook is a member, provided comments on June 23, 1999. For more information, contact John Flowers on 202-260-7288.

Water Conservation Requirements in Final MWRA Permit

On May 20, 1999, EPA Region 1 and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection announced the issuance of the NPDES permit for the discharge of effluent from the Deer Island Treatment Plant to Massachusetts Bay and from 14 CSOs to Boston Harbor and several rivers. Among its notable aspects, the permit contains stringent requirements for water conservation. There have been five appeals of the permit to date. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), its Board, and the Charles River Association have appealed the water conservation provisions. More information can be found at www.epa.gov/region01/reginit/overview.html or by contacting John Flowers (202) 260-7288.

Water and Sewer Improvements for Northampton County, Virginia

A grant application has been submitted by the Northampton County Planning Commission to Region 3 for \$30,000 in 104(b)(3) funding for a study to evaluate reasons for failing on-site sewer systems in three communities: Fairview, Culls, and Cheapside. The study will assess the impact of these systems on drinking water wells and will include an analysis of the feasibility and cost of corrective actions. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell at (202) 260-7255.

Eligibility of Indoor Plumbing Under Alaska Sanitation Infrastructure Grant Program

On June 17, 1999, OWM issued a determination to Region X that indoor plumbing, laterals and hookups, as part of a wastewater construction project, is an eligible cost item under the EPA Alaska Sanitation Infrastructure Grant Program. The eligibility of these items were raised by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, who is the grant recipient of the \$30 million awarded by Region X this year for construction of drinking water and wastewater systems. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell on (202) 260-7255.

Evaluation of Corps Engineers Construction Project for Alaska Native Villages

The Municipal Assistance Branch in MSD is working with Region X staff to assess the capability and effectiveness of the Corps work on a demonstration project in the Native Village of Buckland, located in the Northwest Arctic Borough. MAB provided \$25,000, which will be added to regional funds, for the development of an evaluation instrument. The evaluation will include the views of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Public Health Service (IHS) and others. A grant will soon be awarded to the University of Alaska Anchorage (Institute of Social and Economic Research) for the evaluation. Findings will be included in a report mandated by Congress. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell on (202) 260-7255.

National Onsite Demonstration Project

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse recently submitted a report to Congress regarding progress and accomplishments under the National Onsite Demonstration Project. The project, funded by Congress through EPA's budget and administered by the Clearinghouse is entering its fifth phase of funding. Begun in 1993, the project has received \$6 million of funding for the purpose of demonstrating alternative onsite and decentralized wastewater technologies and management programs. A broad range of alternative technologies have been installed in the 13 states who are currently participating.. Copies of the report may be obtained from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 800-624-8301. For more information, contact Steve Hogue (202) 260-5841.

RCAP's Highlights of Selected Small Community Wastewater Projects

The Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) provides on-site technical and financial management assistance to small, rural communities. RCAP targets communities with operations, financing, management, construction and compliance needs. For the FY 1998 project year, RCAP provided community-specific technical and financial management assistance for 102 projects in 26 states. The small community wastewater project is funded by a Congressional add-on grant. Visit OWM's small community website at <www.epa.gov/owm/1rcap.htm> for highlights of how small, rural communities have benefitted from RCAP's efforts. For more information, call Maria Campbell at (202) 260-5815.

END OF REPORT

6 The Office of Wastewater Management