

November, 1999



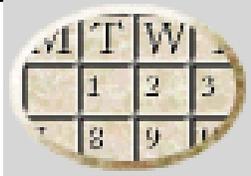
Wastewater News



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 November?

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.

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 new 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 Drought Policy Commission

The Interagency Contacts Group (ICG) of the National Drought Policy Commission (NDPC) will meet on November 3-4, 1999 in the USDA Administration Building to discuss the draft final report to be presented to the Commission for consideration at their business meeting in Los Angeles on December 2, 1999. The ICG will also discuss a proposed agenda for the Los Angeles meeting. For more information, contact John Flowers on 202-260-7288 or visit the NDPC website at <www.fsa.usda.gov/drought/>.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Storm Water Phase II Final Rule

The Storm Water Phase II final rule was signed on Friday, October 29, on the date set by the court-ordered schedule. In addition, the Report to Congress required by the recent appropriations legislation was signed on Thursday, October 28, and provided to Congress prior to promulgation of the Phase II rule. The Agency provided a briefing on the final rule for Senate EPW staff on Monday, November 1. The following documents have all been posted in pdf format on our web page <<http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2>>: (1) the final rule, preamble and attachments; (2) the report to congress; (3) the press release; and (4) the fact sheet. For more information, contact George Utting on (202) 260-9530.

Direct Final Rule for EPA's Clean Water Act Awards aka., National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards

Work is continuing on a draft direct final rule and companion proposed rule for EPA's Clean Water Act awards. The rule will formalize the eligibility requirements, nominations process, application provisions and selection criteria for the Office of Wastewater Management's National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards programs. The rule will include awards for Operations and Maintenance, Beneficial Use of Biosolids, Pretreatment, Storm Water Management and Combined Sewer Overflow Controls. For more information, contact Maria Campbell at (202) 260-5815.

Final Guidance on the Award of Grants to Indian Tribes Under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act for FY 2000 and Future Years

On August 2, 1999, the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) issued updated guidance to provide EPA Regions with policy and procedures for award and oversight of assistance grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). This guidance supersedes the previously issued guidance of June 20, 1995. The guidance provides the basis for negotiations with EPA's tribal partners who play a vital role in protecting and restoring the Nation's waters, and is to be shared with these partners. The guidance addresses key elements of the CWA Section 106 Tribal Grant Program— program eligibilities, priorities, funding allocations, cost-sharing, performance evaluation, and progress reporting. The program priorities for the main program activities funded by Section 106 grants are: monitoring; water quality standards; permits issuance; and enforcement and compliance assurance. Section 106 grant funds may also be used to fund those activities eligible under Section 106, in support of conducting Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) Unified Watershed Assessments (UWA), establishing UWA Restoration Priorities, and developing UWA Restoration Strategies, as approved by the Regional Administrator. Section 106 grant funds are eligible for inclusion in a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG). Tribes are encouraged to organize their grant work plans around environmental program goals and objectives to assist EPA in complying with requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), Public Law 103-62.

For further information contact Clarence Braddock on (202) 260-5828 or by email at braddock.clarence@epa.gov.

Section 316(b) - Cooling Water Intake Structure Rule

Pursuant to the Consent Decree in Cronin, et al. v. Browner, the Quarterly Status Report was filed in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York on October 18, 1999. This report summarizes EPA's actions, during the last quarter, to propose and take final action with respect to regulations under § 316(b) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"). The report is located on the 316(b) web site [http://www.epa.gov/owm/316\(b\).htm](http://www.epa.gov/owm/316(b).htm).

On August 27, 1999, EPA published a notice in the Federal Register (64 Fed. Reg. 46,908) announcing that it had submitted the information collection request (ICR) for the detailed questionnaire to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. The questionnaire and the ICR are described in previous Quarterly Status Reports and in Mr. Fox's Declaration.

3 The Office of Wastewater Management

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3501, *et seq.*, OMB is to review and approve or disapprove the ICR within 60 days of the date of its receipt, unless the time period for review is extended by OMB. EPA received comments on the detailed questionnaire from six entities. OMB currently is reviewing the questionnaire and the ICR.

For further information, contact Deborah Nagle on (202)260-2656 or by email at nagle.deborah@epa.gov.

OTHER INFORMATION

National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards Presentation

On Monday, October 11, 1999, J. Charles Fox and Mike Cook presented 46 inscribed plaques at EPA's National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards presentation during the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) Technical Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. About 300 people attended the presentation ceremony to recognize first and second place national winners for outstanding technological achievements or innovative processes, methods or devices in waste treatment and pollution abatement programs. In addition to the inscribed plaques, first place winners also received plant flags. A Federal Register Notice was published on October 5, 1999 to announce the 1999 national award winners and the ceremony. Also an article of EPA's national awards winners is published in the October issue of WEF's Operations Forum magazine. For more information, contact Maria Campbell on (202) 260-5815.

Biosolids

The radiological survey being undertaken by EPA (ORIA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of sewage sludge/ash samples from 300 POTWs is now underway. Over 400 completed survey questionnaires surveys have been returned out of the 631 questionnaire's that were sent out in June to seek volunteer participation in the survey effort; we think the positive joint letter from AMSA and WEF that accompanied the questionnaire may have had a lot to do with achieving this high response rate. Sampling kits were to be sent out to the first 25 POTWs by the end of September. The report (EPA 832-R-99-900; May 1999) containing the results of the nine test sites and the basic survey design and questionnaire is now available on the ORIA web page at <<http://www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/tenorm/docs/sludgereport.htm>>. For more information, contact Bob Bastian in OWM at (202) 260-7378.

Permits Division has Reorganized to Form the New Water Permits Division

The Permits Division in the Office of Wastewater Management has reorganized to form the new Water Permits Division with four customer focused Branches and a new Associate Division Director. The Division management team is:

Division Director.....	Chuck Sutfin.....	202/260-9545
Associate Division Director.....	Elaine Brenner.....	202/260-4933
Municipal Branch.....	Jeff Lape.....	202/260-6057
Industrial Branch.....	Pat Bradley (acting).....	202/260-6963
Rural Branch.....	Gail Cooper (acting).....	202/260-9403
State/Regional Branch.....	Rob Wood.....	202/260-9536

The new organization is designed to help serve municipal, industrial, rural, state, and regional customers better through improved program integration, accountability and administration of the Division's resources.

National Onsite Demonstration Project

The National Onsite Demonstration Project, funded by Congress through EPA's budget and administered by the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) has just received funding for a sixth phase as part of EPA's budget for fiscal year 2000. Begun in 1993, the project has received \$7.25 million of funding for the purpose of demonstrating alternative onsite and decentralized wastewater technologies and management programs. Recent products include development of national databases on onsite demonstration projects, existing management programs, and state enabling legislation for management entities. Statistics on septic systems nationally are being added to the NSFC web site www.nsfrc.wvu.edu. Copies of a report to Congress on the program and a report summarizing Phase I results may be obtained from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 800-624-8301. For more information, contact Steve Hogy (202) 260-5841.

Baseline Information on Small Community Wastewater and Financial Assistance Needs

On October 12, 1999, OWM widely distributed four fact sheets that describe the (1) wastewater treatment and disposal needs of small communities (10,000 or fewer people), and (2) the level of financial assistance provided to them. Data from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing, the 1996 EPA Needs Survey, the USDA/RUS Facilities Tracking System, and the CW State Revolving Fund are presented by state. Copies can be obtained from the Office of Water's Resource Center at (202) 260-7786. By mid-November, the fact sheets will be available via the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/OWMsmallc.htm>, under the "small communities publications" button. The data show that though progress is being made, the wastewater treatment and financial needs of communities of with fewer than 10,000 people are still great. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell at (202) 260-7255.

Tribal Success Stories Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Grant Program

OWM has posted on its website (<http://www.epa.gov/OWM/indian/>) five stories where Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages (ANVs) overcame many obstacles to obtain basic wastewater treatment and disposal facilities for their residents. OWM's CW Indian Set-Aside Grant Program, as authorized under section 518(c) of the CWA, provides grant funds (up to 100 percent of eligible project costs). All federally-recognized tribes and ANVs are eligible to receive funding. The stories describe how a tribe (1) went from hand-dug pit privies to a collection system and lagoon, (2) dealt with an EPA issued Compliance Order, (3) addressed an outbreak of hepatitis due to unsafe disposal practices, (4) hired an Indian-owned engineering firm to correct a serious, ongoing wastewater facility discharge problem, and (5) eliminated a honey bucket haul system. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell at (202) 260-7255.

END OF REPORT