

October, 1999



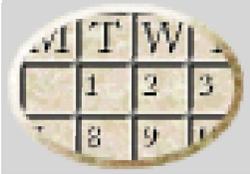
Wastewater News



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 October?

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

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC)

NETCSC "Assessment of Wastewater Options" Course Offered at Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) 20th Anniversary Conference October 13-14 in Minneapolis. MAP, the Midwest chapter of the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), expects the conference will draw trainers and local officials from as many as nine midwestern and western States served by MAP. NETCSC Director Richard Phalunas and trainer Mary Alice Dunn will represent NETCSC at the conference. For more information contact Betty B. Ford at 202-260-8510.

NETCSC Joins Three Minnesota Organizations to Cosponsor a National Satellite Conference October 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT. NETCSC along with three Minnesota organizations will cosponsor a live satellite conference to be presented by the University of Minnesota Extension Service Onsite Sewage Treatment Program October 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT. Other sponsors of the conference titled "The Next Generation of Sewage Treatment (Flushing in the New Millennium)" are Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Contractors Association, and Minnesota Department of Health. The conference is targeted to homeowners, local officials and staff, and industry professionals. Participants will learn how several alternative treatment technologies are being used to treat wastewater from individual households and small communities. For more information contact Betty B. Ford at 202-260-8510.

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.nipccog.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

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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 National Drought Policy Commission (NDPC) held a public hearing and a business meeting on September 22, 1999 in the USDA Administration Building. Nearly thirty people testified at the hearing including representatives from the agricultural community, the water industry, local government organizations, state governments, and the Federal government.

The business meeting was chaired initially by Agriculture Secretary Glickman. All Commissioners have been formally named. Ron Morriss, Santa Cruz County (Ariz.) Supervisor representing the National Association of Counties, was elected Vice-Chairman. The Commission has formally requested a 6-month extension of its report deadline to June 17, 2000. The Commissioners will issue a document for public comment in mid-November. A schedule of public hearings was tentatively developed which includes El Paso in October, Los Angeles in the first week of December, Billings (Mont) in January, and Austin (Tex) in February. For more information, contact John Flowers on 202-260-7288 or visit the NDPC website at <www.fsa.usda.gov/drought/>.

Small Underserved Communities Team Field Trip

On September 22, members of the Municipal Support Division's Small Underserved Communities team participated in a field trip with staff of the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) to Cromwell Township, Pennsylvania. The team met and conferred with RCAP technical assistance providers and small community leaders in the Northeast. For more information, contact Maria Campbell on (202) 260-5815.

15th Annual On-Site Wastewater Conference North Carolina State University October 19-21, 1999

This conference also serves as a training session on on-site wastewater technologies, and will cover "teams, tools and training." Steve Hogue of MSD will be giving a presentation on EPA's activities in the area of decentralized wastewater treatment, and a number of other concurrent sessions, as well as a field trip, are planned. For more information, contact Joni Tanner, NCSU at 919-513-1678, joni_tanner@ncsu.edu.

NOWRA Annual Conference and Exhibit Jekyll Island, Georgia November 3-6, 1999

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) conference will include a range of speakers from throughout the country to discuss on-site wastewater treatment topics. Conference attendance is normally about 500 people. Steve Hogue of MSD will be giving a presentation on EPA's activities in the area of decentralized wastewater treatment. For more information, consult NOWRA's home page (www.nowra.org) or contact NOWRA at 1-800-966-2942.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Revisions to the NPDES and WQS Regulations in Support of the Total Maximum Daily Load Rule

On August 12, 1990, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Carol Browner signed proposed revisions to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations (40 CFR Part 130) for implementing state, territorial, authorized tribal, and EPA responsibilities under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Administrator Browner also signed proposed revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Water Quality Standards regulations to facilitate implementation of TMDLs and to improve water quality in impaired waters before TMDLs are established. The proposed revisions to the NPDES and water quality standards regulations (40 CFR Parts 122, 123, 124 and 131) are designed to achieve reasonable further progress toward attainment of water quality standards in impaired waterbodies pending TMDL establishment, and to provide reasonable assurance that TMDLs, once completed, will be adequately implemented. For more information about the TMDL rule, please visit the following web sites: <http://www.epa.gov/owm/featinfo.htm> or <http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl/index.html> or contact Kim Kramer on (202) 260-7933.

Draft Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

On August 6, 1999, the draft *Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations* was made available for public review and comment. The draft guidance serves as a blueprint for Regional and State permitting authorities to improve implementation of the NPDES permit program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) under the existing regulations. The draft guidance is available now on our web-site, and can be accessed at: <http://www.epa.gov/owm> or contact Greg Beatty on (202) 260-6929.

Final Rule for NPDES Municipal Permit Application Forms and Regulatory Revisions

The current NPDES Permit Application regulations and forms have been revised and published. They will be available on the Office of Wastewater Management web site this month at <<http://www.epa.gov/owm/>>. This amendment to the Clean Water Act changes program requirements and emphasis. This action also develops a sewage sludge permit application form and revises permit application regulations to foster the issuance of permits implementing the Agency's standards for sludge use or disposal. 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 published proposal streamlines 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. This information will be available on the Office of Wastewater Management web site this month at <<http://www.epa.gov/owm/>>. For further information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

Draft EPA Variability Guidance

This document was developed by an EPA work group to address questions raised by stakeholders on the issue of analytic

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variability that might be associated with WET testing and how it related to the NPDES permit program (i.e., water quality based effluent permit limitations for WET). The draft guidance is available to the public from the OW docket by contacting the OW docket (Phone: (202) 260-3027) between the hours of Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM (Eastern Standard Time). If you have additional technical questions on the draft guidance, please contact either project manager Debra Denton at ((415) 744-1919, E-mail: denton.debra@epamail.epa.gov) or Laura Phillips ((202) 260-9522, E-mail: phillips.laura@epamail.epa.gov).

Direct Final Rule for EPA's Clean Water Act Awards and National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards

A draft direct final rule is currently being finalized 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 programs for Operations and Maintenance, Beneficial Use of Biosolids, Pretreatment, Storm Water Management and Combined Sewer Overflow Controls.

First and second place winners have been selected and notified for the EPA's 1999 National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards. Winners are recognized for outstanding technological achievements or innovative processes, methods or devices in waste treatment and pollution abatement programs. National winners will be invited to receive an inscribed plaque at a ceremony during the Water Environment Federation's annual conference on October 11, 1999, in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition, a Federal Register notice has been prepared announcing the winners. For more information, contact Maria Campbell on (202) 260-5815.

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

Water Efficiency Page Expands

OWM's Water Efficiency web page has been reorganized and expanded to include more information on the various aspects of the Water Efficiency Program. The site includes OW's Statement of Principles on Efficiency Water Use, more information on Water Alliances for Voluntary Efficiency, the Water Conservation Plan Guidelines, Drought Management, publications, and many links to other useful sites. For more information contact John Flowers on (202) 260-7288 or Valerie Martin on (202) 260-7259.

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) 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. 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 or of a report summarizing Phase I results may be obtained from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 800-624-8301. For more information, contact Steve Hogue (202) 260-5841.

Water and Sewer Improvements for Northampton County, Virginia

EPA awarded a grant to the Northampton County Planning Commission on September 10, 1999 for \$30,000 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 for corrective action. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell at (202) 260-7255.

Biosolids

Joint NRC/EPA Sewage Sludge Radiological Survey: Survey Design and Test Site Results was recently issued by EPA (OWM & ORIA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (EPA 832-R-99-900; May 1999; <<http://www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/tenorm/docs/sludgereport.htm>>). The document presents the results of radioisotope analyses of sewage sludge and ash samples from nine test sites used to evaluate the procedures that will be used in an expanded survey of ~300 POTWs being conducted over the next year by a Subcommittee of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS). The objectives of the 300-site survey are to: 1) obtain data on the levels of radioactive materials in sludge and ash at POTWs from across the country, 2) estimate the extent to which radioactive contamination comes from either NRC/State licensees or naturally-occurring radioactivity, and 3) support potential rulemaking decisions by NRC or EPA, if necessitated by the survey results. Along with an ongoing dose modeling effort, the results of the survey will be used to help finalize a joint guidance document for POTWs being developed by the ISCORS Subcommittee on dealing with radioactive materials in sewage sludge and ash first issued for comment in May 1997. For more information, contact Bob Bastian in OWM at (202) 260-7378.

END OF REPORT