

October, 1998



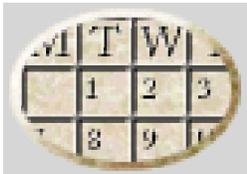
Wastewater News



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

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC)

NETCSC Course Scheduled for Two Missouri Towns. The Southern Ozark Planning Commission of Missouri will cosponsor two presentations of NETCSC's *Assessing Wastewater Options for Small Communities* course in Missouri; the first was on September 25 in Pomona and the other is scheduled for October 16 in Mansfield. The course is geared to environmental trainers and small community local officials. For more information contact Betty B. Ford 260-8510.

Meetings, Conferences and Training by the Date

Dates	Activity	Location	Contact
10/2-3/98	Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Training	Orlando, Fl.	Laura Phillips (202) 260-9522
10/14-15/98	SRF Funding Framework Workshop	Region X	Dan Steinborn (206) 553-2728
10/27-30/98	The Pretreatment Team will be hosting a meeting of the State and Regional Pretreatment Program Coordinators to discuss national initiatives. During this week, EPA and AMSA will be cosponsoring the National Pretreatment Program Workshop. This workshop will include presentations by EPA, State and POTWs related to the National Pretreatment program (e.g., Mercury Report to Congress, Radioactivity, Effluent Guidelines)	Kansas City, MO	Pat Bradley (202) 260-6963
10/27-28/98	SRF Funding Framework Workshop	Region VII	Brian Friel (303) 312-6277
10/27-29/98	Council of State/Community Development Agencies (COSFDA) meeting to discuss infrastructure financing and share best practices information	Portland, OR	Angela Cracchiolo (202) 260-7862

2 The Office of Wastewater Management

Title VI Federal Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting

The National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, Title VI Implementation Advisory Committee will be holding a meeting on October 19-20, 1998 (location to be determined). Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin in their programs or activities. The purpose of this committee is to review and evaluate existing tools, techniques and processes for 1) assessing whether disparate impacts based on race, color, or national origin have occurred or have the potential to occur; 2) mitigating disparate impacts where they occur; and 3) operating environmental permitting programs in compliance with Title VI. For more information, contact Mahesh Podar on (202) 260-5387.

Environmental Technology Verification Grants Awarded

The Office of Research and Development awarded Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) grants for 2 pilot projects, one for Source Water Protection (which includes decentralized treatment of wastewater), and the other for wet weather flow (Sanitary Sewer Overflows, Combined Sewer Overflows and storm water) to the National Sanitation Foundation International (NSFI).

NSFI is the partner that will operate the testing center. A stakeholder group will be convened for each pilot in the fall. For more information, contact Joyce Hudson, Municipal Technology Branch, on (202) 260-1290.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Cooling Water Intake Structures (316(b) rulemaking)

On September 10 and 11, 1998, EPA held a day and half public meeting in Alexandria, Virginia to discuss issues related to the 316(b) rulemaking effort. Over 100 individuals representing industry, environmental groups (including the lead plaintiff in this lawsuit), academia, other Federal agencies, the public, and the States of New York and Pennsylvania were in attendance. The focus of the meeting was on technology issues, cost issues, and mitigation issues raised by this rulemaking effort. The summary of the meeting should be available in mid-October on EPA's 316(b) web site at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/316b.htm>. EPA will be accepting written submissions through October 30, 1998, on issues discussed at the meeting. The issues discussed may also be viewed on the Agency's 316(b) web site noted above. For more information, contact Deborah Nagle on (202) 260-2656.

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 this fall. For more information contact Robin Danesi on (202) 260-2991.

Forest Roads

The Office of Wastewater Management (OWM)/ Permits Division (PD) has begun work on the Clean Water Action Plan item concerning the consideration of revising existing regulations to allow permitting of forest roads and developing a pilot forest roads permitting program on federal lands. OWM has been working very closely with the Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW) on this effort. Our most recent accomplishments include meeting with the American Forestry & Paper

3 The Office of Wastewater Management

Association to discuss this item, developing a statement work to begin researching existing studies of this issue, and working to arrange a meeting with the Forest Service. For more information, contact Howard Rubin on (202) 260-2051.

OTHER NEWS...

Municipal Technology Branch Technical Fact Sheets on Year 2000 for Wastewater Plants

The Municipal Technology Branch (MTB), in cooperation with the Office of Water (OW) and the Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, is developing fact sheets and other technical information to assist municipalities in meeting Y2K compliance. This technical information will also be provided to users by regions, states and tribes. Trade and professional associations are working with MTB to get the word out, and disseminate the technical information. For further information see the agency home page for Y2K: <http://www.epa.gov/year2000> and the OW Action Plan for Y2K listed under it. For more information, contact James Wheeler on (202) 260-5827.

1998 National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards

J. Charles Fox, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, will present awards to the recipients of EPA's National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards on October 5, 1998, at the Water Environment Federation annual conference in Orlando, Florida. These awards in operations and maintenance, beneficial use of biosolids, pretreatment, storm water management and combined sewer overflow control, are provided to industries, municipalities, and individuals who demonstrate an outstanding technological achievement, method, or device in wastewater treatment and pollution abatement programs. For more information, Maria Campbell on (202) 260-5815.

CWA 104(g) Operator Assistance and Training Activities

Information about the wastewater treatment plant on-site assistance training program [104(g)] will be posted on the Office of Wastewater Management's Internet home-page, under the small-communities icon. This information should be posted as of October 1, 1998. In addition, the 104(g) Regional Coordinators and Headquarters are discussing improvements to the existing compliance assistance database, or creating a spread sheet to better track the accomplishments of the 104(g) program. Compliance assistance tracking shall be implemented in all Regions in early 1999. Finally, plans are under way to create a quarterly or semi-annual 104(g) newsletter/report. For more information, contact Curt Baranowski, 260-5806.

State Revolving Fund Announces Automated Clearing House Guide

As part of EPA's efforts to implement the new Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program, a low interest loan program for drinking water infrastructure, EPA is publishing a Guide to Using EPA's Automated Clearing House for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This Guide will explain to States how funds flow through the DWSRF program and how to draw funds from the Federal government. It will be available in hard copy and on the EPA web site in October 1998. For more detailed information, contact Stephanie vonFeck (202) 260-9762.