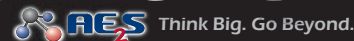


The Update

December 2008



USEPA Corrections to Stage 2 D/DBP Rule

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recently published minor corrections to the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (D/DBP), requesting comment by January 13, 2009. The corrections included clarification that systems serving 500-9,999 people will be required to conduct routine monitoring for both total trihalomethane (TTHM) and haloacetic acid (HAA5) concentrations at two locations. The original rule erroneously noted these systems were only required to monitor for either TTHM or HAA5 at two locations. Also included in the minor corrections was an updated list of approved laboratory methods. ■

Secondary Treatment Regulations Under Petition

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has submitted a petition to the USEPA to revise its secondary treatment regulations to include discharge limitations for nitrogen and phosphorus. These revisions could have significant consequences for wastewater treatment plants across the country. The USEPA is working with the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Agencies (ASIWPCA) to gather input on this issue. They are asking sewage treatment operators to respond to a questionnaire about their respective

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There have been a number of proposals and recommendations for the new Obama administration, including the Waterkeeper Alliance's Blueprint for Clean Water and a collaborated National Agenda for Drinking Water (Agenda) prepared by the American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Water Companies, and the National Rural Water Association.

Water Recommendations for the Obama Administration

The Waterkeeper Blueprint challenged the new administration to look into a number of issues, including restoring protection to creeks, rivers, streams, and many acres of wetlands across the country that have lost federal protection over the last few years. The water bodies are now open to development, industrial waste, agricultural damage, and storm water pollution. The Waterkeeper Alliance suggests passing bills such as the Clean Water Restoration Act and the Clean Water Protection Act, which would specify certain rules to avoid loopholes. The Waterkeeper Alliance also suggests increasing funding for enforcement resources and staff to uphold consequences to offenders. Current stormwater runoff regulations were also targeted for reform to clarify construction stormwater runoff limitations, and current oil and gas industry regulations were identified for revision. The Waterkeeper Alliance recommended that existing wastewater system infrastructure be assessed, as it believes America's wastewater systems are in need of upgrades to prevent overflow into public waterways. Other priorities include upgrades in treatment standards, the development of new system designs, the repair of old systems, and sufficient funding for implementation.

The Agenda included a number of recommendations such as support for funding within the economic stimulus package for drinking water infrastructure improvement projects. The Agenda suggests offering federal assistance to utilities through long-term, low-or-no interest loans and tax incentives. In addition, grants could help communities deal with sanitary sewer overflow mandates and other water projects. The Agenda speculates using federal assistance programs will encourage utilities to become self-sustaining, and utilities will commit to implementing measures to transition to local rates and charges that reflect the cost of service and implementation of long-term asset management programs. The Agenda also requests funding to assess the impacts of climate change on drinking water resources and assist utilities in adapting to climate change. It recommends working with Congress to ensure chemical facility security legislation does not force utilities to change processes that are not necessarily a safer technology such as disinfection.

Additional information on these documents can be found at www.waterkeeper.org and www.awwa.org. ■

(Petition Input from first page)

facilities so they can take everyone's input into account when deciding whether or not they support the NRDC petition. Some issues raised to date consist of NACWA questions regarding the legal basis for the petition, costs for nutrient controls that are far greater than the NRDC estimates, and other environmental issues such as carbon footprint. The questionnaire can be accessed at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228GL9DUTXY>. The pre-publication and comment submittal information can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/guide/construction/>. ■

USEPA Effluent Limitations on Construction Sites

The USEPA is proposing a regulation to reinforce existing controls for construction activity. The proposed rule would implement a set of non-numeric effluent limitations requiring discharges from **all** construction to maintain effective erosion control, sediment control, and other pollution prevention from stormwater and other wastewater from construction sites. Sites disrupting 10 or more acres at a time would be required to install a sediment basin for stormwater runoff. This rule would also impose turbidity limits of 13 nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs) for active treatment systems and a turbidity level of 50 to 150 NTUs on passive treatment systems. The limits are intended to remove particles such as clays and fine silts that cannot be effectively removed by conventional methods such as sediment basins and sediment traps. The prepublication and comment submission information can be found at www.regulations.gov, refer to Document ID EPA-HQ-OW-2008-0465-0002. Comments must be submitted by February 26, 2008. ■

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