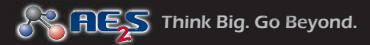


# The Update

January 2011



## *Geologic Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide Rule Finalized*

**T**he US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has finalized requirements for the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program. The final rule establishes a new class of well (Class VI) and sets minimum criteria for siting, construction, testing, monitoring, funding, and closure.

The regulation, which became effective on January 10, 2011, is designed to protect underground sources of drinking water by regulating the capture and geological sequestration of carbon by underground injection.

In a separate, yet complementary rule, the USEPA has finalized greenhouse gas reporting requirements for facilities that conduct geologic sequestration. The USEPA will be able to track the amount of carbon dioxide received by these facilities through the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.

For more information, please visit [http://water.epa.gov/safewater/uic/wells\\_sequestration.html](http://water.epa.gov/safewater/uic/wells_sequestration.html) or contact AE2S. ■

## *Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program*

**T**he USEPA published a list of 135 chemicals to be screened for their potential effects on the endocrine systems of humans and wildlife. The list includes products such as solvents, gasoline, plastics,

(continued on back)

**W**hat do the terms Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Numeric Nutrient Standards, Advanced Biological Nutrient Removal Processes, Total Phosphorus, Total Nitrogen, etc., mean to you? If you live in North Dakota or

## **What Wastewater Regulations Mean to You**

South Dakota, your answer may be simply that you have heard of them before, but they are not impacting your utility,

so you do not know much. On either side of North Dakota and South Dakota, however, these terms have much more meaning, perhaps even leading to major capital improvements.

Unlike Federal Drinking Water Standards that are typically implemented by the USEPA uniformly in all states, wastewater discharge permits are largely handled on a state by state basis. While drinking water standards are based on public health and human consumptive uses that are largely consistent across the nation, discharges into rivers, lakes, groundwaters, and streams are much more regionally specific due to a wide range of variables that impact the environmental health of a particular watershed.

In each month of 2011, AE2S will present an article aimed at defining specific regulatory terms, outlining how they vary in our north central United States service area and helping you determine what they could mean to you. AE2S will provide you with a national perspective on the regulations and also outline compliance options that are being developed.

If you live in an area where these regulations are looming or are on the horizon, it may be time to evaluate what impacts these regulations may have on your community. One approach for this evaluation would entail a limited amount of effort, consisting of information collection through a simple interview with system managers, followed by development of a System Fact Sheet and/or presentation effort aimed at informing decision makers of potential impacts. Finally, with stakeholder input, various planning initiatives can be developed to get your utility moving in the right direction.

If you live in an area where these regulations are in your distant future, but not immediately pressing, our goal is to keep you informed of what is happening in other regions and help you play an active role in establishing regulatory protocol in your region when the time is right.

In either case, in 2011 *The Update* will provide you with the information that you need to know regarding nutrient regulations in your region. For further information on nutrient regulations and/or to learn more about a Community Evaluation please contact Judel Buls, PE at 406-250-5666 or [Judel.Buls@ae2s.com](mailto:Judel.Buls@ae2s.com), or Scott Schaefer, PE at 763-463-5036, or [Scott.Schaefer@ae2s.com](mailto:Scott.Schaefer@ae2s.com). ■

*(Endocrine Disruptors from first page)*

*personal care products, and pharmaceuticals, including benzene, perchlorate, urethane, ethylene glycol, and erythromycin.*

*Endocrine disruptors interact with and potentially disrupt hormones produced or secreted by human or animal endocrine systems. These hormones regulate growth, metabolism, and reproduction.*

*The information gathered through the screening process will help the USEPA identify whether additional testing is necessary or whether other steps are necessary to address potential endocrine-disrupting chemicals.*

*For more information on this topic, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/endo> or contact AE2S. ■*

## Significant Non-Compliers

**T**he USEPA published a National Trends Report on Public Water System Historical Significant Non - Compliers (HSNC) in October. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, each state is required to submit a list of water systems with a history of significant non-compliance, which is defined as violations lasting at least 3 quarters during a 3-year period. States use the HSNC list to prioritize technical assistance and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund resources. The National Trends Report is used to summarize the HSNC list and identifies challenges that impede system capacity and how some states have addressed these challenges.

Results of the HSNC list show that about 8 percent of small (population served less than 3,301) community water systems were HSNCs from 2006-2008. Small systems have the highest percentage of systems on the HSNC list, which the USEPA attributes to lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure, difficulty obtaining financial assistance, cost of scale, management limitations, lack of long – term planning, system operator issues, and challenges with understanding and/or complying with regulations. Only 2 percent of the total community water systems in the states of North Dakota and Minnesota were on the HSNC list, while 6 percent of South Dakota systems, 9 percent of Montana systems, and 4 percent of Wyoming systems were on the HSNC list. On average, 90 percent of those on the HSNC list are small systems. The most frequent violations were related to reporting requirements for the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule followed by the Total Coliform Rule.

To read the full report, please visit [http://water.epa.gov/type/drink/pws/smallsystems/state\\_guidance.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/type/drink/pws/smallsystems/state_guidance.cfm). Contact AE2S for more information. ■

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