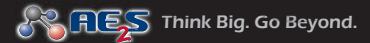


The Update

July 2009



Acrolein and Phenol Water Quality Criteria

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has published an update of national recommended water quality criteria (NRWQC) for acrolein and phenol. The Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) reference dose (RfD) for acrolein is 0.0005 milligram per kilogram of body weight per day (mg/(kg-d)). The IRIS RfD for Phenol is 0.30 mg/(kg-d). The RfD is similar to how a doctor prescribes medication, where the dosage is based on the size of the person and a given time period.

The criteria are not regulations themselves and do not impose legally binding requirements on the USEPA, states, or tribes. Under the Clean Water Act, water quality criteria are based on data and scientific judgments about the relationship between pollutant concentrations and environmental and human health effects. More information can be found at www.epa.gov or by contacting AE2S. ■

FY2010 USEPA Budget

President Obama has released his Fiscal Year 2010 (FY2010) budget proposal. The proposal includes \$2.4 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and \$1.4 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The budget request also includes new funding proposed to support development of nutrient water quality criteria by states and funding the USEPA operating budget which consists of core regulatory, research, and enforcement activities. The historic increase over FY2009 (332% for CWSRF and 66% for DWSRF) for the CWSRF & DWSRF means over 1,000 projects will be funded through CWSRF and almost 700

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Last month's *Update* reported on the AWWA Fly-in; this month's issue features the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) Rally, which was held April 19-21 in Washington D.C. The NRWA Rally is similar to the AWWA Fly-in, in which members of the association go to Capitol Hill to inform members of Congress of issues facing small community and rural water systems.

National Rural Water Association Rally

The top issues of the NRWA Rally

this year were Circuit Riders, Rural Water Grassroots Source Water Protection, Rural Water Technical Assistance, and Rural Water Grants and Loans.

Circuit Riders- Circuit Riders provide on-site, hands-on technical assistance that small systems need to comply with USEPA water regulations to provide safe drinking water. Circuit Riders are in the field assisting small community and rural water systems with compliance, operations, maintenance, management, rates, and training. They also help promote local responsibility for protecting water resources. The NRWA is requesting \$15 million for the Circuit Riders program.

Source Water Protection- The Source Water Protection program provides each state with a full-time person to organize and assist rural communities, farmers, and other land-use interests in the implementation of source water protection plans (including non-point source protection practices in agriculture regions). Additional funding will allow the source water initiative to expand. The initiative is currently in 32 states; NRWA desires to expand the program to all 50 states. The NRWA is requesting \$6.1 million in FY2010 for the Source Water Protection program.

Technical Assistance- The Technical Assistance Program is a grassroots effort that assists systems in solving compliance problems as opposed to a program of regulatory enforcement by the USEPA and state regulatory agencies. The specialists provides free training and technical assistance to assist both member and nonmember systems in formal classroom sessions with follow up, on-site technical assistance in Safe Drinking Water Act compliance issues, public health protection as it relates to drinking water, managerial issues, financial issues, and operational issues. Over the next year, the need for rural water assistance will significantly increase with the expansion of federal water regulations (including arsenic, radon, operator certification requirements, disinfection byproducts, and the ground water rule). The main source of this assistance is state rural water associations. The NRWA is requesting \$16.8 million in FY2010 for Technical Assistance.

Grants and Loans- The viability of small communities and surrounding rural areas is directly related to their water supply and sanitation. Rural communities and rural water systems, because of their small populations, have turned to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) water loans and grants to build or extend water systems and repay the loans at reasonable rates and terms. Without this

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The Update

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

If you have any questions concerning the content of this newsletter, please contact Melissa Cassanelli, at 701-746-8087 or Melissa.Cassanelli@ae2s.com. Web site links contained in this issue are posted as clickable links at www.ae2s.com/Updatelinks.

A Publication of Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.

(FY 2010 USEPA Budget continued)

projects will be funded through DWSRF. The administration is developing a comprehensive energy and climate change plan to invest in clean energy, reduce reliability on oil, and create jobs. The administration is also developing a program to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a cap-and-trade system.

The FY2010 budget will fully fund five Water Security Initiative (WSI) pilot cooperative agreements and Water Alliance for Threat Reduction activities in response to the Bioterrorism Act of 2002. These activities allow for the design, testing, demonstration, and evaluation of a contamination warning system for the nation's drinking water utilities. Following its completion, the USEPA will issue guidance on the adoption of effective drinking water contamination warning systems.

Please visit www.whitehouse.gov for more information on the FY2010 budget or contact AE2S. ■

(NRWA Rally from first page)

assistance, they could not construct new systems, expand or rehabilitate existing ones, or comply with mandates. The NRWA is requesting \$650 million in FY2010 in grants and loans.

The NRWA Rally also includes The Great American Taste Test. Perdido Bay Water, AL took first place this year. The other top finalists included the City of Manton, MI; Allen County Water District, KY; South Central Regional Water District, ND; and Morgan County Quality Water District, CO.

You can find out more about the Rally at www.nrwa.org or by contacting AE2S. ■



North Dakota Rural Water Association Members with Senator Dorgan at the Rally

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Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)

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