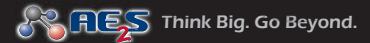


The Update

July 2010



AQUA Act Update

The US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy and Environment has approved an amended Assistance, Quality, and Affordability (AQUA) Act. The AQUA Act, in its current form, would authorize \$1.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11), \$1.6 billion in FY12, and \$1.8 billion in FY13 for the Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. The bill would also authorize \$20 million per year to Small Public Water System grants and \$5 million per year to the Endocrine Disruptor Screening program from FY11 through FY15. The AQUA Act, if passed, would mandate the screening of drinking water for endocrine disruptors and change the definition of "lead-free" for plumbing from 8% to 0.25% lead content on wet surfaces. Two other amendments to the original bill were passed, which include requiring electronic reporting of compliance data to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the requirement of materials to be manufactured in the United States for the projects funded by the AQUA Act.

The bill will now go to the full House of Representatives for a vote. AE2S will continue to follow this bill as more information becomes available. To read the full text and the amendments of the bill, please visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:h.r.05320>; or contact AE2S for more information. ■

Energy Star Benchmarking

This summer, the USEPA Region 5 will offer municipal and county

The USEPA is proposing revisions to the 1989 Total Coliform Rule (TCR). The major revisions pertain to three areas of the original rule: monitoring frequency, Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), and public notification.

Proposed Revisions to the Total Coliform Rule

A variety of monitoring frequency changes are proposed. Well-operated small systems will have to meet certain criteria to qualify

for the reduced monitoring list. High-risk small systems with unacceptable compliance history will require increased monitoring. There will also be new monitoring requirements for seasonal systems.

Regarding the MCL, the revisions include eliminating the 0 MCL for Total Coliform and replacing it with a 0 MCL for *E. Coli*. *E. Coli* is a more specific indicator of fecal contamination as opposed to Total Coliform, which contains other organisms that do not pose direct health implications.

The new revisions would no longer require monthly public notifications based on only the presence of Total Coliform. Instead, due to potential serious adverse human health effects, *E. Coli* MCL violations would require public notice within 24 hours. Additionally, the public would need to be notified within 30 days if a public water system fails to conduct a required assessment or corrective action. A monitoring violation or a reporting violation would now require a public notice within one year.

The annual net incremental cost increase for compliance with the TCR revisions is estimated to be \$14 million. The following table represents the approximate average increase to the annual cost by system size:

System Size by Population Served	Approximate Average Annual Net Cost per System
< 500	\$57
501 – 4,100	\$43
4,101 – 10,000	\$262
> 10,000	\$1477

For more information and to read the proposed rule, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/tcr/regulation.html#tcr1989>. It is anticipated that the USEPA will hold listening sessions and a webcast on this topic, or you can submit comments up to 60 days after it is published in the federal register. AE2S will continue to follow this topic. Feel free to contact us with any questions. ■

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(Benchmarking from first page)

government facilities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio with free one-on-one technical assistance to benchmark their facilities using ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager. The Portfolio Manager compares a given facility's energy performance with similar facilities nationwide. USEPA Region 5 can help set up a password and assist with entering energy consumption and cost information. The last day to apply is July 15th, and it is recommended to apply as soon as possible, as assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to those who sign up as ENERGY STAR Partners.

For more information about the program, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/r5climatechange/energy-star-benchmarking.html> or contact AE2S. ■

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

The USEPA is considering two modifications to existing regulations pertaining to Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). They include:

- 1) establishing standard National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit conditions for publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) permits that specifically address sanitary sewer collection systems and SSOs; and
- 2) clarifying the regulatory framework for applying NPDES permit conditions to municipal satellite collection systems. SSOs can create environmental and health problems because they discharge untreated wastewater into waterways. Such overflows may also contribute to contamination of drinking water supplies and other environmental and health concerns. Also, as a part of this effort, the USEPA is going to address long standing issues regarding peak wet weather flows at POTWs.

The USEPA is holding a public listening webcast, which will allow the public to provide input on questions relating to SSOs and resolving issues concerning peak flows. To view the list of questions to be discussed and to register for the webcast, please visit http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/courseinfo.cfm?program_id=0&outreach_id=511&schedule_id=1096 or contact AE2S for more information. ■

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Advanced Engineering and
Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)
2016 Washington Street South
Grand Forks, ND 58201