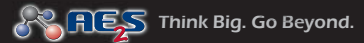


# The Update

October 2008



## *Accord Reached on Revising the Total Coliform Rule*

**S**takeholders in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) plan to revise the Total Coliform Rule (TCR) have formally agreed upon an Agreement in Principal (AIP), which will serve as the basis for the proposed rule (expected in 2010).

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) eliminates the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total coliform and any consideration of fecal coliform, while maintaining the MCL for *E. coli*. The total coliform MCL will be replaced with a treatment technique approach triggered by total coliform occurrence.

A final RTCR is anticipated to be adopted in 2012, with compliance in 2015 if USEPA proposes the rule in 2010 for comment.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) held a webcast describing the AIP, potential impacts to utilities and states, and future research on distribution system issues on October 15. If you would like information on the RTCR as presented in the webcast, email Miranda Kleven at [Miranda.Kleven@ae2s.com](mailto:Miranda.Kleven@ae2s.com). ■

## *2009 Intended Use Plans Approved by Minnesota Public Facilities Authority*

**T**he Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) has approved its 2009 Intended Use Plans (IUPs) for the Clean Water Revolving Fund (CWRF) (continued on back)

**M**ost in Washington, D.C. have been focused on the \$700 billion plan to relieve financial pressure on Wall Street. Congressional leaders have passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the Federal government through March 6, 2009 when the new administration has settled in. The CR contains specific spending packages for the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs. Funding for the other Federal agencies will continue at FY08 spending levels.

## **State Revolving Funds May See Boost in Conjunction with Congressional Stimulus Plan**

Democratic leaders from both the House and Senate have proposed an economic stimulus package with a heavy emphasis on infrastructure spending. The Senate's proposed infrastructure investments included an additional \$600 million for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and \$200 million for United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) rural water and wastewater infrastructure program, however this plan failed to pass in late September. Under the House plan, the Drinking Water SRF would receive \$1 billion and the Clean Water SRF would receive \$6.5 billion. These bonus funds would not be subject to the programs' state matching requirements. Prospects of the stimulus package passing are uncertain. Congress is currently in recess, but may reconvene briefly after the elections to address the stimulus package and several other priorities. ■

## **USEPA Provides Full Cost Recovery Incentive to States for Clean Water Permit Programs**

**A** new rule is being issued by USEPA that will provide financial incentives to state programs that charge fees when administering a clean water permit program. The USEPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating municipal, industrial, and related sources that discharge pollutants into United States waters. The new rule will allow USEPA to give up to a total of \$5.1 million to states with adequate NPDES permit fees.

Some states have already implemented permit fees to cover the increased cost of administering water permit programs, however, a number of states still operate with little or no reliance on permit fees.

Designed to encourage states to voluntarily implement adequate fee programs and shift the financial burden to those who benefit from the permits, the rule will also move funding to other critical water quality program activities.

The permit fee incentive will only be available if FY09 federal funding for state water pollution control programs is provided at a higher level than the FY08 level. ■

*(09 Intended Use Plans)*

and the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf). The IUPs list water and wastewater projects that are eligible to receive loans from the PFA in FY09. A complete loan application must be submitted to the PFA to maintain eligibility. Plans and specifications must be submitted to the Health Department (for water projects) and to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) (for wastewater projects) no later than March 2, 2009.

Loan application forms, as well as supplemental materials, have been substantially revised. The new forms and instructions are available at [www.positivelyminnesota.com/community/pfa.htm](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/community/pfa.htm).

USEPA has adopted new Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) regulations which will apply to all CWRf and DWRf projects. A contract packet, which is available at the PFA web site listed above, must be incorporated into all plans and specifications submitted to the MPCA or Health Department after Sept. 30, 2008. ■

## Documentary Highlights Importance of Investment in Water Infrastructure

**A** new documentary produced by Penn State Public Broadcasting, *Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water Infrastructure*, has begun to air nationally. The documentary is a public media and outreach initiative that seeks to inform the nation about the critical role that our water infrastructure plays in protecting public health and promoting economic prosperity. The 90-minute film tells the story of essential infrastructure systems, including water, wastewater, and stormwater, and how many aging systems are critically in need of repair.

The documentary explores the history, engineering challenges, and political and economic realities in municipal and rural locations. Locations featured in the documentary include Atlanta, Boston, Herminie (Pennsylvania), Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C.

Themes of the documentary include: The Fundamental Public Health System We Take for Granted; A Watershed Protection Approach; An Engineering Marvel - Seeing the Unseen; 21st Century Solutions; and The Challenge.

Check with your local public broadcasting station to see if and when they are airing the documentary. Additional information on the documentary can be found on the website <http://liquidassets.psu.edu/>. ■

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