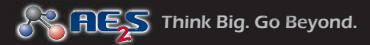


The Update

October 2010



Infrastructure Needs Assessment

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is preparing for the 2011 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. The Survey is required to be conducted every four years per the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Survey asks community water systems serving more than 3,300 people and American Indian and Alaskan Native Village community water systems to identify infrastructure needs of their water systems for the 20-year period from January 2011 through December 2031.

The data from the questionnaires provides the USEPA a basis for estimating the nationwide infrastructure needs of public water systems and helps determine the appropriation of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) monies to the States. Each state receives the annual DWSRF appropriation in proportion to its share of the total national need, and each state will receive at least one percent of the total funds available.

The USEPA is currently accepting comments on the proposed information described above. To submit comments, please visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-22642.htm> for instructions. ■

Dental Filling Mercury

In 2011, the USEPA intends to propose a rule to reduce mercury waste from dental fillings. Old dental fillings are currently flushed into chair-side drains and enter the wastewater system, eventually making their way

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The National Water Program is a cooperative effort by Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments to implement laws included in the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Clean Water Act; and the Marine Protection, Research, and

National Water Program Key Action Update

Sanctuaries Act to protect the quality of the Nation's waters. The USEPA has released a Key Action Update for 2010-2011 for the National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change. The original 2008 Strategy contained five goals and 44 "Key Actions" to work toward achieving those goals. The goals included: Mitigation of Green House Gases, Adaptation to Climate Change, Change Research Related to Water, Education on Climate Change, and Program Management for Climate Change.

The 2008 Strategy primarily focused on actions that USEPA Headquarters could implement. Regional locations also evaluated priorities and actions. For example, the Region 5 State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program's Fiscal Year 2010 allocation set aside 20 percent of the funds as Green Project Reserve (GPR) funds. These projects can include water or energy efficiency improvements, green infrastructure to manage stormwater, and other environmentally innovative activities. Region 8 has focused on implementing a reduction of energy use by water utilities, preparing for a water-constrained future, and promoting water efficiency and conservation in the agriculture sector.

The Key Action Update for 2010-2011 presents new Key Actions for work in the near term under current resources and includes the five goals with 49 Key Actions to be implemented over the next two years. The new Key Actions include: Improving Energy Efficiency at Water and Wastewater Utilities, Implementation of the WaterSense Program, Assessment of Water Reuse, Considering Criteria for Hydrologic Conditions, Developing Tools for Incorporating Climate Change Impacts to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Water Quality Analyses, and Evaluation of the Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Regulation.

To read the Key Action Update for 2010-2011, please visit <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/climatechange/strategy.cfm> or contact AE2S for more information. ■

Test Procedures for Pollutants

The USEPA is requesting comments on a proposed ruling for "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the

(continued on back)

(Dental Filling from first page)

into rivers and lakes. Dental filling mercury accounts for nearly half of all of the mercury entering local wastewater treatment facilities. Under the proposed rule, dental offices will be required to use existing technology (amalgam separators) to separate out the mercury from fillings, reducing the amount discharged to the wastewater system by 95 percent. The USEPA is encouraging dental offices to install the separators before the anticipated final ruling in 2012.

More information can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/index.html> or by contacting AE2S. ■

(Test Procedures for Pollutants from first page)

Clean Water Act: Analysis and Sampling Procedures". The USEPA is proposing changes to analysis and sampling test procedures associated with the regulation of wastewater. Changes to current procedures include USEPA methods and methods published by voluntary consensus standard bodies, such as American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) and the Standard Methods Committee. Quality control requirements to ensure consistency across method versions and how the USEPA cites methods in a number of effluent guideline regulations are also being proposed at this time.

The USEPA is requesting comments on the new testing procedures through November 22, 2010. To submit a comment and to read the proposed changes, please visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-20018.htm> or contact AE2S for more information. ■

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