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# REGULATORY COMPLIANCE The Update

September 2010



## Final Draft of Clean Water Strategy Released

***The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) released a final draft of its Clean Water Strategy developed under the "Coming Together for Clean Water" initiative. The document outlines the USEPA's plans to address the most critical water stressors, sources, and threats. The USEPA sought comment on the draft through September 17. Comments received will be used in developing the final strategy, which is anticipated to be completed in late 2010.***

***Five main objectives are the basis of the strategy, including:***

- ***The systematic assessment of the nation's waters to provide a baseline for transparently tracking progress;***
- ***Increasing the focus on the protection of healthy waters;***
- ***Enhancing the USEPA's ability to restore degraded waters, restore ecosystems, and take action to increase the number of restored waterbodies;***
- ***Reducing pollution entering the nation's waterbodies; and***
- ***Enhancement of watershed resiliency and revitalization of communities through multi-benefit, sustainable technologies and approaches that will ensure resiliency to increased threats associated with climate change, development, urbanization, and other factors.***

***For more information on this topic, please visit http://blog.epa.gov/waterforum/2010/08/draft-clean-water-strategy-is-released/ or contact AE2S.*** ■

## Climate Change May Threaten Water Sustainability

A study conducted for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NDRC) by the consulting firm, Tetra Tech, found that climate change will potentially have a significant impact on the sustainability of water supplies in the coming decades. The study found that one-third of all counties in the lower 48 United States will face higher risks of water shortages by mid-century as the result of global warming. The Great Plains and Southwest United States in particular were at extreme risk of water shortage. North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota have several counties that are at moderate to high risk, and approximately one third of Montana counties are at high risk.

The study combined water demand projections based on current growth trends with renewable water supply projections based on 16 leading climate models. Two of the major reasons for the projected water constraints are decreases in precipitation and increases in potential evapotranspiration (PET). Evapotranspiration is the sum of evaporative water loss from the ground surface and the transpiration losses through vegetation. In addition, increases in water withdrawals from surface water and groundwater sources will contribute to the increasing vulnerability.

The report concluded that climate change will significantly increase the risk that water supplies will not be able to keep pace with withdrawals in many areas of the United States. This has significant implications for future water management and climate change adaptation planning efforts. While these plans will be essential to lessen the impacts, they cannot be expected to counter the effects of a warming climate. To manage the risks identified in the report, the authors recommend that the necessary steps be taken to slow down and reverse the warming trend, which would require Congressional action and global leadership.

For more information on this topic, please visit http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/watersustainability/ or contact AE2S. ■

## TCR Guidance Manual

The USEPA has released a draft of the Proposed Revised Total Coliform Rule Assessments and Corrective Actions Guidance Manual (Guidance Manual). The Guidance Manual provides public water systems (PWS) with information on how to conduct assessments to identify causes of Coliforms and *E. coli* in the Distribution System, and common corrective actions.

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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.

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## Water Alert

***The US Geological Survey (USGS) has launched a free service called WaterAlert to keep people informed of water conditions. The service sends current conditions via email or text message. The information includes data on surface water conditions, groundwater conditions, water quality, and precipitation for more than 9,500 sites where USGS collects real-time water information. The service allows participants to receive daily or hourly information and allows the user to decide threshold conditions, such as during a flood. StreaMail, a service which allows users to request data for a specific station site via email or text and receive the information immediately, is also available.***

***To sign up for these services, or for more information, please visit http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/ or contact AE2S.*** ■

***(TCR Guidance Manual from first page)***

The Guidance Manual describes three potential causes of Coliform bacteria in a distribution system: 1) a source of coliform bacteria, such as materials used in the distribution system and soil and water surrounding pipes; 2) a pathway into the distribution system, such as improper main installation, repair, or replacement; and 3) a mechanism that allows coliform bacteria to be carried into the distribution system, such as weather related events or backflow. The assessments consist of two levels: Level 1, which is less detailed than Level 2; and Level 2, which is for PWSs with an *E. coli* violation or repeated Level 1 triggers. Some of the common corrective actions include disinfection, flushing, replacing or repairing distribution system components, and proper maintenance.

The USEPA is accepting comments and suggestions on the Guidance Manual until November 30, 2010. For more information on this topic and to read the draft manual, please visit http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/tcr/regulation.cfm or contact AE2S. In addition to the guidance Manual, the USEPA is also extending the deadline to submit comments on the Revised Total Coliform Rule to October 13, 2010. If you would like to submit a comment, please visit http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-21697.htm. ■

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