Edition IV

Pretreatment Bytes

October 1998

This is Pretreatment Bytes, an electronic update of issues of importance to Pretreatment Coordinators. Bytes is directly emailed from the EPA Headquarters' Pretreatment staff to the Regional EPA and State Pretreatment Coordinators. Beginning in September 1998, it may also be accessed via the Internet, from EPA's Office of Wastewater Management Homepage: http://www.epa.gov/OWM/pre.htm. Feel free to send it to other POTWs, friends, and family. For additional information on any issue, contact your State or Regional EPA Pretreatment Coordinator, or the contact named after each item. E-mail addresses for EPA employees are generally formatted as "lastname.firstname@epa.gov." If you have any questions regarding, or notices to include in, Pretreatment Bytes, please contact Jan Pickrel at (202) 260-7904 or email at pickrel.jan@epa.gov.

1998 National Pretreatment Program Excellence Awards

On October 5th, at the Water Environment Federation's 71st Technical Exposition and Conference (WEFTEC) in Orlando, FL, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized 8 publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) for their outstanding efforts to control industrial discharges and to heighten public awareness of and support for these local pretreatment programs. These POTWs have reduced the risk of pass through of toxic pollutants and operational interference caused by toxic discharges by going beyond the minimum program requirements and by innovation in the conduct of local program activities. Awards were presented in five categories based on total number of the POTW's Significant Industrial Users (SIUs). This year, first place awards were to winners in all five categories and three 2nd place awards in the first three categories:

0 - 10 SIUs Category

First Place: City of Broomfield, CO

Second Place: Maryville Utilities, Maryville, TN.

11 - 20 SIUs Category

First Place: Paul R. Noland Wastewater Treatment Facility, Fayetteville, Arkansas;

Second Place: City of Boulder, Boulder, Colorado.

21 - 50 SIUs Category

First Place: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, Martinez, CA;

Second Place: Metro Wastewater Management Commission, Cities of Eugene and Springfield, Oregon.

51 - 100 SIUs Category

First Place: Wichita Water & Sewer Department, Wichita, KS;

Greater than 100 SIUs Category

First Place: Narragansett Bay Water Quality Management District Commission, Providence, RI.

"Communication" and "Outreach Programs" were often named as highlights for these programs.

The City of Broomfield (CO), Metro Wastewater Management Commission (Eugene and Springfield, OR), and Narragansett Bay Water Quality Management District Commission (Providence, RI) each have web pages describing their respective pretreat-ment programs. Broomfield and Narragansett Bay Water Quality Management District Commission also issue quarterly newsletters and hold pretreatment workshops.

The City of Boulder (CO) and Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Martinez, CA) established household hazardous waste programs. Boulder's dental office outreach packet suggests best management practices to reduce silver discharges. Central Contra Costa Sanitary District encourages integrated pest management to solve insect problems. These programs, plus Metro Wastewater Management Commission and the City of Wichita Water and Sewer Department (KS), also integrated their pretreatment and stormwater inspections, providing routine pollution prevention instruction.

Innovative permitting techniques include the City of Fayetteville (AR) implementing performance-based mass limitations for many of its metal industries. The City of Wichita Water and Sewer Department (KS), in 1997, adopted a Microtox local limit for each SIU to protect the POTW's biological processes. Narragansett Bay Water Quality Management District Commission also screens its POTW influent using Microtox.

EPA/States National Meeting Kansas City, MO

EPA and State Pretreatment Program Coordinators will hold their annual meeting in Kansas City, MO on October 27, 1998. Discussions at this year's meeting will include: improved communication, new source determinations, technically-based local limits, metal finishing issues, and pretreatment streamlining, and reinvention efforts.

1998 AMSA/EPA Pretreatment Coordinators' Workshop

Following the EPA/States National Meeting, the annual Association of Municipal Sewerage Agencies (AMSA)/EPA Pretreatment Coordinators' Workshop will be held October 28-30. This year's workshop is expected to draw largest attendance in recent years, with over 250 pretreatment representatives. Topics include: Information Resources, Mercury Issues, POTW Radioactivity Survey/Guidance, Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Metal Finishing Strategic goals Program, and Project XL in the Pretreatment Program. For more information, contact Sam Hadeed at AMSA: (202) 833-4655.

Coming Soon to VCRs Near You: Pretreatment Videos

Kenneth Kerri, of California State University/Sacramento and the National Environmental Training Association, has produced a series of six videos based on his field study training program. For more information on the "Pretreatment Facility Inspection Training Videos", contact Ken Kerri at (916) 278-6142 or their web site: http://www.owp.csus.edu .

32nd Approved State Pretreatment Program:

TEXAS

On September 14, 1998, EPA announced that it is transferring responsibility for the Nation's second largest clean water program to Texas. The largest program is operated in California.

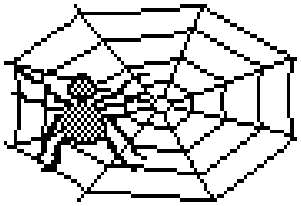
Water quality is protected by developing surface water quality standards and regulating certain activities including the discharge of wastewater and stormwater from cities and industrial operations via a permitting program. Wastewater and stormwater permits regulate the quality of wastewater that will be discharged into a stream, river, lake or bay.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 intended for the federal government to transfer the regulation of water quality to states as they gained expertise and resources needed to ensure the protection of the Nation's waterways. Authorization of a state program meeting all the Clean Water Act requirements is contemplated by law. By submitting a sufficient program application, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has been approved to operate the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

In Texas, nearly 4,000 public and private facilities have permits to discharge into the state's 15 major river basins and 8 coastal basins. Until now, Texas companies had to obtain both a state and a federal wastewater permit. Companies faced two separate application processes and double paperwork to receive a wastewater permit. Removing the necessity of a second permit will reduce paperwork and added burden on businesses as well as allow the EPA to focus on the state's most significant water quality problems. Under the federal Clean Water Act, EPA is required to continually oversee the state program via permit reviews, audits and inspections to ensure water quality of the 200,000 miles of streams and rivers in Texas.

"While TNRCC has assured EPA of its resource commitment and has successfully answered questions on a broad range of issues, there continues to be intense public concern and scrutiny of its program," Regional Administrator Gregg Cooke said. "With this summer's drought we all became more aware of the importance of water, both quality and quantity, in our daily life. EPA, through its strong oversight program, will ensure that the transfer of this program to Texas continues to advance the clean water goals of our state."

While the majority of wastewater discharge permits are issued by the TNRCC, Texas companies seeking wastewater discharge permits related to oil and gas activities will continue to obtain both a Railroad Commission of Texas permit and federal permit.



BYTES is on the Web

The first three issues of *Pretreatment Bytes* are posted on the Region III web site at the following location: http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/3wp24/preweb/pbytes.htm
Also, Edition III of *Bytes* is posted on EPA's Office of Wastewater Management web site at: http://www.epa.gov/OWM/

Pilot Programs/Project XL . . . . . .Where are we?

On June 23, 1998, EPA published a request for proposals to POTWs that are interested in implementing alternative local pretreatment programs under the Project XL (EPA's "eXcellence and Leadership") program. Ten (10) POTWs submitted one- to two-page pre-proposals describing their alternative ways to implement their programs by the September 21, 1998, due date.

What's the next step? To process multiple pilots efficiently, EPA is developing a model Final Project Agreement (FPA) for these projects. After EPA and the selected POTWs agree on the FPA, EPA will issue a single rule to implement all the pilots. For more information, call Patrick Bradley at (202) 260-6963.

Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

On September 21, EPA published the Final Effluent Guidelines and Standards for the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry, 40 CFR 439. These regulations contain final effluent limitation guidelines and standards that will control discharges of waterborne pollutants from the pharmaceutical manufacturing category to surface waters and publicly owned treatment works for four (4) subcategories of the pharmaceutical manufacturing categories: Subcategory A (Fermentation), Subcategory B (Natural Extraction), Subcategory C (Chemical Synthesis), and Subcategory D (Mixing, Compounding and Formulating). BPT, BAT, NSPS, PSES, and PSNS limitations were established. At the same time, in the Federal Register, EPA published Maximum Available Control Technology (MACT) Standards for the Pharma-ceutical Manufacturing Industry which will control air emissions of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPS) from pharmaceutical manufacturing sources.

EPA estimates that compliance with this final regulation will reduce the discharge of conventional, nonconventional and priority pollutants by at least 31.1 million pounds per year. Additional information can be found on the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/OST/guide/pharm.html
Contact: Frank Hund at (202) 260-7182.

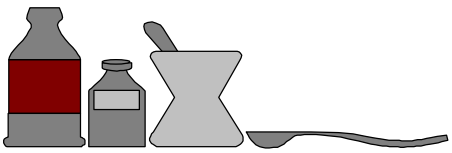
Water Quality Criteria: Ammonia

On August 24, 1998, EPA published the 1998 Update of Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia. The update provides guidance to states, territories, and tribes in developing water quality standards under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and an analysis of the aquatic toxicity data for ammonia in freshwater. The document contains policy recommendations on adoption of ammonia criteria into water quality standards, particularly with regard to seasonal adjustments of the criteria concentrations.

EPA welcomes public comment on the criteria guidance. For a copy of the fact sheet and the guidance, visit the web site of EPA's Office of Standards & Technology: http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/amonsub.html

New Water Quality Criteria Methodology for Protecting Human Health

EPA is proposing to change the way it calculates water quality criteria to protect human health. Human health water quality criteria are numerical values for pollutants in water that will ensure that people are safe from exposure to those pollutants when eating fish or ingesting water. Once finalized, the new methodology will replace the 1980 guidelines. The revisions will incorporate the many significant scientific advances that have occurred during the past 18 years in key areas such as cancer and noncancer risk assessments, exposure assessments, the amount of fish people eat, and bioaccumulation in fish. For additional information: http://www.epa.gov/ost/humanhealth/draft.html



New TEA-21 Funds Available from the Federal Highway Administration

Established by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), ten percent of surface transportation funds ($3.3 billion over 6 years) are available for "transportation enhancements" that can include water quality projects. Furthermore, twenty percent of the cost of a project may be used for environmental mitigation. Visit http://www.epa.gov/owow/tea for more information on environmental funding opportunities.

In addition, TEA-21 established the Transportation and Community System Preservation Pilot (TCSPP) program that will demonstrate transportation strategies that incorporate short- and long-term environmental, economic, and social needs of communities. The TCSPP program is modeled after successful planning initiatives in several states, including Oregon, Florida, and Maryland. Funding for the pilot is $20 million in FY 1999 and $25 million per year for FY's 2000 through 2003. Public comments and letters of intent from potential grantees are due by November 15 for FY 1999 funds. For more information, visit the Department of Transportation's web site at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/fedreg3.htm

What is the ETV Program?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has instituted a new program, the Environmental Technology Verification Program ("ETV") to verify the performance of innovative technical solutions to problems that threaten human health or the environment. Managed by EPA's Office of Research and Development, ETV was created to substantially accelerate the entrance of new environmental technologies into the domestic and international marketplace. ETV verifies commercial-ready, private sector technologies through 12 pilots.

The web site contains the list of technologies verified to date and a list of technologies currently being evaluated. Documents and Publications are organized under the following categories:

•ETV General Program Documents;
•List of ETV Articles and Press Releases;
•Pilot Fact Sheets;
•Protocols and Test Plans;
•Verification Statements and Reports.

See: http://www.epa.gov/etv/

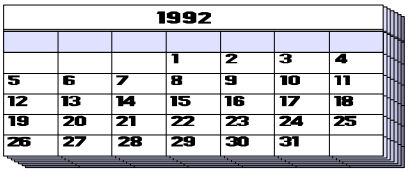
Regional Sound Bytes: What's New in Pretreatment in EPA's Regions?

❶EPA Region I will introduce its new Pretreatment Coordinator at the National Meeting this month: Justin (Jay) Pimpare. Jay comes to the Pretreatment Program from EPA's Lexington Labs and has been working for EPA for over 5 years. He is a seasoned field inspector and has performed a tremendous amount of multimedia industrial inspections. He will co-facilitate the Region I breakout session with Region II at the National Meeting in Kansas City.

❸ The Region 3 pretreatment web site has past issues of *Pretreatment Bytes*. The address is: http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/3wp24/preweb

Calendar

11/14-15/98: Whole Effluent Toxicity



Training in Charlotte, NC. Contact: Laura Phillips at (202) 260-9522.

11/16-20/98: NPDES Permit Writer's Course in New Orleans, LA. Contact: Dan Weese at (202) 260-6809

11/17-18/98: Virginia Water Environment Association's "Wet Weather Woes: Issues & Strategies to Deal with High Flows" in Richmond, VA. Contact Debbie Healey Langley of VWEA at (703) 218-2034.