

FACT SHEET
Guidance: Coordinating CSO Long-Term Planning
with Water Quality Standards Reviews

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing Guidance: Coordinating Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long-Term Planning with Water Quality Standards Reviews. The guidance is designed to address questions raised since the publication of the CSO Control Policy in 1994 on integrating the long-term control plan (LTCP) development process with the water quality standards review. As outlined in the guidance, EPA will continue to implement the CSO Control Policy through its existing statutory and regulatory authorities.

Background

EPA issued the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy in April 1994. Since then, the agency has released seven related guidance documents and worked with stakeholders to foster implementation of the policy. The CSO Control Policy calls for the development of a long-term control plan (LTCP), which includes measures that provide for compliance with the Clean Water Act, including attainment of water quality standards. The CSO Control Policy provides that the LTCP should be coordinated with the review and revision (as appropriate) of water quality standards and implementation procedures on waters impacted by CSOs. This process is intended to ensure that long-term controls will be sufficient to meet water quality standards. In the six years since EPA issued the CSO Control Policy, implementation of this principle has not progressed as quickly as expected.

CSO communities need clear guidance on how they should implement CSO and other wet weather water pollution control programs to attain water quality standards. As part of EPA's FY 1999 appropriation, Congress directed EPA to develop guidance on reviews of water quality standards and designated uses in CSO-receiving waters, and urged EPA to provide technical and financial assistance to states and EPA Regions to conduct these reviews. Further, in December 2000, amendments to the Clean Water Act required EPA to publish final guidance on this subject by July 31, 2001.

This guidance was published as a draft in January 2001 and titled: *Draft Guidance on Implementing the Water Quality-Based Provisions in the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy*. EPA received comments from 27 interested parties. EPA reviewed the comments and made appropriate changes to the draft guidance in response to the submitted comments.

The guidance addresses impediments to implementing the water quality-based provisions in the CSO Policy, and actions that State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Directors and CSO communities should take to overcome these impediments.

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Integrating CSO long-term control planning with water quality standards reviews requires extensive coordination among CSO communities, states and the public. Although this coordination is an intensive process, it provides greater assurance that CSO communities will implement affordable CSO control programs that support the attainment of appropriate water quality standards. The guidance describes a process for integrating LTCP development and implementation with the water quality standards review. This process is the essence of EPA's commitment to facilitating the review and revision, as appropriate, of water quality standards for waters affected by CSOs.

Additional Information

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the guidance from EPA's NPDES website at www.epa.gov/npdes or by contacting the Office of Water Resources Center at 202-260-7786 (e-mail: center.water-resource@epa.gov); mailing address: Office of Water Resources Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, RC-4100, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. Please request *Guidance: Coordinating CSO Long-Term Planning with Water Quality Standards Reviews* (EPA Number EPA-833-R-01-002; July 2001). For additional information, contact Tim Dwyer, Office of Wastewater Management, Water Permits Division, MC 4203M, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20460, phone number 202-564-0717.