



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 15 2005

OFFICE OF
WATER

Mr. Ken Kirk
Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies
1816 Jefferson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20036-2505

Dear Mr. Kirk:

Thank you for your letter dated January 14, 2005, concerning the pretreatment streamlining rule. We appreciate hearing your views during our December 20, 2004 meeting.

We are following up on items discussed in the December meeting and remain committed to the principles embodied in the proposed pretreatment streamlining rule (reducing unnecessary burden, while simultaneously ensuring environmental protection via a sound pretreatment program). We expect to finalize the pretreatment streamlining rule in June 2005, as stated in the Office of Management & Budget's report, Regulatory Reform of the U.S. Manufacturing Sector (see http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/reports/manufacturing_initiative.pdf).

Regarding the issues raised in your letter, we will continue to explore the effects on the pretreatment program of enabling publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) to use mass-based limitations in the place of concentration based categorical standards, and of establishing a non-significant categorical industrial user category.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben H. Grumbles".

Benjamin H. Grumbles
Assistant Administrator