



**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**

**Washington, DC 20515**

March 14, 2005

**Don Young**  
Chairman

**James L. Oberstar**  
Ranking Democratic Member

Lloyd A. Jones, Chief of Staff  
Elizabeth Megginson, Chief Counsel

**Informational Briefing on Wastewater Blending**

David Heymsfeld, Democratic Chief of Staff

Dear Colleague,

I want to bring to your attention an event that will provide a good opportunity for your staff to learn about the municipal engineering design practice of "blending" at publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) during periods of high flow caused by rainfall or snowmelt. The Water Environment Federation, Water Environment Research Foundation, and Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies are hosting a briefing scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2005, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in Room 2253 of the Rayburn House Office Building. A copy of their announcement that went to your office is attached.

Blending is a well-recognized, and widely used, plant design practice for managing peak wet weather flows in a manner that is both protective of human health and the environment and protective of a POTW's treatment units. This practice offers a sound environmental alternative to discharges of untreated sewage into our nation's waters by ensuring that peak excess flows receive proper treatment that, without blending, would not be achieved.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a national policy on the design practice of blending in November 2003, where blending could be authorized in a Clean Water Act NPDES permit as long as effluent limitations based on secondary treatment or any more stringent limitations necessary to attain water quality standards are met. The proposed blending policy aims to protect public health and the environment, and encourages responsible and effective management of wastewater treatment facilities.

Recently, a campaign has been waged to persuade EPA to withdraw its proposed blending policy. At the briefing on March 16th, health experts and leaders in the municipal wastewater field will provide their perspectives on the practice of blending, and will address topics including wet weather management, ongoing scientific studies, and various approaches used to manage blending.

I urge you to send your staff to this event.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

Chairman

Subcommittee on Water Resources  
and Environment

**INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON SEWAGE BLENDING****WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2005****9:00 -10:30 AM****HAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING 2253**

THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA'S) NOVEMBER 2003 PROPOSED POLICY ON WASTEWATER "BLENDING" HAS RECEIVED MUCH ATTENTION IN RECENT MONTHS. COME HEAR THE FACTS SURROUNDING THIS WET WEATHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS AND LEADERS IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER FIELD. THE BRIEFING WILL ADDRESS TOPICS SUCH AS WET WEATHER MANAGEMENT, ONGOING SCIENTIFIC STUDIES, AND VARIOUS APPROACHES USED TO MANAGE BLENDING. SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:

*Bill R. Elmore*

*Sr. Vice President & Chief Operating Officer  
Knoxville Utilities Board, TN*

*Gordon Garner*

*CH2M Hill, Retired Executive Director, Louisville &  
Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District, KY*

*Robert C. Matthews*

*Senior Vice President, Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.  
Fort Meyers, FL*

*Nancy J. Wheatley*

*Water Resources Strategies  
Siasconset, MA*

*David R. Williams*

*Director of Wastewater  
East Bay Municipal Utility District, CA*

*Dan Woltering, Ph.D.*

*Director of Research  
Water Environment Research Foundation, VA*

**PRESENTED BY**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION (WEF)**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION (WERF)**

**ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE AGENCIES (AMSA)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: TIM WILLIAMS, WEF, 703/684-2437  
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