



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

DEC 20 2000

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Colleague:

Enclosed with this letter is the draft *Guidance on Implementing The Water Quality-Based Provisions In The CSO Control Policy*. Very soon, the *Federal Register* will publish a notice of availability of the document for a 60-day comment period.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is publishing this draft guidance to address questions raised since the publication of the CSO Control Policy in 1994 on how to integrate the CSO long-term control plan (LTCP) development process with water quality standards reviews. The CSO Control Policy provides that "*Development of the long-term plan should be coordinated with the review and appropriate revision of WQS and implementation procedures on CSO-impacted receiving waters to ensure that the long-term controls will be sufficient to meet water quality standards*" (59 FR 18694).

Water quality standards reviews are an essential step in integrating the development and implementation of affordable, well-designed and operated CSO control programs with water quality standards and with other requirements of the Clean Water Act. This draft guidance describes the process for integrating LTCP development and implementation with the water quality standards review. This process is the essence of EPA's renewed commitment to assure that communities with combined sewer systems and States participate in implementing the water quality-based provisions in the CSO Control Policy. The CSO Control Policy anticipates the "review and revision, as appropriate, of water quality standards and their implementation procedures when developing CSO control plans to reflect site-specific wet weather impacts of CSOs."

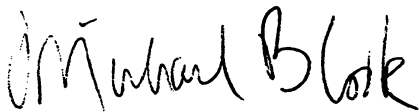
In your review of the draft documents, we would appreciate your comments on the process outlined for integrating the development and implementation of CSO long-term control plans with water quality standards reviews. In addition, we invite your recommendations for further guidance or clarification to support the integration process. We would also welcome any recommendations that you may have for developing case studies on any of the topics discussed in the draft guidance.

Written comments on the draft guidance should be sent to:

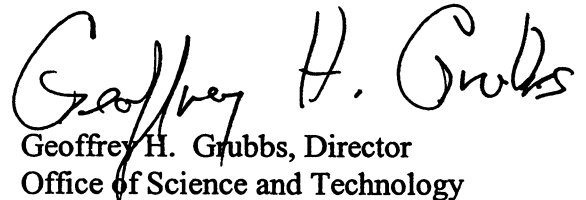
Mr. Tim Dwyer
Office of Wastewater Management (4203M)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
e-mail: dwyer.tim@epa.gov

We look forward to working with you on ways to improve the implementation of the water quality-based provisions in the CSO Control Policy. Please do not hesitate to call either of us should you wish to discuss the draft guidance.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Cook, Director
Office of Wastewater Management



Geoffrey H. Grubbs, Director
Office of Science and Technology

Enclosures