



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

OCT 18 2006

OFFICE OF
WATER

Mr. Ken Kirk
Executive Director
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
1816 Jefferson Place, NW
Washington DC 20036-2505

Dear Mr. Kirk,

Thank you for your September 14, 2006, letter urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a comprehensive national program for sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and your commitment to cultivate broad-based support for such a program.

First, I would like to express my deep appreciation for your continued assistance and support for the Peak Flow Policy. The contributions of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), along with those of the Natural Resources Defense Council, have been fundamental to the development of the Policy. I look forward to your continued support of the Policy.

Second, I appreciate your offer to cultivate broad-based support for a federal SSO program. As we have indicated in previous discussions with you and the NACWA membership, our priority is to first complete the Peak Flow Policy and then focus on the issue of SSOs. When our attention turns to SSOs, we look forward to working with you on this important and complex issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. I appreciate your concern for the health and safety of the public and the environment. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact James A. Hanlon at (202) 564-0748.

Sincerely,

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

Benjamin H. Grumbles
Assistant Administrator