



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

OCT 12 2006

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

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Mr. Kirk:

I appreciate National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and Ohio River Valley Water Sanitary Commission (ORSANCO) for visiting with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters on August 22, 2006, to discuss wet weather water quality standards, specifically ORSANCO's efforts to adopt standards for the Ohio River watershed.

The Agency recognizes that the development of wet weather standards is challenging in the Ohio River watershed due to the complex nature of the discharges into the river and the varied pollution from both point and non-point sources. EPA believes that the establishment of wet weather standards is essential to achieving the ultimate goals of the Clean Water Act and the 1994 CSO Policy, and for this reason, we commend ORSANCO for their leadership in embarking upon these revisions. ORSANCO's efforts can demonstrate that improved water quality and infrastructure investments that take into account the reality of wet weather conditions are not mutually exclusive.

Following our August 22 meeting, members of my staff and I discussed with Region III the assistance provided to date to ORSANCO. As an appointed commissioner to ORSANCO, Region III collaborated with Regions II, IV, V, and with EPA's Office of Water in Headquarters, to provide specific input to ORSANCO as they developed their proposed standards revisions. We will continue to work with ORSANCO's workgroups and committees to facilitate the successful development of wet weather standards. We also encourage ORSANCO to embrace an inclusive process to develop these standards, so that the standards ultimately selected will have wide stakeholder support. Thank you for your continuing partnership with EPA on the protection of our waters.

Sincerely,

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

Benjamin H. Grumbles
Assistant Administrator

cc Alan Vicory, ORSANCO
Adam Krantz, NACWA