

Regulatory Alert

**TO: AWWA Leadership
All Utilities**

FROM: Jack W. Hoffbuhr

DATE: August 9, 2005

What:	EPA Data Collection Activity to Support Clean Water Act Regulation of Water Treatment Plant Residuals.
Action Requested:	Submission of Comments to EPA
Deadline:	September 6, 2005

U.S. EPA is proposing to collect information on residual management practices at water treatment facilities under its Clean Water Act (CWA) Effluent Guidelines program (see July 5, 2005 [Federal Register](#)). EPA anticipates conducting a survey of all systems serving more than 50,000 persons and some systems serving between 10,000 and 50,000 persons. EPA has authority under the CWA to require completion of these surveys. Copies of the draft survey forms are available on EDOCKET (www.epa.gov/edocket) under Docket ID Number OW-2004-0035.

This survey is the next step in EPA determining if it should develop or not develop an effluent guideline for drinking water treatment plants. An effluent guideline would effectively set a minimum level of treatment for the discharge to surface water or sanitary sewer. Any resulting requirements would be incorporated into individual facility National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and local pretreatment program permits during the next round of permit renewals following the final EPA rule. EPA is currently targeting September 2007 for that final rule.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) believes that regulations should be based on the highest quality data possible. AWWA is working with EPA to refine this survey to both reduce the burden imposed and ensure that the data collected can support a sound regulatory decision. AWWA asks that individual drinking water utilities comment on the proposed information collection and the proposed survey forms. Key points to consider including in your comments (as applicable given local circumstances) are:

1. The state has an active NPDES permit program and the utility's residual streams generally are adequately managed under current state regulations.

2. The survey forms are confusing and should be simplified and streamlined.
3. The number of person hours to complete each of the surveys is much larger than estimated and a much longer period of time will be required to complete each survey.
4. Cost data requested in the detailed survey is going to be especially difficult to collect.

Submit your comments by September 6, 2005, to EPA via EDOCKET (www.epa.gov/edocket), email to OW-Docket@epa.gov, or by mail. Address comments to:

EPA Docket Center
Environmental Protection Agency
Water Docket (Mail Code 4101T)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460.

Be sure to reference Docket ID Number OW-2004-0035.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Via in AWWA's Washington, D.C. office at (202) 628-8303 or svia@awwa.org.