



## FACT SHEET

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER QUALITY-BASED PROVISIONS IN THE CSO CONTROL POLICY: OUTLINE OF DRAFT EPA GUIDANCE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is fulfilling its obligation to report progress on developing guidance to facilitate water quality and designated use reviews for CSO receiving waters by submitting an outline of the draft guidance to the House Appropriations Committee, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Congress in House Report 105-769, accompanying EPA's FY 1999 Appropriations, urged the Agency to develop guidance and to provide technical and financial assistance to States and EPA Regions to conduct water quality standards reviews for CSO-receiving waters.

The outline of the draft guidance, *Implementation of the Water Quality-Based Provisions of the CSO Control Policy* (EPA-823-R-99-015) provides information on the policy, programmatic and technical guidance the Agency is developing for public review and comment in April, 2000. The draft guidance will lay a strong foundation for integrating the development and implementation of long-term combined sewer overflow (CSO) control plans with water quality standards reviews for CSO-receiving waters. By working closely together, CSO communities, along with their community-based organizations, States and EPA can achieve the level of CSO control in a combined sewer system to contribute to the attainment of water quality standards.

State water quality standards reviews for CSO receiving waters and revision of the standards or implementation procedures, if appropriate, require sound scientific data and analyses. The data collected and the analyses conducted by CSO communities as they develop their long-term CSO control plan can be used to inform States water quality standards reviews, if there is early agreement on the data and analyses that would be required to support any water quality standards revision. Both the development and implementation of CSO control plans and water quality standards reviews are iterative processes. These iterative processes enable implementation of high priority CSO controls while data, information and analyses are developed to support water quality standards reviews.

In addition to the outline of the draft guidance, EPA is providing two additional documents -- *Summary of Participant Comments at the EPA-WEF Experts Workshop on Implementing the WQ-Based Provisions in the CSO Control Policy* (EPA-823-R-99-016) and *Summary of the Listening Sessions - Observations & Recommendations for Guidance and Technical Assistance to Facilitate Water Quality and Designated Use Reviews for Waters Impacted by Combined Sewer Overflows* (EPA-823-R-99-017). These documents provide the perspectives of

individuals with whom EPA consulted to identify impediments to implementing the water quality-based provisions of the CSO Control Policy and the actions the Agency should take to overcome the impediments.

EPA is making the documents available on the Internet at: [www.epa.gov/ost/cso](http://www.epa.gov/ost/cso). Hard copies will be distributed through EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NECEP). The NECEP is authorized to distribute one free copy of the publications to each requestor until supplies are depleted. Requests should be directed to:

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