

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

Summer 1993

President Clinton Releases Forest Plan

On July 1, President Clinton released his forest ecosystem management plan for federal lands in the Pacific Northwest. The goal of this plan is strengthening the longterm economic and environmental health of the Pacific Northwest. The plan is based on a phased approach to ecosystem management which establishes interim reserves for late successional areas and threatened and endangered species and riparian areas to protect at risk species such as salmon. Watersheds will form the basis for implementation of the ecosystem management plan. A system of key watersheds is established to protect priority areas for aquatic conservation and water quality.

Carol Browner praised the plan when it was released stating, "At the heart of this policy, and what makes this approach novel and important, is protection of watersheds. Watersheds are the critical environmental component. By protecting watersheds, we are protecting rivers and streams, the viability of the old-growth forest, and the species dependent upon these natural systems."

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Oregon Developing TMDLs that Address Habitat Alteration

The State of Oregon is developing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) that address habitat alteration and resulting impacts to stream temperature. This effort is one of the first examples of what will be a growing emphasis in the water quality planning program. It is becoming increasingly evident that many waters are not meeting designated uses because of physical and biological factors. EPA policy provides that non-chemical stressors must be considered for TMDL development if the stressor can be quantified and a relationship between the stressor and the impairment of water quality standards can be established. As with any TMDL, the key element is understanding the cause-effect relationship sufficiently to predict that a specified level of a "stressor" will attain or maintain standards.

The State of Oregon has targeted the Upper Grande Ronde River as a priority watershed for TMDL development. Elevated stream temperatures are contributing to the decline of salmon populations. The "stressor" in this case is reduced vegetative shading resulting from land management activities. Computer models are being developed to predict the effect of different vegetation and hydrologic conditions on stream temperature. Models are being developed for both single-reach and basin-wide scales. EPA is providing technical support to the state for remote sensing (aerial photo interpretation), GIS development, and GIS-linked basin-wide model development.

The temperature TMDLs are part of a broader effort encompassing the Grande Ronde watershed. This river basin is one of Region X's watershed projects. Coopera-

TMDL Development-Continued on Page 2



National Coastal Monitoring Act Implementation Strategy Drafted

The National Coastal Monitoring Act, signed in October 1992, requires EPA and NOAA to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive program to monitor and evaluate the quality of the coastal environment and health of coastal ecosystems. The legislation authorizes \$35 million for each agency; however, no funds have been appropriated yet.

The legislation is largely a response to a National Academy of Sciences report,"Managing Troubled Waters," that recommended a need for a big picture, integrated national monitoring program. Thus, implementation of the Act will take steps to connect components of large scale programs, such as EMAP and NOAA's Status and Trends Program, with smaller scale estuary and point source monitoring programs. The legislation affirms and strengthens the goals of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Monitoring, and reinforces several Agency policy directions including improved information management and data sharing, greater reliance on environmental data for decision making, and better interaction of watershed monitoring.

EPA and NOAA have begun working together on an implementation strategy for the Act. The strategy attempts to build a framework connecting existing coastal monitoring efforts and to recommend new activities to fill gaps between current programs. The Agencies expect to present their implementation strategy to the public later this year, with monitoring activities to begin possibly next fiscal year.

Although legislation gives the leadership for this program to the Office of Research and Development's Environmental Research Laboratory in Narragansett, Rhode Island, OWOW brings strengths to the partnership and plans to play several important roles in implementation. OWOW will ensure that monitoring information will include the types of information needed by the managers of pollution control and ecosystem protection programs, and not just interesting research data. OWOW's connections to state monitoring programs should prove to be an important link in eventual program implementation. A provision in the Act calling for the establishment of "intensive monitoring areas" may be an opportunity to enhance monitoring in high priority coastal watersheds, such as the bays of the National Estuary Program. Contact Steve Glomb, 260-6414.

TMDL Development-Continued from Page 1

"Quarterly Highlights" is prepared by the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW). Its purpose is to share information with our Headquarters and Regional counterparts on major events that occurred during the past quarter, to provide an update on specific topics, and to advise you of key personnel changes and upcoming activities. Any questions or suggestions concerning "Quarterly Highlights" should be directed to Anne Robertson of OWOW at 202-260-9112.

tors active in the river basin include USDA's Forest and Soil Conservation Services, Bonneville Power, several Tribes, Oregon State University, and several State agencies.

EPA expects that the tools and information developed will have direct applicability to many areas in the Northwest. EPA also expects to learn about the utility of remote sensing and learn about building GIS-based watershed-scale hydrologic and water quality models. Reports from this project should be available toward the end of 1994. Contact Doug Norton, 260-7017 or Chris Kelly, Region X, (206) 553-1566.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Priority Projects Launched

On April 17, implementation of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) moved forward with the signing of cost-share agreements to begin construction activities for 12 priority projects at a ceremony hosted by the Corps of Engineers in New Orleans. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt gave the opening address at the ceremony. Other attendees included Senator Bennett Johnston (D-LA); Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Secretary Ales; and Russell Rhoades, Environmental Services Division Director for EPA's Region VI.

The CWPPRA was signed into law in 1990. The primary goal of the Act is to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and aquatic/coastal ecosystems in Louisiana. The Act establishes an interagency task force chaired by the Army Corps of Engineers with members from EPA, Interior, USDA, Commerce, and the State of Louisiana. The task force is required to submit, from 1991 to 1995, an annual priority list of wetland restoration projects based on wetland quality and cost effectiveness. The first two lists have identified a total of 29 priority restoration projects. In addition, the task force is required to prepare a comprehensive Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan for Louisiana and evaluate completed wetland restoration projects every 3 years. The Act provides funding on a cost-share basis (75% Federal/25% State) to implement restoration projects in Louisiana.

Some of the potential strategies proposed in the Restoration Plan are freshwater and sediment diversions, hydrologic restoration, delta management, shoreline protection, beneficial uses of dredged material, and vegetative plantings. The final restoration plan is due to Congress in November 1993 and a draft is currently available for public review. Some of the estimated benefits of this Act are 203,000 acres of wetlands saved, 70% reduction of total wetland loses, protection of commercial fisheries, avoidance of infrastructure losses, and avoidance of escalating flood control costs.

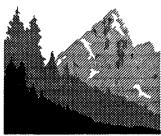
EPA serves as lead Agency for the Isles Derniers Barrier Island Restoration Project, one of the 11 launched on April 17. This \$13 million project will restore and elevate the coastal dunes, construct and enhance wetlands, enhance the physical integrity of the islands, and protect the lower Terrebone Estuary and associated marshes.

The Act also requires Louisiana to develop and implement a State Wetland Conservation Plan that will achieve no net loss of wetlands resulting from development. For other coastal states, the Act establishes matching grants (50% Federal/50% state) to implement Wetland Conservation Projects. Contact Fran Eargle, 260-1954.

Forest Plan-Continued from Page 1

Monitoring and ecosystem restoration are emphasized in the plan, and these activities will also be implemented as part of the economic

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ber dependent communities. Like the Watershed Protection Approach, implementation of the plan in Adaptive Management Areas is intended to involve local stakeholders in cooperative planning and ecosystem management.

OWOW managers and staff have participated in the interagency working groups which developed this plan and will be involved in cooperative implementation activities. A Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared for this interagency effort. Contact John Cannell, 260-7087.

News Bits

- *OWOW Briefs Hill on Wetlands and Hosts Field Trip During the Spring, OWOW conducted a series of wetlands briefings for new Hill staff. In addition, OWOW took several congressional staffers on a field trip to several Patuxent River Wetlands sites. Contact Benjy Ficks, 260-2364.
- *NAS Releases Study on Managing Wastewater in Urban Coastal Areas This report, released on April 19 by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), was commissioned by Congress, in 1990, to recommend future strategies for water quality and wastewater management issues in urban areas. The report contains a number of significant findings and recommendations that will be useful to efforts to protect coastal waters. Contact Karen Klima, 260-6424.
- *San Juan Bay NEP Holds First Meeting At the first meeting of this Management Conference, held June 23-24, Federal and Commonwealth representatives gave presentations on the physical, chemical, biological, and cultural aspects of the Bay. A meeting of the Management and Technical Committees followed. One immediate challenge for the program is development of a public outreach strategy. Contact Ruth Chemerys, 260-9038.
- *Interest in Audubon's America Grows Currently, Region VI is considering coordinating an Audubon's America Project, Mayor Riley of Charleston, South Carolina is exploring passage of an Audubon's America Resolution, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. is planning an exhibit of Audubon's Birds of America Watercolors for this Fall. In addition, 60 representatives from federal and state government and the private sector attended the first Audubon's America Workshop, held on May 14-15, and developed a concept plan for watersheds in eastern Pennsylvania. Contact Marjorie Wesley, 260-1905.
- *Draft Clean Vessel Guidance Submitted to OMB and Grants Application Process Opened The Clean Vessel Act requires the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to develop guidance to assist states in developing plans for the construction of pumpout and waste reception facilities at both public and private marinas. The draft guidance was published in the Federal Register for comment on June 17. In addition, FWS has opened the application process for Clean Vessel Act grants for construction and maintenance of pumpout stations. OCPD participated in the guidance development. Contact Joel Salter, 260-8484.
- *Expanding Farm*A*Syst Explored Recently, staff from OWOW and Farm*A*Syst discussed the possibil-

- ity of expanding the tools now available to farmers to identify and implement pollution prevention practices to include wetland and riparian protection and ecosystem/habitat values. Contact Menchu Martinez, 260-5299 or Joan Warren, 260-7796.
- *Exploration of Water Quality-Based Trading Continues AWPD, OPPE, and Regional staff are working together to identify potential pilot projects for water quality-based trading. As part of the overall total maximum daily load development, EPA staff will provide a limited amount of general help and assistance in designing trading programs. An annotated bibliography on trading is also being developed. Contact Theresa Tuano, 260-7059.
- *NPS Bulletin Board System Expanded to Include Volunteer Monitoring The volunteer monitoring Special Interest Group (SIG) opened on June 1. This SIG provides volunteer monitors with a national forum for discussion and information exchange. It includes a bibliography of volunteer monitoring-related documents, a list of state-managed volunteer programs, a news bulletin, and a calendar of upcoming events. Contact Alice Mayio, 260-7018.
- *Clean Lakes Study Receives Planning Award The Clean Lakes study on Town Lake, Austin, Texas, recently received a Regional Planning Award from the American Planning Association. A unique feature of this study was the reliance on a local citizen volunteer monitoring program for data and problem identification. The final reports for this study include lake restoration and protection measures which address water quality problems (such as streambank stabilization, stormwater retention ponds, oil traps in storm sewers, and street maintenance) in the urban and residential areas of the watershed. Contact Susan Ratcliffe, 260-5404.
- *Chair Selected for NAS Wetland Study Dr. William Lewis of the University of Colorado has been selected to chair the committee for the National Academy of Science's study of wetland delineation and wetland functional assessment techniques. Contact Mike Fritz, 260-6013.
- *Revised 319(h) Grant Guidance Issued On June 24, revised guidance for CWA section 319(h) nonpoint source program grants was issued. One of the most significant changes is to put the section 319(h) program on an expedited grant award schedule. In addition, the revisions include a new watershed resource restoration element, additional emphasis on pollution prevention, suggestions for improving the grant award process,

News Bits

and clarification of reporting and other requirements. Contact Anne Weinberg, 260-7107.

*Proposed Ocean Dumping Site Reorganization Rule Published - On June 9, the proposed Ocean Dumping Site Reorganization Regulation was published in the Federal Register. Public comments on the rule are currently being addressed. Contact Susan Hitch, 260-9178.

*NY/NJ Dredging Permit Issued for Dioxin Contaminated Sediments - On May 26, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey received final approval to ocean dump dredged material from the Port Newark terminals. Approval was delayed because of controversy about the dredged material containing dioxin. A coalition of environmental groups sued the Port Authority, the Corps of Engineers, and EPA claiming that the permit was issued unlawfully. New Jersey District Court Judge Debevoise declined to enjoin the dredging, which has since been completed. The lawsuit had not been withdrawn, and EPA continues to work with the Port Authority, the Corps, and the Department of Justice to address issues raised in the lawsuit. Contact Tom Chase, 260-1909.

*OW Briefs National Biological Survey (NBS) - On May 19, OW briefed the NBS on OW's legal mandates, mission, and strategy. OW emphasized that it is a partner with NBS in terms of supplying management tools and information, and also as a customer for information. NBS is being established in the Department of Interior and will gather, analyze, and disseminate biological information. NBS will undertake a coordinated inventory and monitoring program to assess the overall status and trends in the abundance, health, and distribution of plants and animals, as well as the ecosystems on which they depend. Contact Elizabeth Fellows, 260-7062.

*Section 404(q) Elevation of Alaska Permit Issue - On June 14, EPA requested that the Department of Army review a proposed permit decision by the Alaska District Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the section 404(q) Memorandum of Agreement. The permit decision would modify an existing section 404 permit by authorizing the construction and operation of a petroleum pipeline and loading facility in Port Valdez, Alaska. EPA's concerns are based on adverse impacts to a particularly valuable and sensitive 1000-acre aquatic system known as the Valdez Duck Flats. The Army accepted the elevation, and the Corps is reviewing the proposed project. Contact Clay Miller, 260-6464.

*Forestry Field Tour-On June 10, WD staff attended an all-day forestry field tour on Maryland's eastern shore sponsored by the American Forest and Paper Association. The tour provided opportunities to see silvicultural practices in forested wetlands. Discussions focused on issues regarding the Clean Water Act Section 4()4(f) exemption for silvicultural activities in wetlands. Contact Jane Freeman, 260-6422.

People

Good luck to Sandy Germann who has left PCS for a permanent communications position, that included a promotion, in the immediate Office of Water.

Welcome back to Chris Faulkner who has returned to AWPD from his detail to Ohio's EPA Lab where he gained hands-on field experience in the application of biological assessments and criteria for managing aquatic resources.

Farewell to Bruce Newton who is relocating to Portland, Oregon. Bruce will be working under a two-year interagency agreement between Region X and the Soil Conservation Service on watershed management, federal coordination, and implementation of the President's Forest Plan.

Thanks to Barb D'Angelo and Phil Oshida who completed their details in WD and have returned to their respective Regions, III and IX.

Jeanne Melanson is acting branch chief for the Wetlands Strategies and State Programs Branch and Sherri Fields is acting section chief for the Strategies and Initiatives Section.

Judy Johnson is on a detail as an acting branch chief to the Office of Underground Storage Tanks.

Stan Austin is currently on a detail from OCPD to WD as Acting Section Chief for the Outreach and State Programs Section.

Welcome to Rich Pepino from Region III who is acting for Louise Wise for six weeks.

Farewell to Marcy O'Dell, Dianne Fish, and Charly Ray who have all left EPA.

TQM Corner

* National Performance Team (NPR) in High Gear - The 20 internal EPA NPR teams have worked intensively over the past month to develop, draft, and complete final reports. On July 19, the NPR leadership received all team reports, and Executive Summaries of all the reports were circulated to the Senior Leadership Council (formerly the Senior Management Council).

On July 21, Vice President Gore visited EPA to meet with staff in a "town hall" format to discuss the NPR and the Government-wide reinvention effort and listen to employees' ideas and suggestions. The Regions and Labs were on-line to participate in the town hall session.

On July 27, the NPR Teams made formal presentations of their report recommendations to the Administrator and the Senior Leadership Council. All the team reports will now be consolidated into one EPA report and presented to the Governmentwide NPR leadership. Contact John Alter, 260-4315.

New Personnel

Several new employees have joined OWOW through the Senior Environmental Employment Program:

- Louise Gilbert, PCS
 Lauria Carey, BPMS
- Ruby James, AWPD
- Jean Gibson, OCPD
- Yvonne Edwards, OCPD

The following interns have joined OWOW for the summer:

- Basha Foster, PCS (Virginia State University)
- Chris DeCardy, WD (Harvard University)
- John Gregoire, WD (Tufts University)
- Latanya Wakefield, WD (Virginia State University)
- Lara Whitely-Binder, WD (Miami University of Ohio)
- Iim Eichner, OCPD (Princeton University)
- Dwight Gates, OCPD (University of Georgia)
- Jean Lewis, OCPD (Virginia State University)
- John Wilson, OCPD (Morgan State University)

Meetings

National Agricultural Nutrient Management Conference, April 20-22 - This conference was designed to assist local and state program managers in planning effective nutrient management programs and to provide the best current information on efficient field-level nutrient management. Much of the discussion focused on how to develop nutrient management programs, how to deliver nutrient management plans to individual farmers, and different technical approaches. Proceedings of this conference will be available this Fall. Contact Anne Weinberg, 260-7107.

Chief Scientist Certification Training, May 3-7-Thirty chief scientist candidates attended this classroom training for EPA staff who plan to conduct ocean surveys. Technical issues, health and safety, and administrative topics were covered. Eleven candidates with extensive experience aboard the ANDERSON were immediately certified. The remaining 19 must complete ship-board practicum requirements prior to certification. Contact Kevin Perry, 260-6833.

London Dumping Conference Scientific Group Meeting, May 10-14 - The primary objective of this meeting was to provide scientific/technical review of the 13 core issues under consideration for amendment, such as the prohibition of dumping of industrial wastes at sea and control of dumping in internal waters. Other issues included the waste assessment framework, possible adoption of a "Reverse List" of materials suitable for dumping, and dredged material management. A report of the meeting results is available. Contact Ellen Delaney, 260-8448.

Biological Advisory Committee Annual Meeting, May 11-13 - At this meeting, this EPA committee expressed concern about the cuts in research budgets, particularly for work on eco-regions, and the direction of biological research. OWOW provided information on its biology-related activities and research needs and on the Intergovernmental Task Force on Monitoring and Water Quality (ITFM). The committee will review and redraft their mission statement and begin working closely with the Agency's Environmental Monitoring Management Council. Contact Mary Belefski, 260-7061.

ITFM Meeting, May 11-12 - Comments and perspectives on the ITFM's recommendations were obtained from various environmental organizations, volunteer monitoring groups, and municipal governments and next steps for task group activities were reviewed. In addition, the Task Force is currently reviewing and seeking comments on a draft charter for a National Monitoring Council which will coordinate monitoring

efforts when the ITFM is disbanded. Contact Elizabeth Fellows, 260-7062 or Mary Belefski, 260-7061.

Sixth Annual Clean Lakes Conference, May 5-8-This meeting focused on strengthening local lake and watershed protection efforts by bringing together State lake program managers and staff with presidents and representatives from both statewide and local lake organizations. Participants were urged not to forget global issues, but to initiate local action through building partnerships. Contact Susan Ratcliffe, 260-5404.

EcoRisk Meeting, June 8-10 - At this meeting, the framework for reorienting ORD's EcoRisk Assessment Program toward a watershed-wide planning, assessment, and decision-making program that integrates ecological risk assessment principles and environmental monitoring and verification was laid out. Contact Dave Davis, 260-7166.

First NEPA Workgroup Meeting, June 15 - This workgroup will review EPA policies, procedures, and experience in applying the spirit and/or letter of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in its programs and activities. The group will report its findings in September. Contact Dave Davis, 260-7166.

EMAP Workshop for OW, June 3 - Representatives from the EMAP program presented EMAP's objectives and the initial findings from their pilot studies and addressed resources and tools which OW programs can use. Then the participants met in three groups (surface waters and wetlands; coastal waters and estuaries; and Great Lakes) to discuss plans for summer monitoring and the specific details of the EMAP pilot programs. Contact Elizabeth Fellows, 260-7062.

Association of State Wetland Managers Annual Meeting, June 15-19 - This meeting was part of an international wetland symposium to improve wetland conservation efforts through improved wetland education, interpretation, training, technical assistance, and other outreach efforts. Participants included federal, state, and local agency staff; educators at all levels; consultants; nonprofit organizations; and others. Contact Sandy Sieg-Ross, 260-9914.

Section 404 Regulatory Training Course, May 25-27 Topics covered included the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, Section 404(f) exemptions, Section 404(q) and (c), alternative dispute resolution, and public relations. Participants included staff from EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Contact Sandy Sieg-Ross, 260-9914.

Upcoming Events

Workshop on Water Quality Standards/Criteria and Related Programs, Philadelphia, PA August 24-27, Kansas City, MO August 31 - September 3 - This workshop will provide information and technical assistance on the water quality standards and criteria programs. Contact Frances Desselle, 260-1320.

Restoring Urban Waters Friends of Trashed Rivers, San Francisco, CA, September 17-19 - This conference will focus on establishing a national network of people working to restore and protect urban waterways. The conference is intended to facilitate citizen group efforts and to foster effective working relationships with government agencies. Contact California Natural Resources Foundation, (510) 848-2211.

Training for New NEPs, Corpus Christi, TX, September 20-23 - Topics to be covered at this workshop for the four new NEPs include establishing a management conference, program administration, setting goals and priorities, public involvement, and management and technical characterizations. Case studies will be presented by several of the more established NEPs. Contact Donna Nickerson, 260-6467.

Joint NPS and TMDL Regional Coordinators Meeting, Region IX location, November 2-4 - In addition to the normal business conducted in the Regional Coordinators meetings, this special joint meeting will focus on programmatic coordination between the water quality planning program and the nonpoint source and coastal zone programs. Contact Don Brady or Dov Weitman, 260-7040.

The Future of America's Rivers, Arlington, VA, November 4-7 - This conference, sponsored by American Rivers, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Current national river policy will be reviewed, future directions for river protection will be explored, and grassroots river protection efforts will be promoted. Contact Jennifer Paugh, (202) 833-3380.

Second International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas, Baltimore, MD, November 10-13-The three themes for this conference are Governance and Policy, Coastal Science and Policy, and Stakeholders - Citizens and Private Interests. Contact Helene Tenner, (410) 974-5047.

Recent Releases

A Commitment to Watershed Protection: A Review of the Clean Lakes Program - This report reviews the first 17 years of EPA's Clean Lakes Program. The report includes lessons learned, effects of the program, and the program's history and structure. Contact EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, (202) 260-9108.

EPA Wetlands Fact Sheets - A series of 32 easy-toread fact sheets designed to provide basic information on issues surrounding wetlands, including wetlandsdelineation, consequences of wetlands loss, takings, State roles in wetlands protection, mitigation banking, wetlands and agriculture, partnerships with property owners, wetland planning programs, and more. Contact EPA's Wetlands Hotline (contractor operated), 1-800-832-7828.

Fish and Fisheries Management in Lakes and Reservoirs: Technical Supplement to the Lake and Reservoir Restoration Guidance Manual - This manual focuses on the management of fisheries and lake water quality. An important objective of this manual is to encourage the development of an integrated lake management program that assesses fish, other biota, the physical and chemical characteristics of the lake habitat, and the associated watershed as an interdependent unit. Contact EPA's Watershed Branch, (202) 260-7074.

Guidelines for Preparation of the 1994 State Water Quality Assessments - These requirements are similar to those for 1992. Changes include more detailed guidance for aquatic life assessments, clarification of reporting requirements by including tables for information to be reported, and improved guidance for data quality and utility. Contact Barry Burgan, (202) 260-7060.

Interagency Questions and Answers Concerning the 1992 404(q) Memoranda of Agreements - This document (developed by EPA, the Department of the Army (DOA), Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service) clarifies guidance on the revised 1992 section 404(q) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between EPA and DOA. The document is a result of numerous interagency discussions and negotiations and addresses many important issues and concerns raised by the Regions regarding the revised 1992 MOA. Contact Joseph DaVia, (202) 260-1602.

State and Local Funding of Nonpoint Source Control Programs - This document describes particularly effective State and local approaches to funding nonpoint source (NPS) programs and is intended to helpother jurisdictions understand these approaches as they develop their own NPS programs. Contact Anne Weinberg, EPA, (202) 260-7107.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (WH-556F) 401 M Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20460