

Water Quality Committee

Barbara Biggs, Chair

Jim Pletl, Vice Chair

February 13, 2012

8:00 – 9:30 am

Bunker Hill Room

Omni Los Angeles Hotel

Los Angeles, California

Agenda

- I. Welcoming Remarks/Introductions
- II. Roundtable Discussion – Jim Pletl, Moderator

Water Quality Standards – Protecting Water Quality without Breaking the Bank

With new emphasis being placed on long-term, integrated planning designed to improve water quality, the underlying Clean Water Act goals – the water quality standards – will likely receive additional scrutiny to ensure the right level of protection is being provided. At the same time, significant pressure on states to develop numeric nutrient criteria, together with a list of new or revised criteria expected out soon from EPA, are raising new questions over whether permits based on these criteria can be implemented – especially where criteria exceed the limits of what technology can achieve or push the limits of what is affordable. The Clean Water Act has a number of tools to address these challenges, but many are often underused or misunderstood.

The Committee will discuss some of the forthcoming actions expected from EPA, including proposed amendments to the underlying water quality standards regulations, and underscore the importance of discussing water quality goals and using all of the available Clean Water Act tools.

- III. Water Quality Standards
 - A. Ammonia Criteria Revisions
 - B. Recreational Water Quality Criteria
 - C. Other Criteria under Development
 - D. WQS Regulation Revisions

- IV. Nutrients
 - A. Numeric Criteria –
 - 1. EPA/State Workshop on Independent Applicability
 - 2. Recent EPA Actions – Florida and Montana
 - B. Implementation Issues – State Document on Barriers
 - C. WERF Project on Site Specific Nutrient Criteria
- V. Detection and Quantitation Issues
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjourn