

Word of the Day: Affordability

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Affordability – When Does It Matter?

- CSO level of control
- CSO controls implementation schedule
- Review of water quality standards
- Bypass/blending authorization
- SSO elimination schedule

CSO Policy - 1994

- Level of control – “knee of curve” is factor to be considered
- Implementation schedule – financial capability is relevant
 - Examples of factors to be considered: MHI, total costs per household as % of MHI, property taxes as % of property values, property tax collection rate, bond rating

Guidance on LTCPs - 1995

- Purpose of LTCP is to provide for site-specific, cost-effective controls that will provide for attainment of water quality standards

Financial Capability Guidance - 1997

- **6 cost factors in CSO policy are not exclusive**
- **Analysis – do Residential Indicator, then Financial Capability Indicator, then combine in Financial Capability Matrix**
- **If low burden – regular engineering/construction schedule**
- **If medium burden – 10 years**
- **If unusually high burden – up to 20 years**
- **BUT those timelines are NOT binding**

Interim Economic Guidance - 1995

- Used to determine if economic/social impacts are “substantial and widespread”
- Calculate Municipal Preliminary Screener and Secondary Score, then combine scores in a matrix
- EPA can also look at other factors, such as impacts on low-income households, presence of failing local industry, other projects community would have to forego to meet water quality standards
- If impacts are substantial, must also determine if they are widespread, depending on change in socioeconomic conditions – no benchmark for significance
- State and Region can decide if benefits of cleaner water can be monetized and put into analysis
- THIS GUIDANCE IS VERY CONTROVERSIAL – AND NOT BINDING

Water Quality Standards Review

- If use demonstration approach in LTCP, have 3 options for meeting WQS
 - Put in controls needed to meet WQS
 - Do TMDL that results in attainment of WQS
 - Do UAA to modify WQS to attainable level
- 2001 guidance on “Coordinating CSO Long-Term Planning with Water Quality Standards Reviews” – READ IT
- CSO community can do UAA as part of LTCP, or can do LTCP then UAA – Indianapolis, Kokomo and other IN communities are recent examples of using this process, under new State LTCP/UAA rules

Bypass/Blending Authorization

- EPA position on bypass derived from Toledo enforcement case
- Current EPA HQ (apparent) position: blending is a bypass, and must show “no feasible alternative” to get authorization
- Draft policy from 2005, and draft guidance in 2009 – 2005 applies to separate systems, but new guidance applies to CSO systems too
- Can show economic infeasibility – not defined

SSO Elimination

- EPA position: SSOs are illegal and must be eliminated
- In determining elimination schedule, Office of Enforcement guidance indicates that should use CSO Financial Capability Guidance

Questions?

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