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# Effluent Guidelines and Standards Program Planning



National Association of Clean Water Agencies—2014 National Pretreatment  
and Pollution Prevention Workshop

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Office of Water

# Outline of this presentation

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- Review of 2012 Preliminary Plan
- Upcoming Plan
- Continued and Enhanced Collaboration
- Questions



## 2012 Preliminary Plan

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- Published on August 7, 2013
- Comment period closed October 7, 2013
- Included the results of the 2011 annual review
- No new rules or studies identified
  - Announced continued review of
    - Meat & Poultry Products Point Source Category to investigate discharges of nitrate;
    - Petroleum Refining Point Source Category to investigate discharges of dioxin and metals; and
    - Pulp, Paper & Paperboard Point Source Category for discharge of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds



## 2012 Preliminary Plan

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- Described a new approach to conducting annual reviews beginning with 2012 annual review
  - Intend the new approach to continue to evolve and use new data sources
  - Applied to annual reviews conducted in even years
- New approach in 2012 relied on data collected through:
  - Targeted National Sewage Sludge Survey (TNSSS)
  - Toxic Chemical Reviews
  - Expansion of TRI data collection to new sectors
  - New air emissions regulations



## 2012 Preliminary Plan

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- Proposed to de-list 2 rulemakings from the 304m Plan
  1. Coalbed Methane Extraction (a potential new subcategory of the oil and gas extraction point source category)
  2. Chlorine and Chlorinated Hydrocarbons— a rulemaking that would affect 2 existing rules: the organic chemicals, plastics and synthetic fibers category and the inorganic chemicals category



## **Solicitation of Comments in 2012 Preliminary Plan**

- Solicited comment on the delisting of the 2 rulemakings
- Solicited comment on the use and application of innovative technologies and innovative manufacturing practices
  - Specifically interested in how the Technology-based program can enhance technology transfer and harness innovation to solve water quality problems
- Solicited comment on the application of new approaches in conducting the annual review in alternate years



## Comments Submitted on the 2012 Preliminary Plan

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- Most of the comments responded to the proposal to delist the coalbed methane subcategory and commented on the rulemaking for unconventional oil and gas extraction.
  - Industry comments were supportive of delisting coalbed methane extraction
  - Environmental groups were opposed to the delisting
- Two industry groups commented in support of delisting the chlorine and chlorinated hydrocarbon rulemaking
- NACWA commented on the development of pretreatment standards for controlling discharges of dental amalgam
- Other topics raised in comment included:
  - Coastal Oil & Gas Extraction regulations in Cook Inlet, AK
  - Off-shore seafood processing vessels in AK



## Upcoming Plan

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- Expect to publish in August or September
- Results of the new annual review process will be discussed
- Intend to combine the final 2012 and preliminary 2014 plans into one publication to make up some of the time that has been lost in the planning cycle





# Rulemaking Activities

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- Status of Ongoing Effluent Guidelines rulemakings
  - Steam Electric—promulgation scheduled for Sept. 2015
  - Pretreatment Standards for Unconventional Oil & Gas—proposal scheduled for Fall 2014
  - Dental Amalgam—working on the proposed rule
- Proposal to add new/revised CWA analytical methods—under development, proposal late this year



## Continued and Enhanced Collaboration

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- Establish more regular dialog to hear about the pretreatment issues that you are dealing with
- Share data, we are particularly interested in obtaining any discharge data that you keep on the SIU's that discharge to your facilities
- Use the established Pretreatment Coordinator monthly calls or is there another process that would be better?



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# Questions?

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## URL for 304m:

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/wastetech/guide/304m/index.cfm>

