What YOU Can Do On National Water Monitoring Day

October 18, 2002 is National Water Monitoring Day – the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Clean Water Act. Let's take this opportunity to volunteer and get involved in monitoring and protecting our local waters. PLAN AHEAD!

Join a local volunteer monitoring group and go water sampling. Visit EPA's national volunteer monitoring directory at http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/dir.html to learn about groups of volunteers in your area who are trained to monitor the condition of streams, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, and coastal waters.

Organize your own water monitoring or cleanup activity. You can order a simple, easy to use water monitoring kit from www.yearofcleanwater.org. Be sure to follow safety hints, register your site, and post your data on-line. For details on organizing a debris cleanup, visit http://www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/watershedpatch.pdf.

Join a local watershed group and clean up debris or restore vegetation along a waterway. EPA maintains a database of watershed organizations nationwide. Visit this database at www.epa.gov/adopt, contact a group in your area, and get involved!

Organize a storm drain stenciling or marking project in your neighborhood. Labeling storm drains "Do Not Dump – Drains to Stream or Bay" is a great way to increase awareness. Check out http://www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/watershedpatch.pdf, http://www.oceanconservancy.org/dynamic/getInvolved/events/sentries/sentries.htm (a free kit is available), and http://www.planetrepair.org/water/water001.html.

Talk to a local school class or ecology club about water pollution. Check with your EPA public information center for posters, brochures, or exhibit material you can use in making presentations. In addition, there are many educational materials available on the web. Here are some great websites to get you started: Water Environment Federation: http://www.wef.org/WefStudents/Teachers/index.jhtml; USEPA: http://www.epa.gov/epahome/students.htm; USGS: http://water.usgs.gov/education.html

★ 2002 ★ THE YEAR OF CLEAN WATER Celebration & Recommitment

For more information on National Water Monitoring Day, visit www.yearofcleanwater.org. Contact your EPA Regional National Water Monitoring Day coordinator or visit www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater/ for more information on EPA participation in events celebrating the Year of Clean Water and National Water Monitoring Day.