Welcome

This is the first of EPA's new Nonpoint Source NEWS-NOTES, an occasional publication which will focus on Information Exchange and Technology Transfer for those engaged in the development and administration of State Nonpoint Source Management Programs.

It is our intention to highlight and report on what is happening in those States that are tackling the management of nonpoint sources of pollution and the improvement of water quality. Reports on significant EPA and other Federal agency activity, as well as private, corporate and citizen group contributions, will also appear here.

NEWS-NOTES will be an integral part of the new Nonpoint Source Information Exchange program which will commence operations early in FY 90. Operating through the Assessment and Watershed Division of EPA's Office of Water and through EPA's Regional Offices, the Exchange will aim to provide hands-on assistance and how-to-do-it information to "all of those who are in any way engaged in the development and implementation of State nonpoint source management and control efforts," according to Geoff Grubbs, Division Director.

NEWS-NOTES will advise you of Information Exchange developments as they occur.

NEWS-NOTES needs to know what busy practitioners have been doing, and will pass along their experiences, addresses and phone numbers to others who need to know. Tell us YOUR success story.

Do you have information that should be reported? Or meetings or other events that you want published in NEWS-NOTES? Or, is there something you want or need to know? Use the coupon found in this issue, or in any case WRITE. We want to hear from you. Our address is:

Editors, NPS NEWS-NOTES
Nonpoint Source Information Exchange (WH-553)
Assessment and Watershed Protection Division
Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20460

Headquarters Notes

States Submit NPS Management Programs

As of the middle of August, 1989, all but one of the fifty-six eligible States and Territories have submitted their initial NPS Management Programs to EPA Regional Offices for review and approval under the provisions of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Fourteen of those submitted were in draft form.

Thirteen programs have received full approval by mid-August. Nine additional State programs were approved in part. Only one program has been disapproved. Approval action is pending on the remaining 32 programs received.

"This is the first time around for all of us. We are impressed by the initiatives shown by many States as they start up," remarked Geoff Grubbs, Director of OWRS's Assessment and
States Submit NPS Management Programs (Continued)

Watershed Protection Division, which administers the NPS program. He indicated that reviews of the pending programs will be expedited because "we are anxious to move on into implementation as quickly as possible. We want to help get State efforts underway and for 'clean water' results to begin to show."

[For more information contact: Lynne Kolze, Nonpoint Source Control Branch (WH-553) U.S. EPA, 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Phone: (202) (FTS) 382-7104.]

Four States Use Construction Grant Funds for NPS Programs

The 1987 Amendments to the Clean Water Act provide authority for States to use up to 20% of their Title II allotments for NPS implementation purposes. To date the following four States have used this discretionary authority and have been awarded grants under the provision of 201(g)(1)(B):

- Delaware $1.0 million
- Colorado $0.3 million
- South Dakota $1.1 million
- California $0.7 million

In addition, South Dakota has received a second 201(g)(1)(B) grant in the amount of $458,000. It is anticipated that two additional awards (to Wyoming and Colorado) will be made in January 1990.

These grants must be matched by at least 40% in State dollars. In Delaware's case the State match amounted to $700,000.

The four grants which have been awarded are generally much larger than those available from section 205(j)(5) funds and are being used primarily for demonstration watershed projects in a variety of NPS categories. More information on the accomplishment of these projects will be provided in further NEWS-NOTES.

[For more information contact: Ed Richards, Nonpoint Source Control Branch (WH-553), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street S.W., Washington D.C. 20460. Phone: (202) 475-7324.]

First NPS Report to Congress Prepared

Section 319(m)(1) of the Clean Water Act calls upon the EPA Administrator to submit to the Congress an annual report describing the activities and programs implemented under this section. In addition, the report must document progress made in reducing NPS contribution to navigable waters, and the resulting improvement in the quality of these waters. The first report has been prepared summarizing the activities undertaken in FY 88 at the State and federal levels.

The report begins with EPA's assessment of current NPS problems in the nation and describes in some detail the history of NPS control efforts in the United States. An accounting of State submittals of their NPS Assessment Reports and Management Programs then follows, along with a description of EPA's review process and actions taken in response to the State submittals.

Subsequent sections describe the FY 88 NPS actions taken by EPA and other federal agencies. In addition, the report offers some highlights of EPA's NPS activities planned for FY 89.

The report concludes with summaries of each EPA Regional Office's NPS activities and highlights for FY 88, and State highlights.
First NPS Report to Congress Prepared (Continued)

The report has received OMB clearance and now awaits the Administrator's signature. Final copies will be ready for distribution in late October.

[For more information contact: Steve Dressing, Nonpoint Source Control Branch (WH-553), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street S.W., Washington D.C. 20460. Phone: (202) 382-7110.]

Water Quality of the Nation's Lakes

EPA's Administrator will soon transmit a report to Congress indicating that 45 percent of the nation's lakes are either impaired, partially impaired, or threatened by pollution. The report states that nonpoint sources of pollution cause 76 percent of lake impairment, whereas 11 percent and 12 percent of the impairments result from point sources and natural causes, respectively. The report also points out that, in comparison to 1986 EPA data, the number of lakes considered nutrient-rich has increased by 10 percent.

The report summarizes information submitted to EPA by the States as required by Section 314 of the 1987 Clean Water Act amendments. Trophic status and use impairment in lakes, causes of impairment, sources of pollution, procedures used to control pollution and methods used to restore/protect lake water quality are all discussed.

Nutrients and siltation are the predominant causes of use impairment in lakes. Shallow conditions resulting from siltation, combined with excessive nutrients—primarily phosphorus and nitrogen, encourage the growth of aquatic plants and may result in an overgrowth or bloom of algae. An overabundance of algae and aquatic vegetation impedes recreational activities and diminishes a lake's aesthetic value. In addition, the seasonal decomposition of the plants and algae depletes oxygen levels in the water column which may result in fish kills.


EPA-NPS and USDA-SCS Hold Water Quality Coordination Conference

EPA's NPS program and the Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) held a water quality coordination meeting in Arlington, Virginia, late this spring. Wilson Scaling, Chief of SCS, stressed to the more than 70 conferees the importance of building upon the good relationships already existing between the organizations. A sign of its commitment to the joint venture, SCS has made water quality its number two priority, formerly number five, behind only soil erosion. William A. Whittington, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, affirmed that everyone in attendance holds the responsibility for the coordination's success.

The conference provided an opportunity for national and regional staffs of the two agencies to discuss their separate and combined roles in NPS programs. Sessions emphasized opportunities for improving coordination in water quality programs as well as improving EPA's working relationships with other USDA agencies. National representatives of the USDA Extension Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service discussed water quality initiatives underway in their respective agencies. Vivian Jennings, Deputy Administrator of Agriculture Programs, Extension Service, told the conferees that the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) is linked to practically all counties in the country. Water quality initiatives are receiving emphasis in CES informal educational programs. Jennings also told the conferees "water quality is high up on the public agenda."
Rex Wright, Deputy Director of the Conservation and Environmental Protection Division, ASCS, told conferees that his agency "allotted $8.5 million of our 1988/89 funds to water quality programs. These special water quality projects are in addition to the regular ACP [cost-share payments to farmers for the application of conservation practices on the land], which have water quality aspects in erosion control and sediment reduction." Wright also said that ASCS added buffer strips to erosion control practices last year. Wright said that EPA has been a joint sponsor of the ASCS Rural Clean Water Program projects, which will receive final evaluation in 1990.

Wright told the conferees that he expected the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to have a major impact on improving water quality. USDA has an eventual goal of 5 million acres of tree plantings through the CRP.

The joint conference program also included panels and individual presentations on State nonpoint source pollution assessments and the development of management programs, agency roles in addressing NPS pollution, EPA/SCS relationships, area/region interagency relations, and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies.

(For more information contact: James W. Meek, Chief, Nonpoint Source Branch (WH-553), U.S. EPA, 401 M St., S.W., Washington, DC 20460. Phone: (202) 382-7085, (FTS) 382-7085. Peter M. Tidd, Director, Land Treatment Program Division, USDA-SCS, P.O. Box 2830, Washington, DC 20013. Phone (202) 382-1870)

Nonpoint Sources: Agenda for the Future

EPA Administrator Lee M. Thomas released the Agency's Nonpoint Sources: Agenda for the Future on January 18, 1989. The Administrator remarked in his introductory letter that the report "sets forth EPA's commitment to a national nonpoint source program during the next five years." That commitment will primarily demand that EPA focus on five main areas, according to Rebecca W. Hanmer, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water: public awareness, successful solutions, financing, regulatory solutions, and science. The Agenda "also endorses an approach that covers both restoration and prevention," she said.

[Copies of the Agenda are available. Send your requests to NEWS-NOTES. Address on Page 1.]

Notes From The States

Florida Success Story - Silviculture BMP Compliance

Florida's Division of Forestry (DOF) biennial survey has proven to be an effective and cost efficient method to assess landowners' BMP compliance in protecting the State's water resources. The survey not only determines landowner compliance, but also highlights areas of water pollution that need additional silvicultural BMP implementation, according to Barry W. Gay, Watershed Specialist, Florida DOF.

Forest lands in Florida currently constitute more than 15.6 million acres. They serve many valuable functions, but of prime importance are the benefits they provide to the State's freshwater resources. Forest lands can reduce surface runoff and soil erosion, increase groundwater recharge potential, and help to protect water quality.

Gay reports that DOF has conducted four of the compliance surveys. They were started as a part of Florida's silviculture NPS program under section 208—water quality management planning, and now correspond nicely with the new NPS management requirements under section 319.
The most recent compliance survey, undertaken in 1987, included 136 sites and reflected an overall compliance rating of 89 percent for industrial and non-industrial forest landowners. Gay acknowledges that there are areas that need additional BMP improvement and technical assistance. Road systems in the forests continue to pose a concern, particularly roadside ditches associated with stream crossings that still cause water pollution. According to the results of the 1987 survey, all failed sites had debris in the stream channel, left from either the actual cutting operation or failure to remove it from a temporary stream crossing.

The DOF developed its biennial compliance survey to measure the progress of BMP implementation. Since 1981 these survey results have been used by Division staff to monitor BMP applications, target operator groups, and to increase efficiency of the water quality program.

The initial 1981 survey showed that 70 percent of all site failures occurred in one geographic region—Florida’s panhandle. Thus, an intensive BMP educational campaign was launched in the region. By 1985, the compliance survey showed a 36 percent noncompliance rating, indicating a steady improvement under the educational program. The 1987 survey showed additional improvement, as only 27 percent of the sites rated noncompliance in the panhandle region.

Florida DOF was designated lead agency for silvicultural BMP implementation under the 208 program and was directed to develop a method of assessing landowner compliance. BMPs for silviculture were developed in 1979 with emphasis on lands adjacent to wetlands and other sensitive sites. According to DOF, these BMPs have been recognized as the principal means for controlling forestry NPS pollution in Florida.

Mr. Gay, in a telephone interview, said the Florida Forestry NPS control program was “voluntary” except for aspects requiring compliance with water quality standards in order to obtain permits to construct access road systems and stream crossings.

Survey Procedure

In conducting the surveys, and to select survey sites in the most unbiased fashion possible, DOF aircraft fly patterns over the survey counties on a township-by-township basis. Airborne foresters look for signs of silviculture activity occurring within the past two years. In the 1987 survey, such activity had to be located within 300 feet of a perennial stream or a lake of 10 acres or more. Foresters then followed up the aerial reconnaissance with on-the-ground inspections, completing a questionnaire requiring some 85 entries. Based on this questionnaire data, each site received an overall BMP compliance pass/fail grade. Landowners and land managers were encouraged to accompany the foresters on site inspections, after which they were encouraged to apply remedial actions to minimize any water quality impacts. Compliance surveys were conducted throughout 37 Florida counties.

The land examined in the latest compliance surveys was distributed among 68 industrial ownerships, 63 private nonindustrial forest landowners and five government ownerships.

The Florida DOF has indicated that it will continue to monitor forestry BMP compliance and work closely with the forestry community in the implementation of the clean water laws.

[For more information contact: Barry W. Gay, Watershed Specialist, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, 3125 Conner Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650. Phone: (904) 488-4090.]
Tennessee Uses Joint Funding For NPS Projects

To stretch their limited NPS dollars further, the State of Tennessee is using joint funding for agreements and contracts that implement NPS management activities in targeted watersheds. The State Department of Health and Environment (TDHE) and/or the State Planning Office (TSPO) are parties to each of these agreements which involve the money and possibly the personnel of twelve other State, county, district, regional, and federal agencies or universities. These cooperative efforts total nearly $3.4 million and encompass 12 water quality projects, all designed to implement Tennessee's NPS Management Program.

Using this unique funding technique, Tennessee is attacking several water quality problems, including storm water runoff, failing septic tanks, soil erosion and sediment, residues from fertilizers and chemicals, and others. Some of the jointly funded and managed activities include monitoring, staff training seminars, studying the effects of pollutants on mussel beds, and implementing BMPs. The U. S. Geological Survey, Austin Peay State University, Memphis State University, and Tennessee State Department of Education are among the major agencies cooperating in the funding of these NPS projects.

[For more information contact: Andrew N. Barrass, Environmental Manager, NPSMP, 150 9th Av., N., Nashville, TN 37219-5404. Phone: (615) 741-7883.]

The Regulation of Agriculture in Arizona

Unlike most States, Arizona has a regulatory Nonpoint Source Water Quality Management Program. The State passed significant water quality legislation in 1986 which required a general permit program to regulate agricultural nonpoint sources.

In fact, the 1986 Arizona Environmental Quality Act (EQA) calls for three specific programs to regulate agricultural nonpoint source pollutants. These include:

1. a general permit program requiring best management practices (BMPs) for the application of nitrogen fertilizers;

2. a general permit program requiring BMPs for concentrated animal feeding operations; and

3. a program intended to prevent groundwater contamination caused by the use of agriculture pesticides.

BMPs for Nitrogen Fertilizer and Feed Lots

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is the agency designated by the EQA to implement these programs. A general permit is issued by rule. Everyone who operates utilizing best management practices automatically has the permit.

BMPs are defined as general goal statements in the rule. The generalized BMPs provide direction and purpose, and incorporate necessary flexibility into the program.

Lack of compliance by farm operators will first result in negotiated compliance agreements under authority of the general permit. If BMPs are still not implemented the operator will be required to obtain an individual Aquifer Protection Permit.

The generalized BMPs for the application of nitrogen fertilizer address the amount and timing of fertilizer application and the management of water, soil, and crops. BMPs for managing discharges from a concentrated animal feeding operation include the location of the facility, the management of solid and liquid wastes, the management of runoff, and land disposal of wastes.
Specific guidance to control agriculture nonpoint source pollution (similar to BMPs in other States) was developed by advisory committees. General best management practices contained in the rule are therefore implemented using specific guidance. The U. S. Soil Conservation Service and Cooperative Extension program provide technical assistance for farm operators to develop workable operating plans.

Pesticide Management

The Arizona EQA also described a Pesticide Contamination Prevention program (PCP) for agricultural use pesticides. The PCP program is not a permit program. If groundwater and soil monitoring demonstrates that agricultural use pesticides threaten surface water or groundwater, the product registration may be cancelled or the product labels modified.

The proactive portion of the PCP program consists of the following:

- submittal by pesticide registrants of environmental fate data;
- establishment of numeric screening values to identify mobile active ingredients (AI);
- development of a groundwater protection list of predicted mobile AI;
- reporting on the use and sale of groundwater protection list pesticides by users and dealers;
- monitoring and testing of groundwater and soil for agricultural use pesticide contamination; and
- upon detection, review of circumstances surrounding contamination to determine whether use of the pesticide should be modified or discontinued.

Grazing

A program to control NPS discharges from other sources was not individually identified in the Arizona EQA. Nevertheless, grazing activities will be addressed under the general NPS authority in the EQA (ARS 49-203.3).

Arizona’s NPS Assessment Report identified rangeland activities as a major source of NPS pollution in the State. The grazing nonpoint source water quality management program is currently under development and will be formalized by rule. This program is currently conceptualized as a cooperative effort between ADEQ and private, State and Federal land managers. The NPS Management Program for grazing activities will include:

- planning;
- implementation by rule;
- implementation by other means; and
- compliance.

The land managers will be required to meet water quality standards through application of BMPs designed to ameliorate the impacts of grazing.

[For more information contact: Carol Russell, Nonpoint Source Program Manager, ADEQ, 2655 E. Magnolia, Suite #2, Phoenix, AZ 85034. (202) 392-4066.]
South Dakota Legislature Weaves Comprehensive Groundwater Strategy; Orders Five Year Look at Agricultural Practices

The Legislature of the State of South Dakota has enacted the South Dakota Centennial Environmental Protection Act of 1989, effective January 1, 1989. The Act calls for the preparation of a groundwater protection strategy. It is unique legislation in several areas: (1) in the broad scope of its groundwater strategy implementation, (2) in the funding provided to support a groundwater research and education program and (3) in its provisions for the development of alternative agricultural practices that will assure an agriculture "that is economically, ecologically and socially maintainable over an extended period of time."

Groundwater Strategy Components

The Legislature explains in the Act that the State "has the established authority to provide for groundwater protection and pollution control." It carefully details just what "programs, activities, and funds" established by this and past Legislatures constitute, and should contribute to, the strategy. The Act cites legislation that has established the following items:

- the State Water Plan, the State Conservancy District and the establishment of water development districts;
- geological surveys;
- regulation of water rights, including appropriation of water, collection, preservation, and publication of data on groundwater, liability for damages to domestic and municipal wells, and regulation of drilling and construction of drinking water wells;
- regulation of public drinking water systems;
- protection and control of pollution affecting groundwater, including groundwater discharge permits, a groundwater classification system, groundwater quality standards, underground and above-ground storage tank regulations, regulation of wastewater treatment facilities, and regulation of on-site disposal of wastewater;
- laboratory services related to environmental control;
- a petroleum release compensation fund;
- a regulated substance response fund;
- regulation of solid waste;
- use, storage and handling of fertilizers;
- use, storage and handling of pesticides;
- regulation of chemigation;
- regulation of hazardous wastes;
- regulation of polychlorinated biphenols;
- regulation of oil and gas development including underground injection control permits;
- regulation of mineral exploration, development, and mine reclamation;
- regulation of sand and gravel operations; and
- regulation of uranium exploration.

The legislation provides that

These programs, activities, and funds are all components of the State groundwater protection strategy and are used to maintain and improve the quality of the State's groundwaters.

In addition, the groundwater protection strategy should reflect new and additional knowledge on "contamination resulting from fertilizers, pesticides, petroleum products and other pollutants, nonpoint sources of groundwater pollution, any practices or sources which may contribute to contamination...from both point and nonpoint sources" and so on.
New Emphasis on Agricultural Research and Development

The legislation also establishes a landmark five-year groundwater research and education program for the purpose of studying groundwater contamination and providing information on sound groundwater management. A part of this research program shall identify and assess environmental and socioeconomic impacts of agricultural practices, develop alternative practices that support productive and efficient agriculture and provide information through education and published materials to assure agriculture in the State of South Dakota that is economically, ecologically and socially maintainable over an extended period of time and that optimizes long-term profitability, prevents soil erosion and groundwater contamination and supports rural communities.

The Legislature has established in the State treasury a groundwater protection fund made up of certain specified fees earmarked for the groundwater research and education program. The fees include:

- a pesticide groundwater fee of $25 for each pesticide to be registered;
- an inspection fee of $.30 per ton for all commercial fertilizer distributed in the state; and
- a yearly fee of two cents per pound of cyanide or other chemical leaching agent used to mill ore from surface mining operations.

In addition, the State’s “petroleum release compensation fund” will make a one time contribution of $350,000 and will contribute $125,000 annually for five years to fund the groundwater research and education program.

Overall, the significance of this legislation is its recognition that all previous efforts at regulation and control, adopted piecemeal over time, must now be knit together into a new environmentally sensitive groundwater strategy, including control of point and nonpoint sources of water pollution. The Act acknowledges that past economic and cultural agricultural activities must be reexamined and a group of alternatives developed “...that optimizes long-term profitability, prevents soil erosion and groundwater contamination and supports rural communities.”

[More information contact: Timothy M. Bjork, Division of Water Resources Management, Joe Foss Building, 523 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501. (605) 773-4216.]

Delaware’s NPS Watershed Management Attacks Major Pollution Sources

The Kent Conservation District will implement the Murderkill River Basin (watershed) NPS demonstration program, one element of the State of Delaware’s overall NPS Management Program. In announcing EPA approval of the $450,000 program, Robert Winkler, local farmer and Chairman of the District, indicated that they will address seven objectives in carrying out their implementation mandate. The District seeks to reduce water pollution in the 68,000 acre, largely rural demonstration watershed in central Delaware.

The seven objectives of the demonstration project are to:

1. maintain or improve surface water quality by reducing ephemeral erosion through the implementation of BMPs on cropland,

2. implement BMPs for the land application of sludge through the State’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) guidance and regulations,
Deiawafe's NPS Watershed Management Attacks Major Pollution Sources (Continued)

(3) Implement Resource Management Systems with recommended BMPs for fertilizer, pesticide, and agricultural waste management to reduce pollution in surface and ground water,

(4) Develop Resource Management Systems, including BMPs, for farmsteads,

(5) Implement a rural homeowner NPS education program for some 60 shoreline residents of McGinnis Pond,

(6) Develop an instream biological monitoring and criteria program,

(7) Integrate the State's NPS pollution management program with the Coastal Zone Management Program's Murderkill River corridor project.

Seven agencies cooperate with the Kent Conservation District: the Soil Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, the State's DNREC: Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Division of Water Resources, Division of Storm Water, and the Delaware Department of Agriculture.

[For more information contact: Robert Winkler, Chairman, Kent Conservation District, Route 1, Box 168, Selton, DE 19943. Phone: (302) 335-3351. Or Virginia Gruwell, Manager of the District, P.O. Box 864, Dover, DE 19901. Phone: (302) 697-6171.]

New York Implores: Save the River! It's Not a Sewer!

The use of beautiful color pictures extolling the peaceful, attractive amenities of the St. Lawrence River under the headline "Save the River! It's Not a Sewer!" draws the public into a broad, environmentally-based fight against pollution. Focus on the river, first and foremost, dramatizes the fight against pollution, and makes it a "people" issue.

New York State's Division of Coastal Resources and Waterfront Revitalization has recently awarded a $20,000 grant to Save the River to assure continuation of a Water Quality Education program through such a river focus approach.

Save the River's recently-issued, eye-catching brochure encourages everyone in the St. Lawrence River drainage basin to join the battle. A seven point program is outlined: (1) citizen checking and repairing of septic tanks, (2) restricting winter navigation on the St. Lawrence, (3) wetlands conservation and preservation, (4) shoal marking as an aid to navigation and safety, (5) water level alert and public information on possible water diversions, (6) preservation of the fish population (muskie, bass, and walleye) through fish research and release, and (7) an awards program, featuring a 12-inch blue heron sculpture—"something a river resident can be proud of."

The brochure states: "Clean water won't come easy. It will only happen if each of us help. Call the Sewage Hotline (315) 686-2010, and sign up for a free survey of your sewage disposal system. If your system is certified by us, you'll be eligible for the special edition Save the River Clean Water Award" featuring the blue heron sculpture.

The brochure emphasizes that sewage is not the lone obstacle facing the river's preservation. Heavy metals and persistent toxic chemicals present "a huge threat to the entire ecosystem of the St. Lawrence River. These toxins endanger all plant, animal and even human life." Save the River's ultimate goal: "to achieve zero discharge of these pollutants."

[For copies of the brochure without charge contact: Laurie Marr, Save the River, Box 322, Clayton, NY 13624. Phone: (315) 686-2010.]
Let Us Hear From You
(Clip, Fold and Mail This Coupon)

I have a: □ question □ information request □ suggestion □ other (check one)

for the NPS Information Exchange

□ I need some help □ I want to help (check one)

Use this space to share with us your SUCCESS story!
Other comments and suggestions are welcome.

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

Attach Additional Pages If Necessary

Name

Organization

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone
Notes from EPA’s Regions

Formula For NPS Program Success at The Local Level

At a meeting of Western Conservation Districts and EPA Regions IX and X States and NPS Managers in Reno last January, Ken Brooks, rancher, member of a conservation district, and Chairman of the State of Washington’s Conservation Commission, summarized his experience in State water quality and conservation initiatives as follows:

- Successful NPS programs must be 70 percent education, 20 percent incentives (need not be financial), and 10 percent regulation.
- NPS programs must also include:
  - legitimate, enforceable standards,
  - citizens monitoring,
  - basic research on cause and effect, and
  - putting conservation on the ground.
- The bottom line for NPS controls: “People must be more afraid of the problem than they are of the solution.”

[For more information contact: Debra Caldon, NPS Coord., EPA-Region IX, 215 Fremont St., San Francisco, CA 94105. Phone: (415) 974-0894. Or Elbert Moore, NPS Coord., EPA-Region X, 1200 Sixth Ave., Seattle, WA 98101. Phone: (206) 442-4181. Also contact: Bob Baum, Pacific Region Representative, NACD, Suite 207, 831 Lancaster Dr., N.E., Salem, OR 97301. Phone: (503) 363-0912.]

Region VIII Introduces Ag Chemicals Initiatives

Region VIII representatives from the nonpoint source program, pesticides program-support section and the ground-water branch have scheduled a series of facilitated planning meetings to coordinate agricultural chemicals-related activities for FY90.

The series, which grew out of the existing ag-chemicals work group, will shape Regional policy on the use of grant funds in FY 90. Because different program agendas face varying needs and short time frames, the series will establish State mechanisms for coordinating and integrating the multi-program effort to utilize scarce resources efficiently. By designing the planning meetings to clarify specifically the activities and outputs expected from each participating group, the various program representatives will have a clear understanding of the emphasis being placed in each program in each of the Region’s six States.

Economies of scale in training, management expenditures and data management activities are expected to be realized through this direct, efficient transfer of information with a common goal. The success of the series will relate directly to the State agencies, breaking down any barriers that may have built up between such agencies over time. This technique will serve as a model of intergovernmental activity and cooperation.

[For more information contact: Roger Dean, EPA Region VIII. One Denver Place, 999 18th Street, Suite 1300, Denver, CO 80202-2413. Phone: (303) 293-1517.]

Three Regions To Hold Joint NPS Workshop

October 29, 30 and 31 have been set as the dates for a Nonpoint Source “shirt-sleeves” workshop for the eighteen States in Regions III (Philadelphia), IV (Atlanta) and VI (Dallas). The Doubletree Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee will host the event.

“All of the States in our three Regions are looking forward to sharing their experiences and expectations,” said Susan Alexander, NPS Coordinator, Region VI, who has been designated as the General Chairperson of the event. “Nonpoint Source Management Programs will be just beginning,” she said. “We will all have a lot of questions to ask of each other.” Each State is expected to participate with a delegation of up to three people.

[For more information contact: your State NPS Program Manager or EPA Regional NPS Coordinator.]
Pacific Northwest Clean Lakes Workshop Held


Workshop session topics ranged from “fixing a problem lake” and “maintaining a clean one” to “watershed pollution control” and “stormwater management programs—how they help lakes.”


[For more information contact: Sally Marquis, Clean Lakes Coordinator, Water Management Division, EPA Region X, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Phone: (206) 442-2116, (FTS) 399-2116.]

Regions III, IV & VI Involve Poultry Industry in Water Quality

Some important poultry industry/NPS pollution management developments from around the country:

- Interest was high in the EPA/USDA agricultural water quality exhibit at the International Poultry Show in Atlanta, and at two regional poultry industry meetings held earlier this year, reports Samuel Chapman, EPA/SCS, Region VI, Dallas, TX.

- The Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association has requested assistance from Chapman to plan and hold a seminar on nonpoint source pollution, tentatively planned for November. Regions III, IV and VI will be involved.

- Delaware’s State Nonpoint Source Management Program, first in the Nation to be approved (contingent upon certain modifications), contains significant poultry waste management initiatives in its Inland Bays Watershed element for Sussex County.

- Led by USDA’s Cooperative Extension Service, a Federal Interagency Water Quality Committee held a two day Poultry Waste Symposium early in September.

All of these activities and programs point to increasingly heavy interest and involvement in water quality issues by the poultry industry. Highlights of three of these developments are reported below.

International Poultry Trade Show

More than 20,000 poultry industry decision makers from throughout the United States and more than 70 other countries attended the 1989 International Poultry Trade Show held at the Atlanta, GA, World Congress Center in early February. Participants in the trade show packed the aisles of the 13 acre exhibit area for three days. Receiving much attention at the giant show was the EPA/USDA agricultural water quality exhibit, according to Chapman. He said the EPA/USDA exhibit and its accompanying specialists furnished technical information on poultry waste management and “challenged the industry to become involved.” To exhibit visitors, the USDA Extension Service distributed 2,500 copies or more of each of 10 handouts providing information on poultry waste management.

Chapman addressed attendees on “Industry Status...as Seen by EPA and SCS,” in the “broiler” session of the educational program during the trade show.

Sufficient interest in waste management was generated among the poultry industry at the trade show to merit displaying the exhibit at the 1989 Pacific and Midwest regional poultry meetings. Chapman reports these were also successful events.
Delaware's Poultry Waste Management Program

A major element of the Delaware Nonpoint Source Management Program in Sussex County is the development of comprehensive resource management systems for poultry operations. BMP's eligible for cost-share payments include waste storage structures, waste treatment lagoons, dead bird disposal, filter strips, conservation tillage systems, cover crops and rehabilitation of septic systems on demonstration farms. More than 60 percent of the agricultural income in the region results from poultry products, with more than 250 million "broiler" chickens produced annually. Approximately 300,000 tons of poultry manure are generated as a result, with an estimated fertilizer value of $10 million.

Scientists at the University of Delaware say the potential exists for a "self-contained" system, in which the nutrients generated by the poultry industry are recycled "through growing corn and small grains" to furnish feed for the "broilers." Dead birds are a major pollutant in Delaware, but they can be composted into an environmentally safe fertilizer—another BMP in the NPS Management Program.

Interagency Committee Holds Poultry Waste Symposium

The USDA's Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service (SCS)/EPA joint Interagency Water Quality Committee recently held a two-day symposium in Washington, D.C. The primary audience included State Extension poultry specialists, of which 33 attended, representing 21 States and territories, reports Richard D. Reynnells, Extension Service National Program Leader in Poultry Science. Also in attendance were the poultry industry, SCS, EPA and others. The symposium aimed to: (1) inform personnel in the poultry system of changes in the Clean Water Act of 1972, and subsequent amendments; and (2) encourage the participants' interaction in the promulgation of future regulations.

Jerry Truitt, Executive Director of Delmarva Poultry Industries, Inc., told the symposium audience that the poultry industry has funded a number of poultry research projects which have had a positive effect on water quality. Among these projects is one that shows how dead birds can be disposed of by composting. As a result of this research and on-farm demonstrations, a number of farmers have installed dead bird composting units.

Barry Kintzer, SCS State Conservation Engineer, Virginia, encouraged the audience to "develop BMPs for farmers that manage the nutrients based on the cropping system to best utilize the nutrients contained in the manure."


Reviews - New and Worth Reading

Poison Runoff, A Guide to State and Local Control of Nonpoint Source Water Pollution


Poison Runoff, as NRDC labels Nonpoint Source Pollution, is based on an analysis of hundreds of personal and telephone interviews, articles, reports and government publications. It identifies basic principles for achieving the nation's water quality goals, and documents successful state and local programs. The report helps decision-makers stretch limited resources with suggestions on collecting and using data, obtaining the necessary funding,
Poison Runoff, A Guide to State and Local Control of Nonpoint Source Water Pollution (Continued)

using legal tools for NPS runoff control and developing comprehensive planning to control poison runoff.

Components of an effective poison runoff control program include agriculture, land use and urban runoff, silviculture, mining and grazing, useful data collection, funding, and legal tools. These components are discussed in some detail in the full report. The report will be a useful tool to all NPS managers.

The summary report observes that it is extremely rare for an entire watershed to be affected by only one type of polluting land use activity. Watersheds may be affected in some way by the full range of pollutants generated by a variety of diffuse sources. Moreover, the Clean Water Act requires states to address NPS runoff on an watershed-by-watershed basis to the extent feasible, rather than by focusing only on an individual category of pollution, such as runoff from farming, grazing, or mining.

[Available from: Natural Resources Defense Council, 40 West 20th St., NY, NY 10011. Phone: (212) 727-2700. Full report $32.00; Summary $5.00]

Interfacing Nonpoint Source Programs With the Conservation Reserve: Guidance for Water Quality Managers


This manual is intended as a guide for State NPS agencies and area-wide planning agencies to coordinating Section 319 activities with certain subtitles of Food Security Act of 1985 (FSA85) Title XII: Conservation Reserve, Erodible Land Conservation (HELC), and Wetland Conservation (WC), managed by USDA. The manual uses targeting concepts, reviews FSA85 Conservation programs with an emphasis on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and suggests ways to coordinate programs to optimize State NPS management efforts.

The manual suggests that coordination requires State water quality agencies and USDA to focus program resources and expertise on NPS control efforts that will achieve both Section 319 and CRP objectives. A clear understanding of each agency’s roles, responsibilities, and capabilities on the one hand, and realistic program goals on the other, are critical to successful coordination. Also, the interagency mechanism for coordinating Section 319 and CRP should be presented in each State’s NPS management program report, according to this useful publication.

[Copies available without charge from: OPPE (PM 221) or NPSCB (WH-553), Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, both at U.S. EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.]

The Rural Clean Water Program: A Report


This report provides an overview of the Rural Clean Water Program (RCWP) for the nontechnical reader concerned with issues of environmental quality and agricultural policy. Included are thumbnail sketches of the water quality problems, agricultural BMPs installed, and farmer participation in the 20 experimental RCWP projects funded in the USDA 1980 and 1981 appropriations.

Effectiveness, determined to the extent possible, is described for each of the RCWP projects. EPA worked closely with USDA on the program, whose selected watersheds ranged in size from a few hundred acres to several hundred thousand acres across the country, reflecting various agricultural pollution problems and contrasting farming enterprises.
The Rural Clean Water Program: A Report

[Copies available without charge from: Daniel Smith, USDA-SCS Land Treatment Program Division, P.O. Box 2890, Rm. 6038-S0., Washington, D.C. 20013, and NPSCB (WH-553), Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, U.S. EPA, 410 M Street S.W., Washington D.C. 20460.]

The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides,

University of California, Oakland, CA 94608-1239. 400 pages.

A must-read for dealers is a book entitled The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides from the University of California. This 400-page book is one of the best written and illustrated guides for the selection, use, handling, and disposal of pesticides. It’s required reading for persons preparing to take the California examination for a Pesticide Applicator licence. One section on the environment covers subjects such as preventing spills, groundwater contamination, spray drift, and protecting endangered species and wildlife. The book is available for $30 from ANR Publications, Dept. MR, University of California, 6701 San Pablo Ave., Oakland CA 94608-1239.

[This review was reprinted by cnc, March 1989, with permission from Farm Chemicals, Feb. 1989. NPS NEWS-NOTES reprints it here with permission from CTIC's Conservation Impact newsletter and with the comment that this book needs to be on the desks of State nonpoint source pollution program developers as well as the desks of pesticide dealers.]

Datebook

This DATEBOOK has been assembled with the cooperation of: Conservation Impact, the newsletter of the Conservation Technology Information Center, 1220 Potter Drive, Room 170, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1334; and NWQEP NOTES, the newsletter of the National Water Quality Evaluation Project, North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, North Carolina State University, 615 Oberlin Rd., Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27605-1126. Their cooperation is appreciated. If you have a date you want placed in the DATEBOOK contact the editors of NPS NEWS-NOTES.

October

2-3 Minnesota Lake Management Conference, Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, MN. For registration information call Pat Brezonik (612) 624-9282.

16-18 Ground Water in the Piedmont of the Eastern United States, Charlotte, North Carolina. Conference will address contamination, exploration techniques, water supply development, design of monitoring networks, remediation, and policy and management. Contact: Richard K. White, Dept. of Ag Engineering, 113 McAdams Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0357, (803) 656-3250.

16-19 National Symposium on Water Quality Assessment, Fort Collins, CO. Contact: Karen Hamilton, EPA Region VIII, WM-SIP, 999 18th Street, Denver, CO 80202-2405. (303) 293-1576.

17-19 Sunbelt Agricultural Expo., Moultrie, GA. Contact: Bill Farrington, P.O. Box 1209, Tifton, GA 31793. (912) 386-2459.

29-31 EPA Regions III, IV & VI, Nonpoint Source Workshop, Doubletree Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. Invitation only. For more information contact appropriate State NPS Program Manager or EPA Regions III, IV, or VI NPS Coordinator.
October
31 - Nov 2
Southern Forest Hydrology Group - Riparian Areas: Issues, Concerns and Management Objectives, Asheville, North Carolina. Topics to be discussed in both technical and field trip sessions include: defining management goals for riparian areas and applicability and modification of Best Management Practices for specific riparian areas. Contact: Richard Burns, USFS (704) 257-7213, Keith McLaughlin, USFS (404) 347-7213, or Wade Nutter, Univ. of Georgia (404) 542-1772.

November
7-11
12-15
13-15
14-16
29-30
Ag Horizons 1989 Conference, Pierre, SD. Contact: Dave Karst, South Dakota No-Till Association, P.O. Box 24, Ipswich, SD 57451 or Brenda Forman, South Dakota Wheat, Inc., Box 667, Pierre, SD 57501.

December
11-12
National Symposium on Non-Point Water Quality Concerns - Legal and Regulatory Aspects, New Orleans, Louisiana. Topics to be discussed include best management practices, allowable erosion to meet conservation compliance, groundwater protection legislation, nutrient management, rural land management regulations, surface water protection legislation. Contact: Meeting Coordinator, American Society of Agricultural Engineers Headquarters, 2950 Niles Rd., St. Joseph, MI 49085-9659, (616) 429-0300.
13
Financing Water Quality: Nonpoint Source Legislative Options, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C. Held immediately preceding the National Conference of State Legislatures' three-day annual State-Federal Assembly. Contact Larry Morandi or Leanne Stelzer, NCSL, 1050 17th Street, Suite 2100, Denver, CO. 80265 (303) 623-7800. An information brochure and registration materials will be mailed to registrants no later than October 27, 1989.

1990
January
30-31
Eleventh Annual 1990 Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show, Cedar Rapids, IA. Contact: Don Halsch, Marion Field Office, 950 50th Street, Marion, IA 52302. (319) 377-5960 or Kurt Hoefl, Tipton Field Office, 2101 North Avenue, Tipton, IA, 52772. (319) 885-6214.
Datebook (Continued)

February

20-22
Agricultural Impacts on Ground Water Quality, Kansas City, MO. Topics include: effects of pesticide application, monitoring, nitrates, pesticide chemistry, practices to minimize ag impacts on ground water. Contact: Conference Coordinator, National Well Water Association, 6375 Riverside Dr., Dublin, OH 43017 (614) 761-1711. [NOTE: Conference will be held simultaneously under one roof with three other meetings: Ground Water Geochemistry, Groundwater Management and Wellhead Protection, and Environmental Site Assessments Case Studies and Strategies.]

21-23

May

16-18
Innovations in River Basin Management (Canadian Water Resources Association), Penticton, British Columbia. Topics include watershed water quality. Contact: Robin McNeil, Program Chairman, Ministry of Environment, Water Management Branch, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8V 1X5.

July

9-11
1990 Watershed Symposium, Durango, Colorado. Topics related to watershed processes, modeling of wind/water erosion, and application of planning and analysis tools in watershed management. Contact: Robert Riggins, USACERL, PO Box 4005, Champaign, IL 61824.

22-25
Urban Non-Point Source Pollution and Stormwater Management Symposium, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Contact: Kentucky Water Resources Institute, 219 Anderson Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0046

Call for Papers

November

4-9
Nonpoint Source

Bibliography #1

EPA NONPOINT SOURCE DOCUMENTS
Regulations-Guidance-Letters-References

Introduction

This Bibliography is the first user service to be provided by the new NPS Information Exchange. The Exchange is still in the design stage but as it develops, subsequent issues of NEWS-NOTES will keep readers informed. The Bibliography has been prepared as a special pull-out section of NEWS-NOTES designed to make it more available and handy to users.

This Bibliography #1 is a complete listing of EPA Regulations, Guidance, Letters and References (to date) that deal specifically with the Nonpoint Source Management Program. These documents should be available through the Nonpoint Source Coordinators at each EPA Regional Office and at the Nonpoint Source Control Branch at EPA Headquarters.

Additional Bibliographies are in preparation on various aspects of NPS management. They will be made available as prepared.

Any comments, suggestions, additions or corrections, to Bibliography #1 or the Bibliography program generally will be welcome. Send us your comments and ideas. The NPS Information Exchange is a two-way street. We all want to help each other.

---

Regulations


Establishes policies and program requirements for water quality planning, management and implementation.


Governs the development, review, revision and approval of water quality standards under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

[The policies and processes established by these two regulations (40 CFR 130 and 131) are applicable to State NPS Management Programs developed under Section 319 of the CWA.]
**Guidance**


Describes what EPA views as a rational process for States to use in satisfying their WQA requirements through an open and integrated three stage process of waterbody/resource assessment, water resource targeting and strategic management planning.


Covers State assessment report requirements, management program requirements, administrative provisions, grant application requirements and NPS provisions in the WQA of 1987.


These Guidelines describe the types of water quality information that provide comprehensive description of statewide water quality (both surface and ground water), and that in turn may be compared among States, Regions, and/or Nationally. The CWA requires that the States transmit assessments (Section 305(b) reports) to the EPA Administrator by April 1, 1990. State NPS assessment report are to be derived from this 305(b) report.

**Letters**


Emphasizes the responsibility of the Regions in reviews and approvals of State NPS Management Programs. Indicating these maybe the most important surface water program actions Regions take in FY 1989. This memorandum pledges the OW will support and assist the Regions in meeting our important responsibility to assure that States establish high quality NPS Management Programs. Attached are the criteria for approval of State Management Programs.

*Memorandum: Approval of Section 319 State Assessment reports and Management Programs*, From-Martha G. Prothro, Director, OWRS, Dated June 20, 1989.

Memorandum to all Regional Water Management Division Directors, requesting the Regions to take whatever additional steps, if any, necessary to ensure that States assessment reports and management programs are submitted as scheduled as well as approvals and disapprovals. A reminder that implementation is the clear objective of Section 319. Emphasizes bringing the submittal and approval/disapproval process to closure and moving on to implementation.

*Memorandum: Use of 205 (j) (5) Funds to Implement NPS Management Programs*, From Martha G. Prothro, Director, OWRS, Dated February 17, 1989.

Memorandum to all Regional Water Management Division Directors, requesting action on the use of FY 88 205(j)(5) funds for implementation activities. For FY 89 and FY 90 funds, implementation activities are top priority. Implementation means carrying out or completing activities contained in an approved NPS Management Program.
This note to all Regional NPS Coordinators, including attachment, contains the current operative guidance from OWRS on the use of Title II and Title VI funds for NPS purposes and the use of Title III funds, when appropriated. Also attached was a chart indicating current Title II and VI funding levels for each State. These funds are available for the States to use for their NPS programs.


This guidance to all Regional Water Management Division Directors, in a question and answer format, explains the modification of 205(j)(5) funding, Section 319(h) grants and 319(h) Match/MOE issues.


This memorandum to Catharine E. Kuhlman, Chief, Water Quality Planning and Standards Branch, WMD, U.S.EPA, Region IX, includes answers to her questions on 319 grants and MOE.


This memorandum to all Regional Water Management Division Directors, clarifies the time period Section '05(j)(5) funds are reserved for the States for NPS management program development and implementation. And the length of time they are available for obligation to States and how long States have to obligate these funds following an award from EPA.


Memorandum to all Regional Water Management Division Directors. It defines implementation and program development and provides examples of how these terms should be used in awarding NPS grants.


This memorandum to Roger Dean, NPS Coordinator, Region VIII, in response to the question of the use of FY87 201(g)(1)(B) funds gives further guidance on the use of these funds and the content of the MOE.
References


Covers the overall water quality standards setting process. In addition it presents information on general program administration, policies and procedures; and then a description of the analyses used in determining appropriate uses and criteria.


Innovative programs, concepts and characteristics are presented in the pages of this reference. The goal is to help managers of newer State and local programs to save time, money and energy in solving their own NPS problems, as well as to give a boost to programs that may be in need of a new direction or approach.


This user's guide describes and includes instructions for recording water quality assessment information, not the raw data that support an assessment. The primary purpose of the WBS is to support reporting requirements under Section 305(b) of the CWA. The existing data elements fall into four general categories: water body identification, assessment information, waterbody status and causes and sources of use impairment. The WBS includes both mandatory and optional data elements.


This document presents suggestions and examples for designing and implementing a targeted approach to NPS pollution control to achieve improvements in water quality.