

# Fact Sheet: Preliminary Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 14

## Summary

EPA has published Preliminary Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 14 (Preliminary Plan 14), which describes analyses, studies, and rulemakings related to effluent limitations guidelines and standards (ELGs) which are national, technology-based regulations for controlling industrial wastewater discharges to surface waters and into publicly owned treatment works.

## Background

Clean Water Act section 304(m) requires EPA to biennially publish a plan for new and revised ELGS, after public review and comment. EPA publishes a preliminary plan upon which the public is invited to comment, and then publishes a final plan. Plan 13 – the Final 2016 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan – was published on May 2, 2018.

## Contents of Preliminary Plan 14

Preliminary Plan 14 discusses the ongoing ELG rulemaking and associated schedule for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category. EPA has concluded that no additional categories warrant new or revised ELGs at this time.

Preliminary Plan 14 provides updates on the Electrical and Electronic Components Category Detailed Study, the Oil and Gas Extraction Wastewater Management Study and the Petroleum Refining Point Source Category Detailed Study.

Preliminary Plan 14 discusses ongoing analyses including an analysis and ranking of nutrient discharges in industrial discharges, and an analysis of

available data on industrial sources and discharges of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These efforts aim to identify the extent to which these pollutants are discharged from industrial point sources.

Three new activities are introduced in Preliminary Plan 14. A new technology review process will help EPA gather information on current industrial wastewater treatment capabilities. A new economic screening analysis will enable EPA to establish an initial prioritization of industries based on economic factors. A PFAS Multi-Industry Study is designed to identify industrial sources of PFAS in surface waters.

Lastly, Preliminary Plan 14 provides details on databases that EPA is developing in support of the Effluent Guidelines Program. The Effluent Limitations Guidelines Database will enable users to quickly, systematically, and comprehensively query existing ELG regulations. Additionally, EPA is continuing to populate the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Technology Database.

## Where can I find more information?

You can access the Federal Register notice, Preliminary Plan 14, and all supporting documents on EPA's Effluent Guidelines Plan website at: [epa.gov/eg/preliminary-effluent-guidelines-program-plan-14](https://www.epa.gov/eg/preliminary-effluent-guidelines-program-plan-14)

For other related information, contact Dr. Phillip Flanders by phone at (202) 566-8323, or by e-mail at: [flanders.phillip@epa.gov](mailto:flanders.phillip@epa.gov).