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**ILLINOIS WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN and NONPOINT  
SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL FFY 2012 GRANT WORKPLAN**

This morning's annual Bureau of Water hearing will address several issues and allow the public the opportunity to ask the Illinois EPA about the Illinois Water Quality Management Plan and Nonpoint Source programs and their priorities. I will briefly describe the Illinois Water Quality Management Plan, developments related to facility and watershed planning and priorities for the Clean Water Act's Section 319, Nonpoint Source Pollution Control grant program's FFY 2012 workplan.

The Illinois Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) was prepared in November of 1982. Various sections of the federal Clean Water Act were consolidated into an integrated process that required the development and maintenance of the WQMP. These sections include:

- Section 106 (this section provides for pollution control programs for prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution);
- Section 205(j) (this section provides funds to carry out water quality management planning, cost effective and locally acceptable plan development, determinations of POTWs that have infrastructure needs, and development of joint regional planning);
- Section 208 (this section establishes Areawide Waste Treatment planning); and

- Section 303 (this section provides for the listing of all waters that are threatened or impaired, waters not meeting their water quality standards and designated uses).

The purpose of the WQMP is to coordinate the three-area-wide water quality management plans (covering 20 counties) with the State plan (covering the remaining 81 counties). The WQMP is composed of three area-wide plans and the state plan plus all approved facilities plans and all wastewater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, excluding industrial process, thermal and noncontact cooling water NPDES permits. The WQMP addresses control of pollution sources, maintenance of stream use and water quality standards, protection of ground water resources and control of hydrologic modifications. In addition to assuring sound economic and environmental decision making, the WQMP is intended to serve as a tool to protect the federal and state investment in pollution control facilities. The original WQMP has been frequently amended to reflect specific changes in various program elements.

This year, the WQMP was amended to reflect 45 facility plan approvals, 13 facility planning area boundary changes, no new municipal NPDES permits and the addition of three watershedbased plans. Listings of the Facility Plan Approvals, FPA Changes Enacted and new municipal NPDES permits are available at today's hearing for those who would like a copy.

To speak directly to the Facility Planning Areas (FPAs), these are defined as the area considered for possible wastewater treatment service within a twenty-year planning period. They are and have always been viewed by the Agency as a planning tool, to be used by a Designated Management Authority to consider for future sewer service.

For many years the Illinois EPA has had a policy of denying construction permits for sanitary sewers that would cross an FPA boundary. For a permit to be issued

the DMA was required by the Agency to go through the boundary amendment process prior to issuance of the permit. The ability of the Illinois EPA to impose this policy was challenged and our legal counsel has concluded that we lack the legal authority to continue to impose the policy. Therefore the Illinois EPA has reversed this policy and will no longer deny State construction permits for domestic wastewater collection based solely on that project's inconsistency with an FPA boundary.

As a result of this change to the FPA process, we anticipate a significant decrease in the number of FPA amendment requests in the future. What's more, this policy change will not endanger our ability to achieve State water quality goals or the water quality management planning requirements stipulated under Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act because of existing effective tools are in place.

Sections 106, 205(j), 208 and 303 of the Clean Water Act were consolidated into an integrated process that required the development and maintenance of the Illinois Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The WQMP addresses the control of pollution sources, maintenance of stream use and water quality standards, protection of ground water resources, and control of hydrologic modification. And it includes all approved facilities plans and all domestic wastewater National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

Therefore, environmental protections are achieved through other State and federal programs also included in the WQMP, such as facilities planning review process and antidegradation analysis conducted by Illinois EPA for its loan an permit programs, the total maximum daily load (TMDL) program and our watershedbased planning initiatives.

The administrative path for archiving FPA maps to be used as another of the many planning tools will be developed as we proceed through the next year.

With few permits presently being requested we cannot see all the possible scenarios for the future. As this happens the Agency will solidify our expectations of communities and sanitary districts. In the mean time we continue to encourage watershedbased planning that incorporates both point source and nonpoint source planning. Including all appropriate stakeholders, and the submitting that Plan to the Agency for inclusion in the WQMP.

Next I will present the priorities for the Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant Program Workplan. As state and federal budgets are reduced, requests for this competitive grant program have increased throughout the years. At a time of decreased Section 319 budgets and increased project requests for funding, USEPA guidance has become more restrictive as to the types of projects that can be funded. To facilitate future applications and project planning, we decided to formally announce the FFY12 priorities. The following four criteria will be used to prioritize 319 project funding. Project proposals demonstrating one or more of the following criteria will be given the highest priority to receive FFY12 funding.

- Implementation of a watershed-based plan, a plan that meets the nine minimum elements as described in USEPA Section 319 Guidance;
- Implementation of a Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan;
- Watershed-based Planning; and
- Projects including an evaluation component, either environmental or social, with priority to those projects with both evaluation elements.

All other types of projects, research, demonstration and site specific restoration/protection will continue to be considered as funding allows. The 319 Application deadline remains August 1 annually unless August 1 falls on a non-business day and then the applications are due, in –house, on or by Close of Business the first business day pre-ceding August 1.

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