

Down the Pipeline

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION—2019

On January 9, 2019 the State General Assembly will begin its “short” odd-year session of only 45 days. Some of the legislative initiatives for 2019 are as follows:

utility that acquires or assumes operation of another facility in chronic non-compliance.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **2019 General Assembly Session**
- **Potential Changes in VPDES Permitting.**
- **Pharmaceuticals Potentially to become hazardous wastes.**
- **Pretreatment Tab added to the BRWA.com website!**

(1)The regular water quality improvement fund and stormwater local assistance fund grant needs will be assessed. (2)Water quality improvement fund grants for cost-effective conveyance projects instead of nutrient upgrades to treatment plants. (3)Nutrient offsets budget amendment that could set a deadline for agency-to-agency funds transfer between DEQ and VEDP. (4)Annual water quality improvement fund operations grants for additional nutrient removal performance at plants to provide annual incentive payments for reductions beyond applicable requirements. (5)Competitive grants for voluntary “enhanced state-of-the-art projects which would provide 100% funding for the design and installation of technology to achieve “enhanced state-of-the-art” reductions for nutrients. Finally, failing facility interest—(6)White Knight/Safe Harbor legislation to provide options for fixing facility failures.



“voluntary “enhanced state-of-the-art projects which would provide 100% funding “

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This idea is to provide for DEQ approval of enforcement protection to a good Samaritan”

POTENTIAL NEW VPDES PERMIT PROVISIONS FOR POTW COLLECTION SYSTEMS

DEQ proposes new Permit provisions that would require the Permittee to develop and implement a program to operate and maintain the collection system assets owned and/or operated by the Permittee. The agency would want an inventory and description of the collection system that included mapping of the system; identification of all pumping stations,

capacity, and reliability classifications. They would want contact information for the owners and operators of any collection system contributing flow to this facility and are not owned by the Permittee.

A schedule and plan for inspection and maintenance of the collection system; a plan to ensure measures are taken to

minimize infiltration and inflow to the collection system.

Upon approval by DEQ, an annual report shall be submitted by the 10th of January detailing previous fiscal year's activities.



EPA INSPECTOR GENERAL’S REPORT

On November 15, 2018 EPA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued an audit report. This report found EPA unable to assess the impact of hundreds of unregulated pollutants in land-applied biosolids on human health and the environment.

Thirteen recommendations were included in this report, with only five now unresolved. EPA’s Office of Water has not agreed with these remaining five. Office of Water criticisms of the report are that it lacks balance due to the use of narrowly selected studies and information taken out of context or that is not relevant to

federal requirements. The office feels that the report disregards the science, That just because a pollutant exists in biosolids does not then mean that the pollutant or the biosolids are a risk to human health or the environment.

The Water Office also feels that although the audit was meant to assess whether EPA has controls for biosolids land application that protect the environment and human health, the report veers off course and makes recommendations, for example, on how EPA should communicate with the public regarding the program.

Interestingly, Virginia’s land application program was not audited by OIG. Virginia’s program is much more stringent than EPA’s program and has been reviewed by multiple agencies and has withstood judicial scrutiny.

THE PITFALLS OF SPEED IN ENGINEERING

As engineering fees continue to shrink, the pressure is on in the engineering field in the water sector. New engineers prefer to point and click. There is pressure to move faster and do more while glossing over the intricacies of an application and swiftly move on.

Every new engineer ought to be advised to regularly get away from the office and the smartphone/tablet/computer. They

ought to ask lots of questions and listen closely to equipment manufacturers. They ought to go and physically see equipment for themselves. They should also go and speak to those on the front lines. They are the ones who will tell you what works and what doesn’t work. New engineers ought to find themselves a good mentor from who they can extract and absorb the nuances of applications.

Specifications are the *minimum* standards of rejection or acceptance—not the maximum.

To earn an enviable reputation for successful projects, one must be detailed in one’s procurement documents. If not, bad things are going to happen on bid day and well beyond!

Remember the words of John Ruskin:

“It’s unwise to pay too much, but it’s worse to pay too little. When you pay too much, you lose a little money and that is all. When you pay too little, you sometimes lose everything, because the thing you bought was incapable of doing the thing it was bought to do.”

EPA ISSUES DRAFT RULE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE PHARMACEUTICALS



“Pharmaceuticals will soon be added to the list of hazardous wastes.”

EPA - RCRA Final Rule for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals<-

<https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/final-rule-management-standards-hazardous-waste-pharmaceuticals-and-amendment-p075>

This is a link to view the draft of the final Rule. If you

are a business that handles or dispenses pharmaceuticals then you will be affected by this Rule when it becomes final.

This Rule intends to eliminate the disposal of unused pharmaceuticals via flushing down the drain.

This Rule will create a brand new specific Prohibited Dis-

charge that will apply to all industrial dischargers to a collection system.

Please remain aware of this pending new Rule as we enter 2019! Once published in the Federal Register, 6 months later it will go into effect.



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Providing Quality Service to Everyone!

NEW WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS!

Here at the end of 2018 I am happy to announce the creation of an Industrial Pretreatment tab on our web page. It has been up and running for less than two months.

Here you can find a copy of the County's Sewer Use Ordinance with quick links included in the table of contents. This is also where you will be able to find older issues of this newsletter. Currently there is just this year's issues loaded onto the page.

Here is where one can also check to see if there are any brand new discharge permits issued and up on the site for public notice over the course of thirty days.

This may also be an additional site for the annual publication of those permittees who were in significant non compliance during the previous calendar year.

Under this tab can be found information about why the Town of Bedford has an Industrial Pretreatment Program and what its purpose is. We have also created a brand new email address to be used by those who are in need of answers to their questions concerning opening a new business in town. If you have questions about discharge requirements and limitations then this new email address is the one to be used and can be found at the bottom of the webpage.



Don't run around looking for answers, email us and find out exactly what you need to do and know!