

## *Final 2012 and Preliminary 2014 Effluent Guidelines Program Plans*

### Summary

EPA has published in the *Federal Register* its Final 2012 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan, along with its Preliminary 2014 Plan. EPA is requesting public review and comment on the Preliminary 2014 Plan. The Plans announce both final decisions EPA is making on the control of industrial wastewater discharges, along with proposed new actions for the future. The public comment period on the Preliminary 2014 Plan will last for 60 days from publication date. Once public review and comment has been completed and any changes incorporated, EPA will prepare and publish the Final 2014 Plan.

### Background

Clean Water Act section 304(m) requires EPA to biennially publish a plan that, after public notice and comment, establishes a schedule for the annual review and revision of existing effluent limitation guidelines (ELGs), identifies any new industrial categories selected for an effluent guideline rulemaking, and provides a schedule for such rulemaking. EPA is publishing both the Final 2012 Plan with the Preliminary 2014 Plan in order to help get back on schedule with its biennial planning cycle.

### Decisions in the Final 2012 Plan

In the Final 2012 Plan, EPA is announcing its final decision to de-list and discontinue an ELG rulemaking for the Coalbed Methane (CBM) extraction industry after proposing to de-list the industry and soliciting public comment in the Preliminary 2012 ELG Plan in August 2013. Likewise, the Final 2012 Plan announces a final decision to de-list and discontinue an effluent guideline for Chlorine and Chlorinated Hydrocarbon (CCH) manufacturing.

EPA is also announcing a final decision, for the Meat and Poultry Products industry and for the Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard industry which EPA has been investigating for the past two

years, that no further review is necessary since EPA has resolved the wastewater discharge issues in both industries and determined an effluent guideline revision is not warranted at this time.

### Proposed Actions in the Preliminary 2014 Plan

In the Preliminary 2014 Plan, EPA is announcing it will initiate a detailed study of the Petroleum Refining industry, due to potential pollutant discharge issues related primarily to metals. EPA is soliciting data and information to help support this study.

EPA is also announcing initiation of a detailed study of Centralized Waste Treatment (CWT) facilities that accept oil and gas extraction wastewaters. EPA wants to determine if CWTs provide adequate treatment for such wastewaters.

EPA is announcing it will continue its Preliminary Category Review of Metal Finishing, initiated in 2012. These facilities may be potentially discharging high concentrations of metals, particularly chromium, nickel, and zinc to publically owned treatment works (POTWs).

### Ongoing Effluent Guidelines Actions

As announced under prior years' ELG plans, EPA is currently working to issue revised effluent guidelines for: Steam Electric Power Generation and pretreatment standards for discharges to publicly-owned treatment works from Dental Amalgam and from on-shore Unconventional Oil and Gas Extraction.

### For More Information

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[swietlik.william@epa.gov](mailto:swietlik.william@epa.gov). You can access the  
*Federal Register* notice, the 2012 and 2014  
Plans and all supporting documents at  
[http://water.epa.gov/scitech/wastetech/  
guide/304m](http://water.epa.gov/scitech/wastetech/guide/304m)

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