

# Fact Sheet: Preliminary 2016 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan

## Summary

EPA published its *Preliminary 2016 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan*. The *Plan* describes EPA's Clean Water Act rulemakings and other actions designed to control industrial wastewater pollution. EPA solicits public review and comment on the *Preliminary Plan* to help inform the content of the Final Plan. Comments will be accepted for 30 days from the date of publication in the *Federal Register*.

## Background

Effluent limitations guidelines and standards are national, technology-based requirements for controlling industrial wastewater discharges to surface waters and into publicly owned treatment works (also called municipal sewage treatment plants).

Clean Water Act section 304(m) requires EPA to biennially publish a plan for new and revised effluent limitations guidelines, after public review and comment. EPA typically publishes a preliminary plan upon which the public is invited to comment, and then publishes a final plan.

## Decisions and actions in the 2016 Preliminary Plan

This *Preliminary Plan* does not announce any new or revised regulations for industrial wastewater discharges, beyond those that are already underway (which have been announced in prior Plans).

Those underway include:

- Pretreatment standards for the Dental Category,
- Pretreatment standards for Unconventional Oil and Gas Extraction, and
- Effluent limitations for the Canned and Preserved Seafood Category covering Alaska Seafood Processing.

This *Preliminary Plan* also provides updates on three ongoing industry studies announced in prior Plans:

- Petroleum Refining,
- Centralized Waste Treatment Facilities, and
- Metal Finishing.

This *Plan* describes that EPA is reviewing the following categories given changes in these industries since the original guidelines were developed in the 1980s:

- Battery Manufacturing, and
- Electrical and Electronic Components Manufacturing.

In addition, the *Plan* explains that EPA is further investigating certain pollutants being discharged by the following categories which may not be adequately regulated by current effluent guidelines:

- Iron and Steel Manufacturing;
- Organic Chemicals, Plastics, and Synthetic Fibers (OCPSF); and
- Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Categories.

Finally, the *Plan* solicits data and information from the public on several industrial wastewater discharge questions and issues that are fully described in the *Federal Register* notice.

## Where can I find more information?

You can access the *Federal Register* notice, the *Preliminary 2016 Plan* and all supporting documents on EPA's Effluent Guidelines Plan website at: <https://www.epa.gov/eg/effluent-guidelines-plan>.

For other related information, contact Mr. William F. Swietlik by phone at (202) 566-1129, by e-mail at: [swietlik.william@epa.gov](mailto:swietlik.william@epa.gov), or by mail at:

U.S. EPA, Office of Water, Engineering and Analysis Division (4303T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20460.