

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing – An Overview

By

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The 1984 Policy for the Development of Water Quality based Permit Limits for Toxic pollutants addressed the use of biological and chemical methods to assure that toxic whole effluent discharges were regulated consistent with federal and state requirements. Whole effluent toxicity tests, also known as bioassay testing or biomonitoring, are the methods of choice by EPA to document toxicity to animal and plant life. This presentation will give a basic overview of the WET test, the types of tests required and test organisms used, explain the test endpoints and offer guidance in conducting Toxicity Reduction Evaluations (TRE).