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# NPDES Vessels Program *Quarterly*

NAVIGATING THE EPA REGULATED VESSELS UNIVERSE

## 401 CERTIFICATION COORDINATION EFFORTS

The Clean Water Act's Section 401 certification process allows authorized states, tribes, and territories to provide more stringent effluent limitations and monitoring requirements for federal permits to protect their water quality. As part of EPA's effort to improve the 401 certification process for the draft VGP and sVGP, EPA provided 401 certification authorities six months after publication of the draft permits to grant, grant with condition, deny or waive certification. To help facilitate discussion among 401 certification authorities during this process, EPA held a multi-day meeting open to all 401 certification authorities on January 24-25, 2012, and will host several regional conference calls to share information and improve communication about the 401 certification process.

To see copies of EPA's request for 401 certifications and correspondence from 401 certification authorities, please view the VGP (EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0141) and sVGP (EPA-HQ-OW-2011-015) dockets at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

*Additional permit requirements as required by 401 certification authorities are located in Part 6 of the current VGP, and would be found in Part 6 of the 2013 VGP and Part 5 of the sVGP.*

## Pilot Program for Environmentally Acceptable Lubricants



Based on feedback from industry vendors and vessel owner/operators, EPA is launching a pilot program to help vessel owner/operators easily identify environmentally acceptable lubricants (EALs) via EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) Program. EPA's DfE Program works in partnership with industry,

environmental groups, and academia to reduce risk to people and the environment by finding ways to prevent pollution. This pilot program is a voluntary program for vendors to determine if their products meet DfE standards. Those products that pass DfE's stringent requirements will be authorized to bear the DfE label, which will

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To learn more about the NPDES vessels program, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels>. For questions or concerns about the VGP, e-mail [VGP@epa.gov](mailto:VGP@epa.gov). For questions or concerns on the sVGP, e-mail [sVGP@epa.gov](mailto:sVGP@epa.gov).

## COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE VGP AND SVGP

As of March 5, 2012, over 5,400 written comments were posted in the docket for the draft VGP and 68 written comments were posted in the docket for the draft sVGP. To view all comments submitted, please see the VGP (EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0141) and sVGP (EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0150) dockets at <http://www.regulations.gov>. EPA will consider every comment as the Agency moves toward finalizing the VGP and sVGP.

## Pilot Program for Environmentally Acceptable Lubricants Continued



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provide assurance to vessel owner/operators that the lubricants they are buying are environmentally acceptable.

The DfE labeling process requires manufacturers to submit a complete list of ingredients, including proprietary formulations from suppliers, which EPA will review to determine if the product is safe for human health and the

environment. Manufacturers must also furnish efficacy data to show that their product performs well. Please note that the DfE labeling process includes chemical profiling by a third party, which charges a fee. For more information on the DfE partnership process, please visit

<http://www.epa.gov/dfepubs/projects/formulat/about.htm#steps>.

*The current VGP and the draft sVGP encourage the use of EALs. The draft 2013 VGP would require new build vessels to use EALs in oil-to-sea interfaces and for existing vessels to use EALs if practicable.*

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

If you would like to subscribe to the NPDES vessels program distribution list, please e-mail your request to [VGP@epa.gov](mailto:VGP@epa.gov). The purpose of the distribution list is to send out periodic updates on upcoming meetings, publications, or ongoing activities related to the NPDES vessels program.

## SUMMARY OF OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Thank you to all the stakeholders who participated in the in-person and online meetings on the draft 2013 VGP and sVGP. EPA held one public hearing, one public meeting, one webcast, and two question and answer webinars. In total, approximately 720 people participated in these forums. During these meetings, EPA gave a brief overview of the permits and answered questions from the public. The meetings also served as an additional opportunity for the public to provide oral statements on the draft 2013 VGP and sVGP before the February 21 deadline to submit comments. EPA will use the comments to help inform decisions for finalizing the permits.

*Copies of the presentations and recordings of the meetings are available in the VGP (EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0141) and sVGP (EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0150) dockets at <http://www.regulations.gov>.*