

Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 14

Summary

EPA has published the final Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 14 (Plan 14) describing analyses, studies, and rulemakings related to effluent limitations guidelines and standards (ELGs), which are national, technology-based regulations for controlling industrial wastewater discharges to surface waters and into publicly owned treatment works.

Background

Clean Water Act section 304(m) requires EPA to biennially publish a plan for new and revised ELGS, after public review and comment. EPA publishes a preliminary plan upon which the public is invited to comment, and then publishes a final plan. EPA published Plan 13 – the Final 2016 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan – on May 2, 2018. EPA published Preliminary Plan 14 for public comment on October 24, 2019.

Contents of ELG Plan 14

Plan 14 presents preliminary results from some new analyses and provides updates on EPA’s reviews of industrial wastewater discharges and treatment technologies discussed in Preliminary Plan 14, including analyses of industrial sources and discharges of nutrients, proposed treatment technology reviews, and the effluent limitations guidelines database.

Plan 14 also provides updates on ongoing point source category studies, including EPA’s decision to conclude the Petroleum Refining Category study and the Agency’s planned next steps for the detailed study on the Electrical and Electronic Components Category. Plan 14 provides an update on the PFAS

Multi-Industry study, the scope of which includes organic chemical manufacturers, airports, rug and textile manufactures, pulp and paper manufacturers, and the metal finishing point source category.

Finally, Plan 14 discusses several ongoing regulatory actions, including:

- upcoming revisions to 40 CFR Part 437 to increase flexibility for centralized waste treaters who treat produced water from oil and gas extraction;
- an upcoming notice of proposed rulemaking to consider BAT limitations for two wastestreams (landfill leachate and legacy wastewater) for the steam electric power generating point source category; and
- an upcoming advance notice of proposed rulemaking for the Organic Chemicals, Plastics, and Synthetic Fibers point source category to solicit additional information or data about PFAS manufacturers and formulators.

Where can I find more information?

You can access the Federal Register notice, Preliminary Plan 14 document, and all supporting documents on EPA’s Effluent Guidelines Plan website at: <https://www.epa.gov/eg/effluent-guidelines-plan>.

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