

A Message from the Executive Director



By Carol Batterton, Executive Director

EPA Request for Stakeholder Input

EPA published a Federal Register notice in June seeking to obtain information on sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and wet weather flows. EPA's request outlines six specific areas where EPA is seeking input:

- Should EPA propose to clarify its standard permit conditions for SSO reporting, recordkeeping and public notification?
- Should EPA propose to develop a standard permit condition with requirements for capacity, management, operations and maintenance programs based on asset management principles?
- Should EPA propose to **require permit** coverage for municipal satellite collection systems?
- What is the appropriate role of NPDES permits in addressing unauthorized SSOs that are caused by exceptional circumstances?
- How should EPA address peak flows at POTW treatment plants?
- What are the costs and benefits of CMOM programs and asset management of sanitary sewers?

The full text of this announcement with additional explanation can be found at http://www.epa.gov/npdes/regulations/frn_sso.pdf

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of operators. I am sure there are probably others, and hopefully more on the way. However, a key to getting the types of programs described above off the ground and maintained is industry support. One of the tenets of WEAT's Mission Statement is "to meet the needs of its members for professional growth and development." What better group of members is there to support than our operators? I believe that, as an organization, WEAT should be a go-to for these institutions in the development of their programs. If we become a known resource to help create curriculums, support the recruitment of students, provide qualified instructors and locate internship opportunities, then WEAT will be truly helping to meet the needs for the professional growth and development of this much-needed component of our industry – the professional operator.

Of particular note is EPA's statement that they are considering whether to go forward with the Peak Flows (Blending) policy that was drafted in 2005, but never adopted by the agency, or whether to address this issue in rulemaking.

WEAT's knowledge committees in cooperation with TACWA will be developing a response to this request for information. Comments are due to EPA by August 2, 2010. If you have comments or would like to participate in developing the comment paper, please feel free to contact me at carol@weat.org.

NACWA's President's Award

Each year the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) President has the distinct honor of presenting the *President's Award* in recognition of significant contributions toward achieving the goals and objectives of the Association. This year 2009-2010 President, Kevin Shafer, Executive Director at Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, WI, selected Patty Cleveland, Manager of Operations, Northern Region at Trinity River Authority of Texas, to receive this prestigious award. Patty has played a critical leadership role in NACWA's initiatives in the security arena. Patty is also a member and past president of WEAT.

This award was presented to Patty at the Clean Water Policy Forum in Washington, DC, in April of this year. WEAT and TACWA members attending the forum included Larry Patterson, UTRWD, Ray Longoria, Freese and Nichols, and Ricky Clifton, GCWDA. Please congratulate Patty on this prestigious award.

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