NPDES PERMITS AND TMDL BRANCH
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT
WEEK ENDING 1/9/15

FINAL 2014 EFFLUENT GUIDELINES PROGRAM PLAN: Representatives of the Water Quality Protection Division, the Regional Administrator, and the Deputy Regional Administrator participated, via conference call, on an option selection meeting January 5, 2015, regarding the Final 2014 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan. The objective of the meeting was to present and discuss comments and final results/conclusions of the Plan that does not include announcements of any new and/or revised effluent guidelines limitations or pretreatment requirements. The next course of action is to initiate the Final Agency Review (FAR) prior to submittal to OMB (Office of Management and Budget) for review and final publication. In accordance with section 304(m) of the Clean Water Act, the EPA is required to annually review existing effluent guidelines (57) for categorical industrial sectors. In addition, the Act also requires the EPA to publish every other even year Effluent Guidelines Program Plan that includes decisions regarding revisions to existing ELGs and/or the development of new ELGs: **Paul Kaspar, 665-7459; Kilty Baskin, 665-7500.**

DISCUSSION WITH LDEQ ON NPDES PERMIT FOR LOUISIANA OFFSHORE OIL PORT (LOOP): On January 6, 2015, representatives of the Water Quality Protection Division and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) discussed the joint EPA and LDEQ reissuance of the NPDES permit for LOOP. The facility is a deepwater port that receives and temporarily stores significant amounts of crude oil from tankers carrying foreign and domestic crude, as well as, domestic crude produced in the Gulf of Mexico. The facility also operates considerable onshore storage facilities and pipelines. The facility discharges into both Federal and State waters and on-going permit discussions regard the need for whole effluent toxicity testing at an outfall that discharges brine from the Brine Storage Reservoir into waters of the State. **Claudia Hosch, 665-6464; Paul Kaspar, 665-7459.**

UPDATE ON THE ILLINOIS RIVER WATERSHED AND LAKE TENKILLER MODELING PROJECT: Region 6 has received and commented on drafts of the Illinois River Watershed nutrient modeling model calibration and validation report, Lake Tenkiller hydrodynamic model calibration and validation report as well as drafts of the associated sensitivity and uncertainty analyses. The corrected Lake Tenkiller documents have been received and the corrected Illinois River documents are expected January 16, 2015. Once all documenst are received and reviewed, an external peer review will be initiated. **Taimur Shaikh, 665-7181**

WETLAND ASSIMILATION PROJECT IN LOUISIANA: The NPDES Permits and TMDL Branch received the final draft report on December 31, 2014, submitted by Tetra Tech Inc., regarding wetlands assimilation facilities/projects in Louisiana. This project (the evaluation and review of wetland projects) was funded ($50,000) under a contract through the Office of Wastewater Management for the calendar year 2014. The report will be reviewed prior to finalization. There are approximately twelve (12) operating wetland assimilation facilities in Louisiana.: **Kilty Baskin, 665-7500; Monica Burrell, 665-7530; Paul Kaspar, 665-7459.**

LOUISIANA AND TEXAS SUBMITS DRAFT PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS: TMDL Section is preparing comments on draft TMDL framework documents received from the State of Louisiana and Texas. The Region required these documents as part of the new vision

for the 303(d) and TMDL Program. The framework documents provide a mechanism to explain how each state plans to integrate and implement a prioritization process to protect and restore surface water quality. **Monica Burrell, 665-7530; Linda Adams, 665- 6546**

ATTAINS REDESIGN REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS: EPA Headquarters is hosting a series of conference calls to move forward in the next portion of the ATTAINS Redesign process, which is part of the larger Water Quality Framework concept. A total of eight weekly calls will be held beginning on January 8, 2015, and staff across the Water Quality Division who are involved in TMDLs, monitoring and assessment, and GIS support, plan to attend each call. The purpose of the calls is to discuss the draft business requirements for 303(d), 305(b), TMDL, surveys, and measures work. The first call this week will focus on TMDL business requirements. **Miranda Hodgkiss, 665-7538; Linda Adams, 665-6546**

EPA REGION 6 STAFF INVITED TO PARTICIPATE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS IN A TECHNICAL MEETING TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW CUTTING EDGE MODELING FOR SHALLOW LAKES: Region 6 TMDL staff have been invited to participate with ODEQ, USACE, OWRB and USGS to discuss and review the use of the ELCOM-CAEDYM model set as applied to a shallow lake in Oklahoma. The meeting will be held on March 23, 2015, in Fayetteville and led by Dr. Clelia Marti, Deputy Director of the Centre for Water Research at Western Australia University. This meeting is jointly hosted by the Poteau Valley Improvement Authority and the University of Arkansas. **Taimur Shaikh, 665-7181**