

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6429-3]

Notice of Availability: Draft Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of availability of draft guidance.

SUMMARY: Today's document makes available for public comment the draft Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations for public review and comment. This draft guidance is being published to meet one EPA's key action items in the recently released U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations (March 1999). The draft guidance is intended to provide assistance to EPA and State permit writers, who are responsible for issuing NPDES permits to reduce risk to water quality and human health from animal feeding operations.

The Unified National Strategy set forth a range of flexible, common-sense actions that USDA and EPA plan to take over a multi-year period to promote proper management of animal manure and wastewater in order to minimize the water quality and public health impacts of animal feeding operations. In the short-term, EPA is focused on improving implementation of the NPDES permitting program consistent with existing regulations, including today's publication of this draft guidance manual. Over the long-term, EPA plans to revise its regulations to reflect substantial changes in the animal production industry over the past several decades. Throughout this multi-year process, EPA will provide opportunities for interested parties to offer comments on its draft guidance documents and proposed regulations.

A key objective of both the Unified National Strategy and this draft guidance is to accelerate issuance of sound, legally defensible NPDES permits for large CAFOs (e.g. operations with greater than 1,000 animal units) by January of 2000. The draft guidance being made available today is intended to aid EPA and State permitting authorities in meeting this goal. Consistent with the Unified National Strategy, USDA is currently in the process of developing an important companion document that will provide guidance on how to develop sound

comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs), which EPA and State permitting authorities will incorporate into NPDES permits as special conditions. USDA's draft guidance is expected to be available for public review and comment later this summer.

EPA believes that comments from a wide range of interested stakeholders is important to produce a final guidance document that will help EPA and State permitting authorities issue NPDES permits that achieve the goal of reducing risk to water quality and human health from animal feeding operations. EPA is interested in receiving comments from reviewers of the draft Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, and will carefully consider this input as it prepares a final guidance document for publication later this year.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by October 25, 1999 to the address below.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments to Gregory Beatty, US EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Mail Code 4203, Washington, DC 20460. Submit electronic comments to beatty.gregory@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the draft Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations may be obtained on the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>. If you do not have Internet access, you may obtain a paper copy of the draft guidance by calling the Water Resources Center at (202) 260-7786. The draft guidance is also available in electronic format.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Beatty, (202) 260-6929 or Will Hall (202) 260-1458.

Dated: August 6, 1999.

J. Charles Fox,

Assistant Administrator for Water.

[FR Doc. 99-22157 Filed 8-24-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6428-2]

City of Key West No Discharge Zone Determination

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Regional Administrator concurs with the determinations of the State of Florida that adequate and reasonably available pumpout facilities exist around the waters (out to 600 feet from shore) of the Island of Key West. A petition was received from the State

of Florida requesting a determination by the Regional Administrator, EPA, pursuant to section 312(f)(3) of Public Law 92-500 as amended by Public Law 95-217 and Public Law 100-4, that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the waters around the City of Key West to qualify as a No Discharge Zone.

This action is taken under section 312 (f)(3) of the Clean Water Act which states:

After the effective date of the initial standards and regulations promulgated under this section, if any State determines that the protection and enhancement of the quality of some or all of the waters within such States require greater environmental protection, such State may completely prohibit the discharge from all vessels of any sewage, whether treated or not into such waters, except that no such prohibition shall apply until the Administrator determines that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for such water to which such prohibition would apply.

EPA's action allows prohibition regarding discharge from vessels to be applied by the State of Florida for the City of Key West. EPA found the following existing facilities available for pumping out vessel holding tanks in the City of Key West. Their address, telephone number, hours of operation and draft are as follows:

- A. Galleon Marina; 619 Front Street, Key West, Florida 33040; 305-292-1292; 8 AM-6 PM 7 days/week; 45' draft.
- B. Historic Seaport at Key West Bight; 201 William Street, Key West, Florida 33040; 305-293-8309; 7 AM-7 PM (summer) 7 AM-5 PM (winter) 7 days /week; 12' draft.
- C. Key West Conch Harbor; 951 Caroline Street, Key West, Florida 33040; 305-294-2933; 6 AM-Sunset 7 days/week; 10' draft.
- D. Garrison Bight Marina; Garrison Bight Causeway, Key West, Florida 33040; 305-292-8167; 24 hours/day 7 days/week; 7' draft; mobile pumpout barge operated 8 AM-5 PM Monday through Saturday; 1' draft.
- E. Sunset Marina; 5555 College Road, Stock Island, Key West, Florida 33040; 305-296-7101; 7 AM-8 PM daily; 6.5' draft.

Additional pumpout facilities are being installed at several other marinas within city limits. The facilities at A & B Marina are scheduled for completion by September 1, 1999. The Key West Yacht Club is currently seeking permits for a pumpout facility. The Historic Seaport at Key West Bight has budgeted

funds for installation of dockside pumpouts for charterboats within the next fiscal year.

All of the vessel pumpout facilities that are in use within Key West City limits discharge directly into the collection system that delivers waste to the central waste treatment facility for Key West, otherwise known as the Richard Heyman Environmental Protection Facility. The plant achieves a secondary level of waste treatment and currently discharges the treated effluent into nearshore waters off Fort Zachary Taylor State Beach. However, the City is currently retrofitting the plant to achieve a level of advanced wastewater treatment and will be replacing the ocean outfall with deep injection wells. Currently, the City collection system is being rebuilt at a cost of several million dollars. Both the collection system improvements and the replacement of the outfall with deep injection wells will be completed within a few years pursuant to the provisions of a consent judgment with the State of Florida. The City has entered into an agreement with Reef Relief and Last Stand, two environmental organizations, to treat the effluent being injected to a level of advanced wastewater treatment to remove the nutrients prior to injection.

Thus all wastewater collected at the vessel pumpout facilities will be treated to meet existing standards for secondary treatment and will eventually meet the higher standard of advanced wastewater treatment. This action is being taken in consideration of the need to reduce nutrient loading to nearshore waters.

The number of boats with marine sanitation devices (MSD) varies seasonally. According to Key West marina operators, approximately 628 boats with heads is a reasonable average. Therefore, the ratio of boats with MSDs to pumpout facilities is 126 boats per pumpout facility, plus a mobile pumpout service.

Comments concerning this action may be filed on or before September 24, 1999. Such communications should be addressed to Wesley B. Crum, Chief, Coastal and Nonpoint Source Programs Section, USEPA, Region 4, Sam Nunn Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104. Telephone 404-562-9352.

John H. Hankinson, Jr.,

Regional Administrator, Region 4.

[FR Doc. 99-22044 Filed 8-24-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6425-2]

Draft Modification of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges From Construction Activities

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Correction of Notice of draft modification of the NPDES general permit reissuance for storm water discharges from construction activities.

SUMMARY: The EPA, Region 4, published in the July 21, 1999 (64 FR 39136) **Federal Register**, a proposed modification of the general permit for the discharge of storm water from construction activities, issued on March 31, 1998. This document corrects a typographical error in the dates section. The deadline for submitting comments to EPA on the proposed modification is September 10, 1999. The proposed modification is not changed by this notice from the proposal in the July 21, 1999 **Federal Register**.

DATES: Comments on the proposed modification must be received or postmarked by September 10, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Notices of Intent (NOIs) submitted in accordance with this permit to receive coverage under this permit must be sent to Storm Water Notice of Intent (4203), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460. The complete administrative record is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Freedom of Information Officer, 61 Forsyth St. SW., Atlanta, GA 30303. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Floyd Wellborn, telephone number (404) 562-9296, or Mr. Mike Mitchell, telephone number (404) 562-9303, or at the following address: United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Water Management Division, Surface Water Permits Section, Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street SW., Atlanta, GA 30303.

Public Comment Period

Public comments are being invited only for those specific modifications discussed within the proposed modification of the general permit for the discharge of storm water from construction activities, which was published in the July 21, 1999 **Federal Register**. The public should send their comments to the Surface Water Permits Section, Water Management Division,

U.S. EPA, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, GA 30303, postmarked by midnight no later than September 10, 1999. To ensure that EPA can read, understand, and therefore properly respond to comments, the Agency requests commenters to type or print in ink any comments. Each comment should cite the page number and, where possible, the section(s) and/or paragraph(s) in the proposed permitting actions to which the comment relates. Commenters should use a separate paragraph for each issue discussed.

State Certification

EPA has requested certification of the proposed permit modification to the State of Florida and Indian Tribes where the proposed actions would be effective. The State of Florida and Tribes will review the proposed actions to ensure that they will not result in violations of water quality criteria. EPA will work with the State and Tribes to obtain their certification in accordance with section 401 of the Clean Water Act. EPA will prepare certifications for Indian lands where there is no approved Tribe or any Tribes which have not established water quality standards.

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires that all Federal licensing and permitting actions be reviewed for consistency with each approved State coastal zone management plan. The Federal Consistency Act requires that all NPDES permits be reviewed for consistency with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. EPA has also initiated these reviews.

Dated: August 17, 1999.

A. Stanley Meiburg,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.

[FR Doc. 99-22046 Filed 8-24-99; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of Science and Technology Policy

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected