

Chapter 95 Task Force

The Task Force is charged with reviewing and evaluating the Department of Environmental Protection's proposed Chapter 95 effluent standards for new sources of wastewater containing high levels of total dissolved solids. The goal of the Task Force's evaluation is to identify the impacts of the proposed effluent limits on regulated discharges and to develop recommendations on the alternatives and options available to address the TDS concern. Working with the Department, the task force will:

- identify and evaluate the impacts of historical, current and projected TDS loads and their specific chemical constituents on the quality and uses of the receiving waters; and
- identify and evaluate potential options available for controlling TDS, while minimizing secondary environmental, energy and economic impacts and the associated costs. In evaluating potential TDS management options, the Task Force will consider:
 - published effluent limitation guidelines for wastewater discharges to surface waters and municipal sewage treatment plants;
 - technical feasibility and costs of various TDS treatment technologies as applied to different sources of high TDS loads;
 - the energy demand and air quality impacts of the treatment technologies or management approaches;
 - the nature and volume of residual wastes that may be generated by the TDS treatment technologies or management approaches and the residual waste management options that may be needed; and
 - the timeframes required for implementing TDS treatment, considering applicable regulatory, permitting, engineering, procurement and construction requirements.

In view of the Department's intention to publish the proposed amendments to Chapter 95 for public review and comment after approval by the Environmental Quality Board, the Task Force will also advise the Department in its review and evaluation of and response to public comments it receives on the proposed rulemaking.

Stakeholders. Membership in the Task Force will reflect the interests affected by the draft Chapter 95 regulation and should include representatives of:

- high TDS dischargers, including oil and gas development, coal mining, electric generation, petroleum refining, chemical manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, food processing, and private and public centralized wastewater treatment and pretreatment facilities;
- key water users impacted by TDS loads, including public water supply operators, industrial water users and agribusiness; and
- other affected parties, including environmental organizations, watershed groups and state resource agencies.

Support. As needed, WRAC and the Task Force may call upon technology vendors, engineering firms and other professionals familiar with treatment technologies and residuals management.

Timeframe. Given the Department's goal to implement its High TDS Permitting Strategy, as embodied in the draft Chapter 95 rulemaking, by January 1, 2011, the Task Force will endeavor to provide its recommendations on to the Department by April 1, 2010.