rendered by an operating establishment. SIC codes are used to group establishments by the economic activities in which they are engaged. SIC codes often denote a facility's primary, secondary, tertiary, etc. economic activities.

Small business—Businesses with annual sales revenues less than \$6 million. This is the Small Business Administration definition of small business for SIC code 4953, Refuse Systems (13 CFR Ch.1, § 121.601).

Solidification—The addition of agents to convert liquid or semi-liquid hazardous waste to a solid before burial to reduce the leaching of the waste material and the possible migration of the waste or its constituent from the facility. The process is usually accompanied by stabilization.

Stabilization—A hazardous waste process that decreases the mobility of waste constituents by means other than solidification. Stabilization techniques include mixing the waste with sorbents such as fly ash to remove free liquids. For the purpose of this rule, chemical precipitation is not a technique for stabilization.

TSS—Total Suspended Solids. A measure of the amount of particulate matter that is suspended in a water sample. The measure is obtained by filtering a water sample of known volume. The particulate material retained on the filter is then dried and weighed.

Variability factor—The daily variability factor is the ratio of the estimated 99th percentile of the distribution of daily values divided by the expected value, median or mean, of the distribution of the daily data. The monthly variability factor is the estimated 95th percentile of the distribution of the monthly averages of the data divided by the expected value of the monthly averages.

Waste Receipt—Wastes received for treatment or recovery. Waters of the United States—The same meaning set forth in 40 CFR 122.2.

Zero discharge—No discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States or to a POTW. Also included in this definition are discharge of pollutants by way of evaporation, deep-well injection, off-site transfer, and land application.

Background Documents

The regulations proposed today are supported by several major documents. (1) EPA's technical conclusions concerning the wastewater regulations are detailed in the "Development Document for Proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Centralized Waste Treatment Industry," hereafter referred to as the **Technical Development Document** (EPA-821-R-95-006). (2) Detailed documentation of the procedure and equations used for costing the technology options is included in the "Detailed Costing Document for the Centralized Waste Treatment Industry," hereafter referred to as the Costing Document (EPA-821-R-95-002). (3) The Agency's economic analysis is found in the "Economic Impact Analysis of Proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Centralized Waste Treatment Industry," hereafter called the Economic Impact Analysis (EPA-821-R-95-001). (4) The Agency's assessment of environmental benefits is detailed in the 'Environmental Assessment of Proposed Effluent Guidelines for the Centralized Waste Treatment Industry," hereafter called the Environmental Assessment (EPA-821-R-95-003). (5) An analysis of the incremental costs and pollutant removals for the effluent regulations is presented in "Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Centralized Waste Treatment Industry," hereafter called the Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (EPA-821-R-95-004). (6) The methodology used for calculating limitations is discussed in the "Statistical Support Document for Proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Centralized Waste Treatment Industry" hereafter referred to as the Statistical Support Document (EPA-821-R-95-005).

Legal Authority

These regulations are being proposed under the authority of Sections 301, 304, 306, 307, 308, and 501 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. Sections 1311, 1314, 1316, 1317, 1318, and 1361.

I. Summary and Scope of the Proposed Regulation

A. Background

Congress adopted the Clean Water Act (CWA) to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.' Section 101(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1251(a). To achieve this goal, the CWA prohibits the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters except in compliance with the statute. The Clean Water Act attacks the problem of water pollution on a number of different fronts. Its primary reliance, however, is on establishing restrictions on the types and amounts of pollutants discharged from various industrial, commercial, and public sources of wastewater.

Congress recognized that regulating only those sources that discharge effluent directly into the nation's waters would not be sufficient to achieve the CWA's goals. Consequently, the CWA requires EPA to promulgate nationally applicable pretreatment standards which restrict pollutant discharges for those who discharge wastewater indirectly through sewers flowing to publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) (Section 307 (b) and (c), 33 U.S.C. §1317 (b) & (c)). National pretreatment standards are established for those pollutants in wastewater from indirect dischargers which may pass through or interfere with POTW operations. Generally, pretreatment standards are designed to ensure that wastewater from direct and indirect industrial dischargers are subject to similar levels of treatment. In addition, POTWs are required to implement local treatment limits applicable to their industrial indirect dischargers to satisfy any local requirements (40 CFR 403.5).

Direct dischargers must comply with effluent limitations in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permits; indirect dischargers must comply with pretreatment standards. These limitations and standards are established by regulation for categories of industrial dischargers and are based on the degree of control that can be achieved using various levels of pollution control technology. In addition, pretreatment standards must be established for those pollutants which are not susceptible to treatment by POTWs or which would interfere with POTW operations (CWA Sections 301(b), 304(b), 306, 307 (b)-(d), 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(b), 1314(b), 1316, and 1317 (b)-(d)).

Today's proposal represents the Agency's first attempt to develop national guidelines that establish effluent limitations and pretreatment standards for new and existing dischargers from the Centralized Waste Treatment Industry. EPA estimates that the regulation being proposed today would reduce the discharge of conventional, priority, and nonconventional pollutants by at least 123 million pounds per year. EPA performed an analysis of the water quality benefits that would be derived from this proposal and predicts that contributions by centralized waste treatment facilities to current excursions of aquatic life and/or human health toxic effect levels would be eliminated for twenty streams and reduced for ten others. EPA also projects through modeling that eleven of the seventeen POTWs expected to experience inhibition of treatment due to