

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 435

[FRL-5149-7]

RIN 2040-AB72

#### Effluent Limitations Guidelines, Pretreatment Standards, and New Source Performance Standards: Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category, Coastal Subcategory

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This proposed regulation would limit the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States and the introduction of pollutants into publicly-owned treatment works by existing and new facilities in the coastal subcategory of the oil and gas extraction point source category.

This proposed regulation would establish effluent limitations guidelines and new source performance standards (NSPS) for direct dischargers based on "best practicable control technology currently available" (BPT), "best conventional pollutant control technology" (BCT), "best available technology economically achievable" (BAT), and "best available demonstrated control technology" (BADCT) for new sources. The proposal also would establish "pretreatment standards for new sources" (PSNS) and "pretreatment standards for existing sources" (PSES) for facilities discharging their wastewaters to publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs).

This regulation will reduce the discharge of pollutants into U.S. coastal water bodies by 4.3 billion pounds, thereby also reducing the impacts these discharges would otherwise incur to aquatic life and/or human health. As a result of consultation with stakeholders, the preamble solicits comments and data not only on issues raised by EPA, but also on those raised by State and local governments who will be implementing these regulations and by industry representatives who will be affected by them.

This proposal does not take into account the regulatory effects of the recently published final EPA Region VI NPDES General Permits for production facilities (January 9, 1995). With these permits in effect, the costs of this proposal will be reduced and the actual reduction of pollutant loadings to coastal waters would be approximately 71 percent less, or 1.25 billion pounds per year, due to today's proposal. EPA

will more fully incorporate the regulatory effects of the Region VI General Permits upon promulgation of the final rule.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposal must be received by May 18, 1995. Two public meetings will be held during the comment period: on March 7, 1995, in New Orleans, Louisiana and on March 21, 1995, in Seattle, Washington. Both meetings will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in writing to: Ms. Allison Wiedeman, Engineering and Analysis Division (4303), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20460. Please submit any references cited in your comments. EPA would appreciate an original and two copies of your comments and enclosures (including references).

The public record supporting the proposed effluent limitations guidelines and standards is in the Water Docket located in the basement of the EPA Headquarters building, Room L102, 401 M Street S.W., Washington, DC 20460. For access to Docket materials call (202) 260-3027. The Docket staff requests that interested parties call, between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm, for an appointment before visiting the docket. The EPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 2 provide that a reasonable fee may be charged for copying.

The workshops covering the rulemaking will be held at the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Office of the Regional Director, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 7, 1995, and at the Federal Building, 915 2nd Avenue, North Auditorium in Seattle, Washington on March 21, 1995.

The background documents are available from the Office of Water Resource Center, RC-4100, at the U.S. EPA, Washington, DC address shown above; telephone (202) 260-7786 for the voice mail publication request line.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For technical information contact Ms. Allison Wiedeman at (202) 260-7179. For economic information contact Dr. Matthew Clark at (202) 260-7192.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Public Meeting

No meeting materials will be distributed in advance of these meetings: all material will be distributed at the meetings. See **ADDRESSES** for information on location of the public meetings.

##### Docket

EPA notes that many documents in the record supporting these proposed

rules have been claimed as confidential business information (CBI) and, therefore, are not included in the record that is available to the public in the Water Docket. To support the rulemaking, EPA is presenting certain information in aggregated form or is masking facility identities to preserve confidentiality claims. Further, the Agency has withheld from disclosure some data not claimed as confidential business information because release of this information could indirectly reveal information claimed to be confidential.

Some facility-specific data, which have been claimed as confidential business information, are available to the company that submitted the information. To ensure that all CBI is protected in accordance with EPA regulations, any requests for company-specific data should be submitted to EPA on company letterhead and signed by a responsible official authorized to receive such data. The request must list the specific data requested and include the following statement, "I certify that EPA is authorized to transfer confidential business information submitted by my company, and that I am authorized to receive it."

#### Overview

This preamble includes a description of the legal authority for these rules; a summary of the proposal; a description of the background documents that support these proposed regulations and other background information; and a description of the technical and economic methodologies used by EPA to develop these regulations. This preamble also solicits comment and data on specific areas of interest. The definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations used in this notice are defined in Appendix A to the preamble.

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