

Trends in Nutrients and Pesticides in the Nation's Rivers

Friday, April 11, 2014
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Capitol Visitors Center Congressional Meeting Room South (CVC-217)

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the Northeast Midwest Institute (NEMWI) invite you to a briefing by the US Geological Survey National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program on findings of trends in nutrients and pesticides in the Nation's streams and rivers. The briefing will primarily focus on the Mississippi River Basin, which covers about 40% of the nation and represents a wide range of important climatic, agricultural, and urban influences that are present throughout the country.

As Congress debates federal activities and funding for water-quality protection and restoration efforts, it is critical to know how conditions are actually changing over time and to understand why changes have occurred. Have governmental actions been effective or are other influences causing the changes? For example, from NAWQA monitoring, we now know that nitrate loadings from the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico increased 14 percent from 1980 to 2010 despite extensive efforts to improve and expand the use of urban and agricultural management practices during the period. Why? From its analyses of the data, NAWQA has determined that pesticide concentrations in streams and rivers change as chemical use changes, as regulations controlling use are issued, and as new products become available.

The briefing will also include findings from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) efforts to assess the health of the Nation's estuaries and will explain how information and findings from NAWQA's monitoring and assessments contribute to their assessments and the protection of our estuaries.

Speakers for this event include:

- Alan Vicory, Principal, Stantec Consulting and Chair, WEF Government Affairs Committee, Moderator
- Lori Sprague, NAWQA Surface-Water Trends Coordinator
- Suzanne Bricker, NOAA National Center for Coastal Ocean Science

Following presentations by the two speakers, there will be time for questions and discussion from the audience.

This briefing is held in cooperation with the USGS Office of Water Quality and the National Water-Quality Assessment Program and is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP to cbarbour@usgs.gov. If you did not respond, you must show a picture ID.

For more information, contact **Bill Wilber** at wgwilber@usgs.gov or 703-648-6878.

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