



Implementing the Federal Wastewater Regulation (and CCME Strategy): Ontario's Perspective

Ontario Ministry of the Environment

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Protecting our environment.



CCME Municipal Wastewater Effluent Strategy

- Ministers signed CCME Strategy in Feb. 2009:
 - commits Canada and Ontario (and other signing provinces) to actions to improve management of municipal wastewater effluent over next 30 years
 - commits Canada and Ontario to a harmonized federal/provincial approach for managing municipal wastewater effluent
 - CCME strategy is clear that jurisdictions closest to the regulated systems (i.e. provinces) are best-placed to administer a federal regulation
 - recognizes individual provinces may apply more stringent or additional requirements, to meet site-specific needs (existing or new)
 - strategy commits each province and Canada to negotiate an administrative “harmonization” agreement on roles and responsibilities (e.g. inspections) under a federal regulation, to provide a “single window” for municipalities



CCME Strategy Implementation Timelines

ELEMENT	REQUIREMENT	TIMELINES
To Be Regulated By Federal Government		
Standards for Effluent Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will need to be met in STP effluent for all facilities for CBOD₅, TSS and TRC, as well as toxicity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New/upgraded facilities: Immediately Existing facilities: <i>High risk: 10 years, Med. risk: 20 years, Low risk: 30 years</i>
Ongoing Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor effluent quality for standards, toxicity – also for treatment plant flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start in 3 years (2012)
Regulatory Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report monitoring results to jurisdictions (i.e. Ontario) . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start in 3 years (2012)
Public Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report annually to public on monitoring results (tbd how this is done). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start in 3 years (2012)
Joint Federal – Provincial Commitment		
Harmonized Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jurisdictions incorporate requirements into their policy and regulatory framework and develop implementation plan. Establish bi-lateral agreements between federal and each provincial government to harmonize requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 3 years (2012)
Implemented By Each Province		
Process for Managing Harmful Pollutants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine pollutants in effluent Conduct site specific risk assessment Develop objectives if needed for problem pollutants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In years 5 thru 8 (2014-2017)
Combined and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (CSO's and SSO's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase in frequency of CSO's due to development unless part of an approved plan. Meet objectives – no dry weather overflow except during spring thaw/emergencies, remove floatables where feasible Develop an action plan for managing CSO's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately Within 7 years (2016) Within 7 years (2016)

Preparing for the Federal Regulation

- Intergovernmental Priorities:
 - Ontario representation at CCME Coordinating Committee
 - Federal regulation review and liaison with Environment Canada
 - Negotiation of administrative “harmonization” agreement with EC to define respective roles and responsibilities (e.g. for data sharing, inspections, enforcement)



Preparing for the Federal Regulation

- Ontario Implementation Priorities:
 - funding has been provided for six remaining primary plants to complete upgrades
 - receiving, processing, storing, reporting on municipal information (e.g. federal regulation effluent monitoring data, authorizations, reports)
 - public reporting mechanism
 - approvals-related issues (e.g. similar/overlapping requirements)
 - compliance strategy (abatement, inspections, enforcement)
 - joint municipal/stakeholder education/outreach with Environment Canada



Meeting Other CCME Strategy Commitments

- Amend MOE policy to implement parts of CCME strategy not captured by proposed federal regulation (by 2012 to meet CCME timeline to align provincial policy)
 - effluent characterization for harmful pollutants
 - setting of site-specific effluent discharge objectives for harmful pollutants, if needed to protect receiving environment
 - overflow standards
 - CSO action plans



Continuous Improvement in Wastewater Management

- MOE is committed to ongoing policy and program improvement
- Need to consider new environmental stressors:
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Stressed watersheds ↗ Growth pressures
 - Great Lakes emerging issues
- Potential areas of interest:
 - Standards, best practices, technology
 - Stormwater, bypasses and overflows
 - Watershed-based approaches
 - Harmful pollutants
 - Water and energy conservation & efficiency and wastewater reuse

