



THE QUALITY OF THE NATION'S WATER: WHAT DO WE KNOW AND HOW CAN WE KNOW MORE?

According to the most recent EPA report on water quality conditions in the United States, approximately 40% of assessed streams and rivers were not clean enough to support intended uses such as fishing and swimming. Yet, the report is based on 1998 data that only assessed 25% of the nation's streams and rivers for water quality. So, how much do we really know about the condition of our streams and rivers?

A SERIES OF CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS

Come and hear from water quality experts who can answer your questions about how clean and safe our water is.

February 25th from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Location: 2318 Rayburn House Office Building
Water Quality Monitoring: Answers It Provides for Protection Activities

March 4th from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Location: 2318 Rayburn House Office Building
Moving from Monitoring to Prediction: The Quality of the Nation's Streams

March 11th from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Location: 2318 Rayburn House Office Building
Moving from Monitoring to Prediction: The Quality of the Nation's Ground Water

Briefing Series Sponsors:

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Water Environment Federation (WEF)
Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)

Recent reports by the Government Accounting Office, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and Environment uncover the challenges confronting the country's ability to effectively monitor the quality of our streams and ground water. These briefings will discuss current water quality monitoring activities and policy options for improving them, demonstrate how monitoring data provide nationwide and regional findings that are useful in protecting water quality even in unmonitored areas, and provide specific examples of federal, state, and local governments' effective use of monitoring information.

Free and open to the public.

**THE QUALITY OF THE NATION'S WATER:
WHAT DO WE KNOW AND HOW CAN WE KNOW MORE?**

**Water Quality Monitoring: Answers It Provides for Water Quality Protection
February 25, 2005, 9:30 - 11:30 am, Room: 2318 RHOB**

This briefing will explore questions that can be answered through monitoring, the strategies that are used to provide the answers, and how federal agencies and states can use data acquired through different monitoring strategies collaboratively to help meet water protection challenges. It will include discussion of the needs and options for national policy on water quality monitoring.

Moderator: Robin O'Malley, Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and Environment

Speakers: Tim Miller, Chief, USGS Office of Water Quality

Mike Shapiro, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water

Sally Knowles, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

**Moving from Monitoring to Prediction: The Quality of the Nation's Streams
March 4, 2005, 9:30 - 11:30 am, Room 2318 RHOB**

USGS scientists will describe how they are able to provide information about pollution in unmonitored streams by extrapolating data collected from monitored sites. USGS will provide background levels of nutrient pollution in streams throughout the country, the sources and their relative impacts on nutrient pollution in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico, and water quality impacts of the concentration of the livestock industry. In addition, New England water quality experts will describe how they use the USGS national model to help protect the Long Island Sound from hypoxia and control non-point pollution in the region.

Moderator: To be determined

Speakers: Richard Alexander, USGS scientist

Dick Smith, USGS Scientist

Keith Robinson, New Hampshire USGS scientist

Laura Blake, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

**Moving from Monitoring to Prediction: The Quality of the Nation's Ground Water
March 11, 2005, 9:30 - 11:30 am, Room 2318 RHOB**

By knowing the conditions likely to predict nitrates above drinking water standards and monitored nitrate levels at 1,280 sites, USGS has determined the likelihood of high nitrate levels in ground water for the entire country. A USGS scientist from the Chesapeake Bay area will also describe predicted concentrations of nitrogen, agricultural pesticides, and urban pesticides in ground water in the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain. In addition, a USGS scientist will describe how national methods for determining arsenic levels in groundwater have been adapted for New England conditions and used by states to target drinking water wells for monitoring.

Moderator: Lynn Orphan, President, WEF

Speakers: Tom Nolan, USGS scientist

Scott Ator, Maryland USGS scientist

Keith Robinson, New Hampshire USGS scientist

For questions, please contact: Ms. Pat Sinicropi, WEF, (703)-684-2416 or
Donna Myers, USGS, (703)-648-5012