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## Fact Sheet

### Cooling Water Intake Structures At Large Existing Power Plants- Extension of Comment Period

#### Summary

- In April 2002, EPA proposed to establish location, design, construction and capacity standards for cooling water intake structures at existing power plants that use the largest amounts of cooling water.
- The proposed regulation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9, 2002, and provided a 90-day public comment period ([www.epa.gov/waterscience/316b/](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/316b/)).
- In response to multiple requests for additional time to review and comment on the proposed regulation and its record, EPA is extending the comment period by 30 days. Public comments will now be accepted until August 7, 2002.

#### Background

- Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act requires EPA to ensure that the location, design, construction, and capacity of cooling water intake structures reflect the best technology available for minimizing adverse environmental impact.
- EPA is developing these regulations under the terms of an Amended Consent Decree in *Riverkeeper, Inc. v. Whitman*, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, No. 93-Civ.0314 (AGS).
- The proposed regulation is designed to protect fish, shellfish, and other aquatic life from being killed or injured by cooling water intake structures.
- EPA estimates that this rule would affect approximately 550 facilities and cost \$182 million per year. EPA estimates that the benefits of the rule would be as much as \$700 million.
- The rule would not cause any electric generating facilities to close and would not adversely effect energy supply, distribution, or use.

#### Additional Information

You can call Tom Wall at (202) 566-1060 or Deborah Nagle at (202) 566-1063, or you can write to either of them at:

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You can also send an e-mail to [Wall.Tom@epa.gov](mailto:Wall.Tom@epa.gov) or [Nagle.Deborah@epa.gov](mailto:Nagle.Deborah@epa.gov). For further details about this Phase II proposal or any other phase of this rulemaking, refer to [www.epa.gov/waterscience/316b/](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/316b/) on the Internet.