



New Scientific Findings to Help Direct Action on Excessive Nutrients in Rivers and Estuaries

**Friday, October 28, 2011
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

Room 2167 Rayburn House Office Building

The **Water Environment Federation** (WEF) and the **Northeast Midwest Institute** invite you to a briefing on new US Geological Survey (USGS) findings that provide current information on major sources of nutrients to streams, how nutrients move downstream, and their loadings to rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and estuaries, such as the Gulf of Mexico, Chesapeake Bay, and Long Island Sound. Excessive nutrients are causing algal blooms that increase costs to treat drinking water, limit recreational activities, threaten valuable fisheries, and can be toxic to humans and wildlife.

Based on the results of assessments in six major regions of the United States and water-quality monitoring data from approximately 2,700 sites operated by 73 agencies, the USGS National Water-Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) has developed new models for each region. With these models, information is now readily available on the percentage contribution of particular sources to the total nutrient level in receiving waters for unmonitored as well as monitored areas.

At the briefing, USGS will explain the information that is available through these models and describe a new NAWQA online decision support system based on them. The system can be used by anyone to access this important information for any stream reach or geographical area. Moreover, the system can be used to evaluate various nutrient reduction options that target one or multiple sources and predict the resulting water quality improvement. This capability makes it an excellent tool to help local, state, and national decision makers design efficient, cost-effective nutrient reduction strategies for any area of the country.

Also at the briefing, officials from Minnesota and Tennessee will describe how their states are using these and other models to reduce excessive nutrients and the essential relationship between ongoing water-quality monitoring and accurate, effective models.

Speakers for this event include:

- **Alan Vicory**, Executive Director of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, moderator
- **Steve Preston**, USGS NAWQA Hydrologic Systems Team
- **Saya Qualls**, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Water Pollution Control.
- **Wayne Anderson**, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Pollution Control Agency

*This briefing is sponsored by the WEF, in cooperation with the NE-MW Institute and the USGS.
The program is free and open to the public.*

For more information, contact Pallavi Raviprakash at praviprakash@wef.org or (703)684-2400 x7741