



## Fact Sheet

### **Notice of Data Availability Concerning Proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Regulation and Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations**

#### **Summary**

- On January 12, 2001, EPA published a proposal to revise and update two regulations that ensure manure, wastewater, and other process waters generated by concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) do not impair water quality.
- Today's notice makes available for public review new data and information submitted to EPA during the public comment period, including new data received from industry groups, the general public, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- EPA is providing a two-month public comment period on this notice, following its publication in the Federal Register.

#### **Background**

- CAFOs confine large numbers of animals, and store wastewater and manure in a contained area for extended periods of time. CAFOs constitute a small share of all animal feeding operations (AFOs) in the livestock and poultry industries. The majority of AFOs are not CAFOs and, therefore, are not subject to the existing Federal regulations.
- Two existing interrelated regulations affect CAFOs, which were promulgated in the early 1970s. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulation defines which operations are CAFOs and establishes permit requirements. The Effluent Limitations Guidelines (ELG) establish the technology-based effluent discharge standards for CAFOs.
- EPA's proposed revisions to these regulations will reduce water quality discharges by strengthening the permitting requirements and performance standards for CAFOs.
- Affected industries include the major livestock and poultry industries, including cattle feedlots, dairy farms, hog operations, and poultry operations (farms that raise broilers and other meat-type chickens, turkeys, and egg laying operations). The proposed NPDES permit revisions also affect other types of animal confinement operations, such as farms that raise sheep/lambs, ducks, horses, and other animal species that are raised in confinement.
- By court order, EPA must take final action on the ELG regulations by December 15, 2002. EPA intends to finalize the NPDES permitting regulations at the same time as the effluent guidelines are finalized.

#### **About this Notice**

- There are four main components to this notice related to EPA's proposed CAFO regulations. These include: (1) discussion of new data and changes EPA is considering to refine its cost and economics model, (2) discussion of new data and changes EPA is considering to refine its nutrient loading and benefits analysis, (3) new data and changes EPA is considering to the proposed NPDES permit program regulations, and (4) new data and changes EPA is considering to the proposed ELG regulations.

- The notice also describes new analyses that may be performed by EPA and describes revisions that EPA is considering to its financial and engineering cost models, as well as new data or methodologies.
- This notice discusses ways that EPA is considering to enhance flexibility for the use of State NPDES and non-NPDES CAFO programs, including options to encourage implementation of environmental management systems. The notice also describes regulatory thresholds that are being considered for operations that raise ducks and horses, and addresses how cow/calf pairs could be counted.
- The notice describes new information received by EPA on the proposed CAFO performance standards.

#### **How to Get Additional Information**

- You can get additional information by contacting Renee Selinsky Johnson, Paul Shriner, or Karen Metchis at (202) 564-0766. You may also e-mail the above contacts at [johnson.renee@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.renee@epa.gov), [shriner.paul@epa.gov](mailto:shriner.paul@epa.gov), and [metchis.karen@epa.gov](mailto:metchis.karen@epa.gov).
- You can obtain a copy of this notice at: <http://www.epa.gov/ost/guide/cafo/> and <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/afo/>. You may also request a copy of this notice by mail by calling EPA's CAFO Hotline at (202) 564-0766.
- You can submit comments on this notice at: [CAFOS.comments@epa.gov](mailto:CAFOS.comments@epa.gov).