
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies
presents



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Water Quality Trading: Lessons from the Long Island Sound Program

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has recently initiated a nitrogen trading program in January 2002 to comply with the TMDL for Long Island Sound. This presentation will give an overview of the program through its first year of implementation. The U.S. EPA approved the TMDL for Long Island Sound in April 2001. This resulted in Connecticut municipal wastewater treatment plants being required to reduce total nitrogen effluent discharges by 64% by the year 2014. In response to the TMDL requirement the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 01-180 in July 2001, An Act Concerning Nitrogen Reduction in Long Island Sound. The Public Act allowed for the issuance of a General Permit to 79 municipal wastewater treatment plants in Connecticut. The General Permit provided annual effluent total nitrogen mass limits for the above municipal wastewater treatment plants. The nitrogen limits become more stringent in each subsequent year until the TMDL required level is achieved in the year 2014.

The Public Act 01-180 also created a nitrogen credit exchange that provides a trading program within the 79 municipal treatment plants in the General Permit. The exchange program allows treatment facilities that provide nitrogen removal to a level that is less than the general permit annual limit to sell excess credits through the exchange. The program also allows treatment facilities to purchase credits if their annual limit is exceeded. The Nitrogen Credit Advisory Board is an appointed board of 12 members that is charged with oversight of the nitrogen exchange program and the purchase and sale of all nitrogen credits and the setting of the annual cost of a nitrogen credit.

This program provides a unique first in the nation approach to achieving a TMDL through a general permit issued to all municipal treatment facilities in Connecticut that discharge greater than 20 pounds per day of total nitrogen.

Date: March 2, 2005
Time: NOON - 1:30 pm
Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium
On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 Street)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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