CWEA SSO Volume Estimation Part 1: The Changing World of SSO Volume Estimation
May 8, 2012

Audience Questions with Presenter's Answers:

Beverly Schroeder:
The enrollee comment from the state is that something the enrollee sees from the state? Yes the enrollees see these comments as they are part of NOV or AO from the regulator to the enrollee. In fact they are public documents on the web and everyone can see them.

Beverly Schroeder:
Will the state give feedback on the spill information given. Yes, send them a specific question and they will answer it. But if you wait for an inspection or an audit, the feedback may be very formal and in writing on an AO or NOV

Dina Khadavi :
Do we have to have a definite documentation for any volume of spill that we report? You should. There is no deminimus amount that doesn't require documentation.

AL JAVIER:
Do you attach all documents filled out onto CIWQS for the spill? Or do you keep it on file for State visits? Not all documents are attached, but several are, to better tell the story on CIWQS. But you have keep records/documentation on site, and produce whenever you are asked for it.

Robert Jacobsen:
Has your staff responded well to requiring them to collect this additional information and document it on the forms? Not initially, there was some resistance, until they saw all of the fields that we have fill out on CIWQS.

Seems like it may be a little cumbersome in the field while trying to respond to an overflow. How have you been able to get them to buy into it? Show them what CIWQS looks like and what information is required, explain to them that you cannot arbitrarily make up the missing information. Further, explain that they can fill out parts of the form as they go, not all at once, ie while they are waiting for a coworker to assist and after they relieve the stoppage, before they leave the job site. Additionally, complete the paperwork with them to build their confidence. It is a learning curve for all of us. Also, training is key. This helps all to understand better what is expected, eases anxiety, demonstrates that the task is not as monumental as it appears and returns better results.

Mike Carney:
Have you seen it that the state expects more documentation for certain flow volumes over others?? No.
To clarify, just wondering if there was a certain "unwritten" threshold that they start to get more concerned with documentation?
There is no threshold or deminimus volume that requires less documentation

Gary Dubinsky:
Since we are required to report spill volumes to the agencies within two hours, how do we use post monitoring flow data and other means of measuring overflows based on these described methods? In the first response (within 2 hours) there is no time to use some of these tools. The trigger for the 2 hour notification include "reaching water' and '>1,000 gallons'. An ammonia test or a visual test can determine if it reached water. To determine if it is over 1,000 gallons this early in the response will be more of a guess. Remember, that there is no penalty for calling CAL-EMA if it turns out that the volume is less than 1,000 gallons and it never reached the water. A report can be amended as well.

Michael Chee:
In the same thought process that Andy mentioned regarding not including the volume of clean -up water used as part of the SSO recovered, when attempting to recover sewage from a creek...do not include the creek water. Using best professional judgement /calculations, estimate the volume of raw sewage recovered from the creek.

Beverly Schroeder:
Explain category 1 & 2 and calling OES on a category 1 and informing Lahaton. "Lahaton" is referring to the Lahanton Regional Water Board - Lake Tahoe The 2 hour notification requirement can be found in the Revised Monitoring Reporting Program here. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml
If your Regional Water Board has additional requirements, you must also follow those.

Troy Minnick:
Has not the notification time been changed to OES now CAL-LEMA immediately. No. They can be found here.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml