
AWRA 2011 ANNUAL WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE
Albuquerque, New Mexico

November 7-10, 2011

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**CLEAN WATER ACT 316(b) PROPOSED RULE:
WHAT TO EXPECT FOR FACILITIES WITH COOLING WATER INTAKES**

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ABSTRACT: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recently proposed requirements under 316(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for existing power generation facilities, manufacturing facilities, and industrial facilities that withdraw more than 2 million gallons of water per day, and use at least 25% of that water for cooling purposes. The proposed rule seeks to evaluate and mitigate effects due to impingement and entrainment at affected facilities, and protect/preserve aquatic organisms in waterbodies with cooling water withdrawals. The proposed rule, open for comments until mid July 2011, are substantially different than the prior Phase II and III rules. After considering comments, USEPA plans to finalize the rule in mid-2012. This paper outlines the proposed rule and its challenges, facilities affected, potential actions regulated facilities will need to take, and strategies that can achieve compliance with minimum cost.

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