

# Small System Operators Continued

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CMOM, TMDL, 503 regulations --- the list seems to go on and on. For the wastewater and water operators, new rules and regulations seem to be sprouting up like daisies in the spring time. For myself, and I am sure for my counterparts on the water side, the amount of new and revised regulations coming out of Washington can at times seem to overwhelm us.

In the ever-changing and fast paced world we live in, the technological age demands that we continue our training and education. This particularly holds true in the water /wastewater industry.

So let us take a look at CMOM. WHAT, some of you may be saying. What in the world is CMOM, and what is Dave on about now. Well, I am going to tell you, or better yet, I will let Mr. Jim Peterson explain it.

Mr. Peterson is the PNCWA Collection Systems Committee Chairperson, and this is what he had to say about CMOM:

## **CMOM**

“(EPA’s Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance regulations promulgated as part of the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Rule)

Are you getting tired of hearing that “CMOM is coming, CMOM is coming?” The EPA SSO/CMOM Rule should be released for publication some time this fall/winter with publication in the Federal Register in spring 2004. If you attended Rich Cunningham’s presentation at the conference you already know you can keep up with latest CMOM news on the website [www.cmom.net](http://www.cmom.net) as well as several EPA websites.

CMOM-type activities will allow sewer utilities to undertake more long - term, cost-effective business practices that lower risk and minimize failures through a number of specific programs. To get a head start on

CMOM compliance, utilities should assess the effectiveness of their existing utility management, organization, policies, operations and maintenance, system planning and evaluation, construction inspection, and emergency responses. CMOM is expected to provide framework for improving utilities service, reducing overall operating costs, and managing assets proactively.

## **Collection Systems Design, Inspection and Testing**

It is important that each utility maximize the available capacity and long- term value of their wastewater conveyance infrastructure. High peak flows due to excessive infiltration and inflow (I&I) can significantly impact the ability of conveyance systems to accept and convey new sanitary flows. The quality of sewer and lateral connections materials and the quality of workmanship during construction have been identified as major factors in the ability to maintain a “tight” sewer system. Therefore, it is important that good sewer design standards and specifications be combined with careful field inspection monitoring and testing of the pipe, joints, lateral connections and backfilling operations. Victor is leading a subcommittee to develop a white paper on collection systems design, inspection and testing”.

Thanks to Jim Peterson for that informative discussion of CMOM. I, as I know many of you, will be looking forward to Victor’s paper on design, inspection and testing.

Well, that will about wrap up this article. In the next sojourn in the wonderful world of wastewater we may explore TMDLs . We shall see, we shall see. Until next time, keep your powder dry and your eyes open. See ya down the road. Dave