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EPA Issues Clean Water Act Permits Requiring Climate Change Adaptation.

As September ended, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s Region 1 office took a series of actions signaling the agency’s intention to impose climate change adaptation requirements in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. In three permits issued to Massachusetts municipalities, the agency imposed obligations to develop adaptation plans aimed to mitigate risks to wastewater treatment plants and sewers resulting from larger storm events and more severe flooding. Region 1 also issued a guidance document to assist permittees with developing the adaptation plans required by NPDES permits. These adaptation planning requirements will likely appear in more EPA-issued permits and, ultimately, permits in authorized states issued to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs).

Continue reading.

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