



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 30 2002

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OFFICE OF
WATER

Mr. Ernest Angelo, Jr.
Petroleum Engineer
410 North Main
Midland, TX 79701

JAN 0 2005

Dear Mr. Angelo:

I am writing to provide you with an update on the status of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) construction general permit as it affects the oil and gas industry.

EPA is proposing a two-year postponement of the permit application deadline for oil and gas construction activity that disturbs one to five acres of land. The Agency is proposing this postponement in order to allow time for EPA to analyze and better evaluate (1) the impact of the permit requirements on the oil and gas industry, (2) the appropriate best management practices for preventing contamination of storm water runoff resulting from construction associated with oil and gas operations, and (3) the scope and effect of 33 U.S.C. 1342 (1)(2) and other storm water provisions of the Clean Water Act. We will continue to work with states, industry, and other entities as we undertake these evaluations.

Thank you for sharing your concerns on this issue. Please contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further, or have your staff call James A. Hanlon, Director, Office of Wastewater Management at (202) 564-0748.

Sincerely,

G. Tracy Mehan, III
Assistant Administrator

cc: Karl Rove
Jim Connaughton
Christine Todd Whitman