

TMDLS: A NEW CORPS' MISSION?

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SUMMARY: This Total Maximum Daily Loadings presentation will discuss watershed management approaches in complying with the Clean Water Act, consider the importance of watershed involvement, mention some available remedies and measures, and emphasize looking at the "total picture" when meeting this challenge.

The first section introduces TMDLs in their historical context of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Clean Water Act. Their background as a grassroots tool to force environmental accountability and as a legal as opposed to a regulatory remedy is considered.

The second section uses two examples to highlight the issues and difficulties ahead in the TMDL process. The first example deals with a multiuse river project impacted by non-point source nutrient pollution originating outside project boundaries. The second example considers a dioxin-contaminated sediment layer buried under the bed of Kanawha River, a legacy of the Viet Nam War.

The conclusion will focus on approaches to the TMDL process at the management level. Recent developments in biocriteria assessment techniques will be discussed as an alternative to the TMDL process or as a means to increase its relevancy.

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