

Episode Reports (SERs) can be found in Section 19.1.4.2 the public record for this notice.

EPA previously indicated that it would sample at an independent renderer after proposal (see 67 FR 8606). However, EPA subsequently decided that other data sources provided adequate information and instead evaluated information on three independent renderers provided by the industry. This information included data on the size of each facility, the wastewater treatment in-place and the wastewater characteristics of the influent to the treatment system and treated effluent. Two of the three facilities also provided data collected from wastewater sampled at intermediate points in the wastewater treatment system. In EPA's view, this data combined with (or evaluated in comparison with) data from sampling which included rendering wastewater (e.g., data from a facility that performs slaughtering, further processing, and rendering) provide an appropriate basis for evaluating the baseline loadings and treatment-in-place at rendering facilities. EPA has used this data in the NODA analysis for developing default baseline concentrations and assessing treatment-in-place for facilities in Subcategory J (Independent Renderers). EPA's estimates of costs and pollutant loadings for Subcategory J are presented in Section 21.1, DCNs 125606 and 126002 of the public record.

2. Holding Time Study

When EPA conducted its own sampling episodes at the facilities, it exceeded the required holding time for some samples. While laboratories qualified to conduct total coliforms, fecal coliforms, and *E. coli* analyses may have been within driving distance of the facilities being evaluated, laboratories qualified to perform fecal streptococcus, *Salmonella*, and *Aeromonas* analyses generally were not available, as analysis for these analytes is more complex than coliforms analyses. As a result, for most sampling episodes, EPA decided samples should be shipped overnight to a laboratory capable of performing all of the bacterial analyses. Because these samples would exceed the holding time requirements in 40 CFR part 136, EPA performed a holding time study to evaluate the possible effects of analyzing samples at different holding times.

To determine if results for samples with longer holding times were consistent with results for samples analyzed within eight hours (*i.e.*, the time period consistent with 40 CFR part 136 for compliance sampling) for total

coliforms, fecal coliforms, *E. coli*, *Aeromonas*, fecal streptococcus, and [*Salmonella* from MPP facilities, EPA conducted a study to evaluate sample concentrations at 8, 24, 30, and 48 hours after sample collection for wastewater effluent samples from a beef facility (before disinfection and final effluent), a pork facility (final effluent prior to discharge into the sewer system), and a poultry facility (final effluent). The study report which contains results for all target bacteria is located at DCN 165311 in Section 22.6 in the public record for this NODA. This NODA discusses only the results for fecal coliforms and *E. coli* as EPA is not intending to establish numeric limitations for other target indicators in the holding time study. As holding times increase, the fecal coliforms and *E. coli* concentrations may change. EPA's intent in conducting the study was to provide some insights about the length of time that would still provide comparable results to samples held for eight hours.

For red meat (e.g., beef and pork) effluent, the results of this study indicate that samples for fecal coliforms and *E. coli* measurements can be held for 24 hours and still produce results comparable to analyses conducted at 8 hours after sample collection, provided that samples are stored on ice until analysis and not frozen. For poultry wastewater effluent, the study results indicate that samples held longer than the 8 hours do not provide comparable results to results at 8 hour holding times.

B. Discharge Monitoring Report Data

As discussed further in Sections III and VIII, EPA is considering the use of discharge monitoring report (DMR) data, and the supporting daily or weekly measurements, to evaluate and revise as necessary the proposed MPP limitations and standards (Section VIII) and compliance cost and loadings estimates for various technology options for the final rule (Section III). EPA used the summary DMR data from detailed survey recipients and PCS to supplement its sampling data in the development of pollutant loading and reduction estimates presented in today's notice. EPA has also incorporated daily/weekly DMR supporting data from 16 facilities in the slaughtering subcategories (A–D and K) into the revised facility-level long-term averages and variability factors, see DCN 165080 and DCN 165160.

EPA obtained summary DMR data, where available, from: (1) EPA's permit compliance system (PCS) for survey facilities (both detail survey sites and

screener survey sites), (2) EPA Regional offices for some screener survey sites, detailed survey sites, and facilities identified in PCS as performing meat or poultry processing operations (see Section II.C below), and (3) individual further processor screener survey sites based on discussions during survey follow-up (see Section II.E for additional discussion on survey follow-up). EPA also requested detailed DMR data from 24 facilities in the slaughtering subcategories (Subcategories A–D and K) as discussed below.

Following proposal, based on the DMR summary data provided in the detailed surveys or PCS, EPA requested individual data points (e.g., daily or weekly measurements) from 24 detailed survey sites in Subcategories A–D and K for use in evaluating and revising the limitations and standards and supporting analyses (See Sections III.B and VIII.D of today's notice for more information on how EPA is considering using the DMR data). To date, EPA has received complete data from 16 facilities, partial data from 5 facilities, and no data from 3 facilities. EPA has placed all data received to date in the public record (Section 19.3.3) and will include any additional data as it is received. EPA intends to incorporate all appropriate data from this request into the analyses for the final rule including target effluent concentrations used for estimating compliance costs and pollutant load reductions and for developing or evaluating the long-term averages and variability factors for the final limitations. For this notice, EPA has incorporated the 16 complete daily/weekly data sets into its development of facility-level (episode-level) long-term averages and variability factors (see DCNs 165080 and 165160), but not into the revised analyses of costs and loadings. Summary DMR data has been used in the revised cost and loading estimates however.

C. Information From EPA Regions and States

1. Permits, Permit Applications and Fact Sheets

In an effort to obtain additional information without burdening the facilities directly, EPA gathered permits, permit applications and permit fact sheets from EPA Regional offices and States for some facilities from which EPA did not receive a detailed survey and which were identified as meat or poultry processors either in EPA's Permit Compliance System (PCS) or in the screener survey database. PCS is a database which contains monitoring and NPDES permit data from major and