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Unified Federal Policy for Ensuring a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management

Proposal to improve the concept of watershed protection:

In order to protect a watershed you cannot just focus on non-point sources of pollution. Point sources, chronic discharges, and emergency related spills of oil and hazardous materials are also a very significant and persistent form of pollution that enters our nations waterways everyday! Millions of gallons of oil, gas, diesel, etc. are slowly dripped, leaked, and spilled into our surface and groundwater every year.

To continue to only focus on the Clean Water Act and not its amendments like the Oil Pollution Act or other federal and state pollution prevention and emergency response regulations like the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan and RCRA is to fall short of integrating what laws and regulations can truly be used to focus on watershed protection.

Cooperation with a bigger picture outlook will achieve your desired results. Working with state and federal regulators that inspect facilities and pipelines that are known to illegally discharge oil and hazardous substances on a regular basis is critical to protecting watersheds.

While most of these pollution sources may be considered point-source, many are usually classified as "mystery spills" and a responsible party may never be found, leaving local and state regulators left with the task of cleaning up and restoring the impacted waterways.

I hope you take these comments seriously and begin to incorporate the efforts of fellow federal agencies and offices into your efforts.

Thank You

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