

The Clean Water Acts of 1977, 1981, & 1987

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CWA of 1977



- This act was thought of in 1972 and officially amended in 1977. It is a national amendment and The functions of the Clean Water Act of 1977 are:
- Established the basic structure for regulating pollutants discharges into the waters of the United States.
- Gave EPA the authority to implement pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry.
- Maintained existing requirements to set water quality standards for all contaminants in surface waters.
- Made it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained under its provisions.

CWA of 1981

- Revisions in 1981 streamlined the municipal construction grants process, improving the capabilities of treatment plants built under the program. This amendment is also national and the act aimed to attain a level of water quality that "provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and provides for recreation in and on the water" by 1983 and to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters by 1985.
- The EPA is also responsible for regulation and enforcement of this act.



CWA of 1987

- This act was amended in 1987 to recognize toxic Hot Spots – waters that would remain polluted with toxicants even after meeting standards. It was also to include storm water in regulation. This act is national and its objective is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the national waters. Goals to meet the objective translated into a national policy of prohibiting discharge of toxic pollutants in toxic amounts.
- The EPA is responsible for regulation and enforcement of this act.

