AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–63

OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY OF WEST VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle F of title XII add the following:

SEC. ___. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION IMPROVEMENT.

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence—

(I) by inserting “by the applicant” after “any discharge”; and

(II) by inserting “as a result of the federally licensed or permitted activity” after “into the navigable waters”; 

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “activity” and inserting “discharge”;

(iii) in the third sentence, by striking “applications” each place it appears and inserting “requests”;
(iv) in the fifth sentence, by striking “act on” and inserting “grant or deny”; and

(v) by inserting after the fourth sentence the following: “The certifying State, interstate agency, or Administrator shall publish the requirements for certification that meet the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307. The decision to grant or deny a request shall be based only on the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 and the grounds for a decision shall be set forth in writing to the applicant.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the second sentence—

(I) by striking “such a discharge” and inserting “a discharge made into the navigable waters by the applicant as described in paragraph (1)”;

(II) by inserting “receipt of the” before “notice”; and

(III) by striking “of application for such Federal license or permit”
and inserting “under the preceding sentence”;

(ii) in the third sentence—

(I) by striking “such discharge” and inserting “any discharge made into the navigable waters by the applicant as described in paragraph (1)”;

and

(II) by striking “any water quality requirement” and inserting “the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307”;

(iii) in the fifth sentence, by striking “insure compliance with applicable water quality requirements.” and inserting “ensure any discharge into the navigable waters by the applicant as described in paragraph (1) will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307.”; and

(iv) by striking the first sentence and inserting “Not later than 90 days after receipt of a request for certification, the certifying State, interstate agency, or Administrator shall identify in writing all specific
additional materials or information that
are necessary to make a final decision on
a request for certification. On receipt of a
request for certification, the certifying
State or interstate agency, as applicable,
shall immediately notify the Administrator
of the request.”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking
“there will be compliance” and inserting
“a discharge made into the navigable
waters by the applicant as described in
paragraph (1) will comply”; and

(ii) in the second sentence—

(I) by striking “section” and in-
serting “the applicable provisions of
sections”; and

(II) by striking “or 307 of this
Act” and inserting “and 307”;

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking
“applicable effluent limitations” and all
that follows through the period at the end
and inserting “any discharge made by the
applicant into the navigable waters as de-
scribed in paragraph (1) will not violate the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307.”;

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “will violate applicable effluent limitations or other limitations or other water quality requirements such Federal” and inserting “will result in a discharge made into the navigable waters by the applicant as described in paragraph (1) that violates the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307, the Federal”; and

(iii) in the third sentence—

(I) by striking “such facility or activity” and inserting “a discharge made by the applicant into the navigable waters as described in paragraph (1)”); and

(II) by striking “section 301, 302, 303, 306, or 307 of this Act” and inserting “sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307”; and

(E) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking “such facility or activity has been operated in” and inserting
“any discharge made by the applicant into
the navigable waters as described in para-
graph (1) is in”; and

(ii) by striking “section 301, 302,
303, 306, or 307 of this Act” and insert-
ing “sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and
307”; and

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
following:

“(d) Any certification provided under this section
shall set forth any effluent limitations and other limita-
tions, and monitoring requirements necessary to ensure
that any discharge made by the applicant into the navi-
gable waters as described in subsection (a)(1) shall comply
with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303,
306, and 307. Any limitations or requirements in the pre-
ceding sentence shall become a condition on any Federal
license or permit subject to the provisions of this section.

“(e) In this section, the term ‘applicable provisions
of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307’ means, as appli-
cable, effluent limitations and other limitations, under sec-
tion 301 or 302 of this Act, standard of performance
under section 306 of this Act, or prohibition, effluent
standard, or pretreatment standard under section 307 of
this Act, and any requirement of State law implementing
water quality criteria under section 303 necessary to support the specified designated use or uses of the receiving navigable water.”.