



# What's New At CEU Plan

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## How's My Waterway?



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## Check Out EPA's New Website and App— How's My Waterway?

As water and wastewater professionals we spend a majority of our hours each day protecting the environment and making sure our waterways are healthy. But even so, many of our country's waterways are still impaired.

While those who operate treatment plants are the easiest to pick on, due to our point source discharges, water pollution has many sources. Storm drainage, agricultural runoff, even atmospheric deposition can create problem waterways.

Now the U.S. EPA has a website and app for your smart phone that provides quick and easy-to-read information on surface waters for both the general public and water industry experts.

[How's My Waterway](#) will tell you if a stream has been analyzed, whether it is polluted and with what, and what is being done to alleviate the problem—all in plain language. If you have the app on your smart phone, you can view the information while you are standing right next to the stream by clicking "Use My Location." Or you can just type in the zip code or City and State and the program brings up every waterway within 5 miles.

You can choose to view the waterways from a list view or a map view. When you click on one of the waterways, the site brings up information on when the waterway was listed as polluted and the contaminants of concern. Here's an example of what comes up for [Pablo Creek](#).

The site also explains in simple language the different types of pollutants and the harm they cause, what a TMDL is, and other basic information. Also, the site has [useful information](#) on what the average citizen can do to prevent various types of pollution, like fixing leaky septic tanks or properly disposing of pet waste.

## Find Technical Information on Water Bodies

Now comes the part that's interesting to water/wastewater professionals—Technical Reports. For the Pablo Creek example, looking at the pollution category of Bacteria and Other Microbes, when you click on the Technical Report button it brings up EPA's Watershed Assessment, Tracking, & Environmental Results ([WATERS](#)) page.

EPA's WATERS program brings water quality data from many different sources together, and can display results in the form of maps and reports. You'll see in 2002 that this waterbody was impaired for coliforms and dissolved oxygen. You can also pull up the [Waterbody History Report](#), which shows that in 2010, the concern is mercury in fish tissue.

## What's Being Done?

If action is being taken on a pollution issue, such as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), you can look under the What's Being Done item, and click on the Technical Report. You can open the actual [TMDL document](#) from the WATERS page. You can also open maps from the page that highlight the impaired section of the waterways.

## Related Links

The Related Links section provides more detailed information on various topics, including beach closings, national water monitoring, and permitted pollutant discharges.

While the [How's My Waterway](#) was primarily developed to be a quick, non-technical resource, it's a great central site that allows you to access the detailed and technical data as well.