

Into the Wormhole

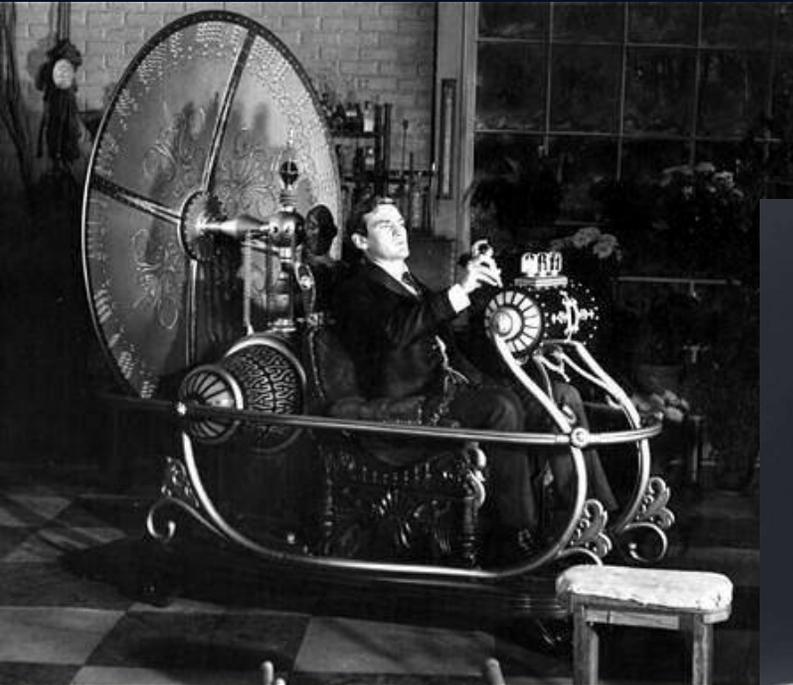
The CSO Policy and Water Quality Standards: Development, Intent and Implementation

LaJuana S. Wilcher
English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley, LLP
Bowling Green, KY

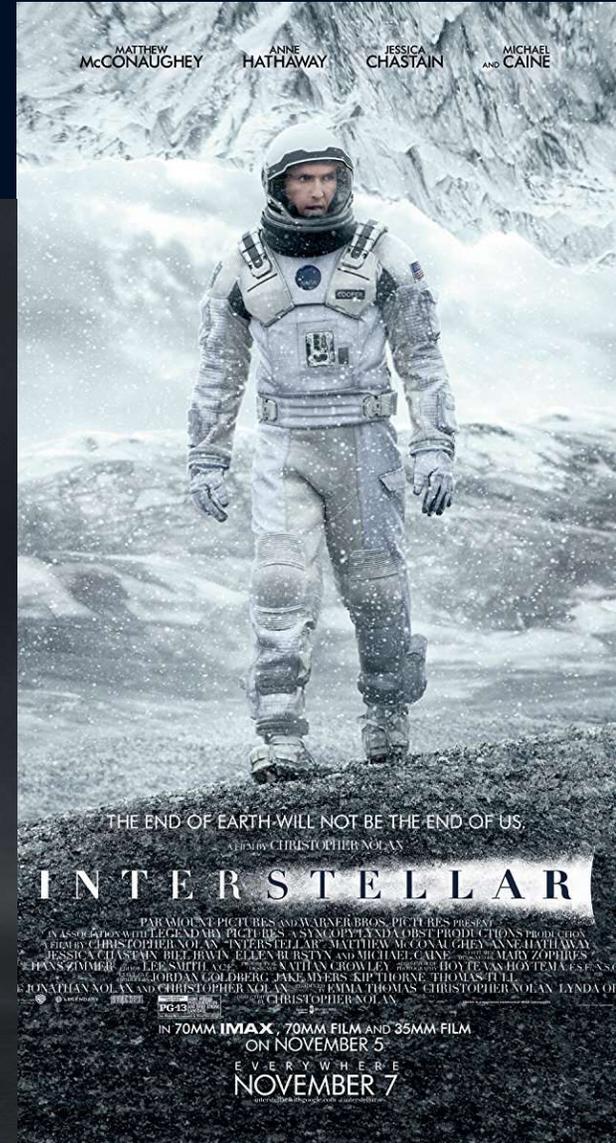


August 7, 2018

Time Travel



What does this
have to do with
CSOs?



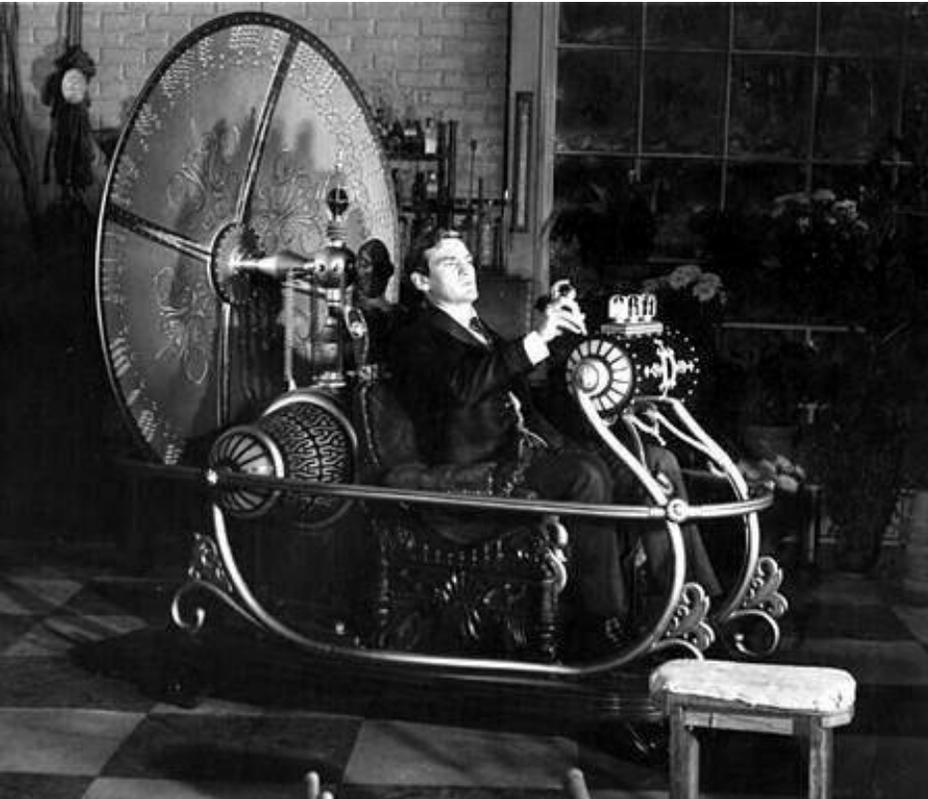


What was the InTent?



The Policy Became Law!

- Wet Weather Water Quality Act In December 2000, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Pub. L. 106-554), Congress amended the Clean Water Act by adding Section 402(q).
- The “Wet Weather Water Quality Act of 2000” requires that each permit, order, or decree issued pursuant to the Clean Water Act after the date of enactment for a discharge from a municipal combined sewer system shall conform to the CSO Control Policy.
- Also requires development of guidance to facilitate water quality and designated use reviews.



Why a new CSO Policy?



Largest uncontrolled point source problem remaining

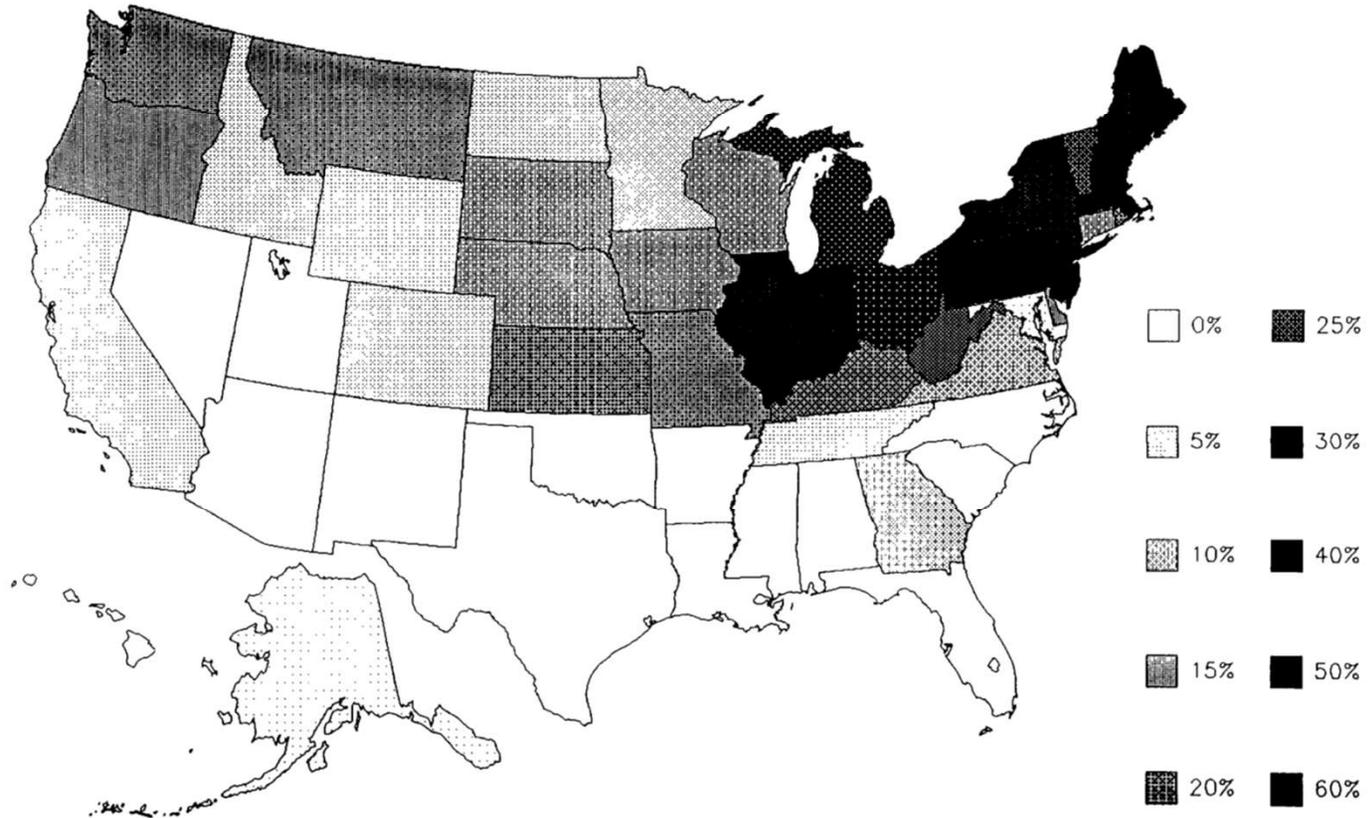
Court rulings that CSOs were not subject to secondary treatment

Very expensive to remedy

Previous policies not effective

Exhibit 1-4

**PORTION OF POPULATION SERVED BY CS SYSTEMS, BY STATE
1980 NEEDS SURVEY**



Why a CSO Policy?

- 1110 CSO communities
- Over 10,000 CSOs
- 7% of CSO communities contributed 70% of volume of CSO
- Older communities
- Integrated into city infrastructure
- Predominantly in NE States
- 84% in Regions 1,2,3 and 5
- 43 million people served by CSSs

Results



Process



Consensus

Multiple, Representative
Stakeholders

Deadline

Commitment

Key Goals of the CSO Policy

Improve water quality

Recognize the site specific nature of CSOs

Provide regulatory certainty

Recognize the costs

Understand that eliminating all CSOs is impossible

Address that fact that CSOs are episodic and usually occur during peak runoff



TBELS -
WQBELs -
Costs -
Timing -

federal register

Tuesday
April 19, 1994

Part VII

**Environmental
Protection Agency**

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control
Policy; Notice

Presumption

OR

Demonstration?

The Presumption Option

CSO communities that have adopted and are in compliance with approved LTCPs are *presumed* to be in compliance with the WQS.

Presumption of compliance with WQS if one of the following criteria is met:

- (1) there are fewer than four to six CSO events per typical year**
- (2) the CSS eliminates or captures at least 85% by volume of the combined sewage collected in the CSS during precipitation events OR**
- (3) the CSS eliminates or removes no less than the mass of the pollutants identified as causing water quality impairment for the volumes identified under criteria number 2.**

“Revision of Water Quality Standards”

“Four key principles of the Policy ensure that CSO controls are cost-effective and meet the objectives of the CWA. The key principles are: . . . 4. **Review and revision, as appropriate, of water quality standards and their implementation procedures when developing CSO control plans to reflect the site-specific wet weather impacts of CSOs.**”

**What the CSO Policy Says
Makes the Intent Clear**



It's not too late!!!