

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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Judicial Enforcement to Deter CWA Violations from Oil Pipelines

Several provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA) provide EPA with authority to require a facility owner or operator to perform actions necessary to stop existing and prevent future spills in violation of the CWA and to assess a penalty when such spills occur. This presentation will review how EPA uses its CWA enforcement authorities in judicial actions to address and deter CWA violations from oil pipelines with penalties and injunctive relief requirements to prevent future spills. The presentation might include an overview of the recent settlements with Colonial Pipeline Company and with Olympic and Shell Pipeline Companies as examples of the use of penalties and injunctive relief to prevent future spills. The presentation might also describe the important role of OSCs in gathering evidence and presenting factual information on pipeline spill causes and impacts.