

**Understanding and Accounting for Method
Variability in Whole Effluent Toxicity Applications
Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination
System Program**

June 30, 2000

This page intentionally left blank.

NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

This document provides guidance to NPDES regulatory authorities and persons interested in whole effluent toxicity testing. This document describes what EPA believes to be sources of variability in the conduct of whole effluent toxicity testing under the Clean Water Act. The document is designed to reflect national policy on these issues. The document does not, however, substitute for the Clean Water Act, an NPDES permit, or EPA or State regulations applicable to permits or whole effluent toxicity testing; nor is this document a permit or a regulation itself. The document does not and cannot impose any legally binding requirements on EPA, States, NPDES permittees, and/or laboratories conducting whole effluent toxicity testing for permittees (or for States in the evaluation of ambient water quality). EPA and State officials retain discretion to adopt approaches on a case-by-case basis that differ from this guidance based on an analysis of site-specific circumstances. This guidance may be revised without public notice to reflect changes in EPA policy.

This page intentionally left blank.