

## More than half of facilities exceed sewer discharges

Oct. 12 -- More than 57 percent of U.S. industrial and municipal facilities exceeded permit limits for sewage discharges at least once in 2005, according to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

U.S. PIRG released a report, Oct. 11, detailing Clean Water Act permit violations from U.S. facilities. It found the average facility exceeded its permit limit by 263 percent and the 3,600 major facilities exceeding their permits in 2005 reported more than 24,400 instances. Researchers also found that 628 major facilities exceeded permit limits for at least half of the monthly reporting periods between Jan. 1, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2005. Of those, 85 exceeded their limits during every reporting period.

The group put together its report from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2005 compliance data. The report, "Troubled Waters: An Analysis of Clean Water Act Compliance," is available at [www.uspirg.org](http://www.uspirg.org).

"As the Clean Water Act turns 35, polluters continue to foul our rivers, lakes and streams," said Christy Leavitt, clean water advocate for U.S. PIRG. "With so many facilities dumping so much pollution, no one should be surprised that nearly half of America's waterways are unsafe for swimming and fishing. But we should be outraged."

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