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**ECS - ARE WE READY FOR A REGULATORY SOLUTION?**

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**ABSTRACT:** The Clean Water Act (CWA) serves as the basis for improving and maintaining the quality of our nations surface waters. The CWA has been applied to control the discharge of thousands of chemicals we use every day into surface waters. Offhand, it is not hard to suggest that the need exists to extend such regulatory control over a class of chemicals which have endocrine disrupting properties. There are a number of widely reported examples in the press and scientific literature regarding the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals contained in wastewaters altering sexual identity in fish. At the same time, existing water quality data generally suggest that the concentrations of hormonally active chemicals in the nations surface waters are well below expected effects ranges. These conflicting results beg the question of the need for regulation. This paper will look at the need for regulation given what is known in regards to current risks using Colorado waters as a specific example. The approach looks at these risks in relation to unanswered questions and data needs in regards to the effects of these chemicals. The paper seeks to address the if's, when's and what's of any new regulations to control the release of these chemicals in the environment.

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