1. **Should EPA clarify its standard permit conditions for SSO reporting, record keeping and public notification?**
   Current NPDES permit conditions in Florida are clear and EPA should rely on the NPDES Authority to regulate and enforce current requirements.

   a. **Is there a need for establishing this framework and, if so, which SSO events should be subject to reporting, recordkeeping and public notice requirements?**
      - Only those instances that may significantly endanger health or the environment should require a notice to the public.
      - If the EPA were to establish a framework, it should establish uniform basic standards for identifying reportable SSOs and responses.
      - EPA could establish performance standards for SSOs based on the size and complexity of the wastewater collection system.
      - EPA should consider establishing metrics for reporting maintenance activities for collection systems. EPA should consider establishing recommendations for best management practices.
      - Annual reporting of SSO events should also include a report on the maintenance activities or best management practices that a utility has undertaken to help prevent SSOs.

   b. **Should EPA clarify that such requirements apply to SSOs that do not result in a discharge to waters of the United States including sewage backups in buildings.**
      - No, SSOs that do not impact waters of the U.S. should be handled by local regulatory authorities.
      - Sewage backups in buildings that are not the responsibility of the utility should not be included in the category of SSOs and should not be subjected to SSO reporting requirements.

   c. **Which SSO events should be reported immediately?**
      - SSO events that present a significant endangerment to public health and/or the environment should be reported within 24 hours.

   d. **What criteria should be used to determine if notice of public health officials is appropriate for an SSO event?**
      - Since health and environmental conditions are unique to geographical areas, the local health departments, in addition to the local regulatory agencies and utilities, are best suited to assess the event and what types of notices are appropriate to protect the public.

   e. **Should EPA establish minimum requirements for monitoring SSOs to alert the municipal operator in a timely manner?**
      - No, because many of conditions that lead to SSOs (e.g. blocked sewers) are impossible to monitor or detect in advance.
      - Monitoring or trending the location, frequency and severity of SSO's to determine whether the causal factors attributed to the SSO's are being effectively addressed through O&M practices and CIP expenditures may be of benefit.

   f. **Should EPA require immediate notification to the public of SSOs?**

- Immediate notification should only be required if there is a significant potential to endanger public health or the environment and should specifically be determined by the local agencies to address SSO event circumstances.

2. Should EPA propose to develop a standard permit condition with requirements for capacity management, operations and maintenance programs based on asset management principles?

All wastewater systems are not alike in size, capacity, age, design, wastewater inputs; and service area topography, geology and hydrogeology. A tiered standardized approach as overseen by the delegated (i.e. state) regulatory authority that issues the NPDES permits, but only done on a case by case basis and imposed only on those systems that consistently have an excessive number of SSO occurrences.

The level of CMOM effort and asset management effort can be determined by the utility and the NPDES permitting authority based on performance and annual reporting by all permitted utilities using metrics.

a. What is the need for a CMOM standard permit condition?

- CMOM should not be a standard permit condition.

b. What are the appropriate components and core attributes of a CMOM standard permit condition and what is their nexus with Asset Management practices?

- CMOM is not a universal technique for all systems. The utility should determine their approach utilizing elements of CMOM to optimize system performance and costs.

c. If adopted how should a CMOM provision be tailored for small municipalities?

- CMOM provisions should be tiered based on utility size.
- A one-size-fits-all approach should be avoided.

d. Would integrating system evaluation and capacity assurance planning efforts for the collection system with planning efforts to address peak flow issues at the treatment plant encourage more holistic approaches?

- Yes, it should be considered a tool that a utility may use, but only if they are experiencing excessive SSO events.

3. What are the costs and benefits of CMOM programs and asset management of sanitary sewers.

A properly implemented CMOM program has a number of benefits. These programs will require the commitment of significant resources up front for an effective preventative maintenance program with the promise of costs savings further down the road resulting from reduced failures, spills, etc. Due to the sizable investment that CMOM may require, it is important that utilities be given the opportunity to evaluate their collection systems and to select the investments that are responsive to their needs.

4. How should EPA clarify permit coverage for municipal satellite collection systems?

In the state of Florida, municipal satellite collection systems are already regulated by the state and must comply with the SSO reporting provisions of Chapter 62-604.550 (FAC). This could serve as a model for the use of a general permit in each State.

Satellite systems should not be included as co-permittees on a wastewater treatment facility's NPDES permit.

EPA should not prescribe CMOM. Based on SSO performance, each collection system will have to make an assessment of the best management practices that are most appropriate for their system in order to bring it into compliance. EPA should avoid a one-size-fits-all approach and give the State's the responsibilities for rule making on SSO management.

5. What is the appropriate role of NPDES permits in addressing unauthorized SSOs that are caused by exceptional circumstances?

NPDES permits should acknowledge that some unauthorized SSOs are inevitable under exceptional and/or extreme situations such as natural conditions, acts of god, and third party activities.

6. How should EPA address peak flow diversions at POTW treatment plants?

No changes are recommended, the EPA currently has adequate permit provisions to deal with peak flow diversions at POTW treatment plants.