

Early Engagement with States and Tribes on FY 2016-2017 National Water Program Guidance

Office of Water

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The Office of Water is committed to engage with states and tribes early in the development of the FY 2016-2017 National Water Program Guidance (NWPG) to ensure that water priorities and strategies reflect the most effective and efficient use of resources to achieve water quality goals.

We will employ the most efficient approach to ease the process and minimize the burden to states and tribes. Written requests will be sent by the DAA. If feasible, OW will follow-up with discussions at existing meetings with state and tribal associations. OW will also enlist regional help to distribute the request to states. For cross-NPM issues (e.g. water enforcement), OW will coordinate with other NPMs (i.e. OECA) in soliciting early input.

Key Milestones

Timeframe	Mechanism	Participants*	Purpose and Expected Results
July 2014	Written requests	ACWA, ASDWA, ASWM, ECOS, GWPC, NTWC, states, tribes, and EPA	Solicit input from states and tribes with written requests, with background information and a template, from the DAA.
August – October	Existing meetings	ACWA, ASDWA, ASWM, ECOS, GWPC, NTWC, states, tribes, and EPA	Discussions with water state and tribal associations during existing meetings if appropriate.
September	Written comments	ACWA, ASDWA, ASWM, ECOS, GWPC, NTWC, states, tribes, and EPA	Comments due from states and tribes.
October	Written summary	EPA	Summarize comments from states and tribes for consideration during update of the NWPG narrative and measures.
November	Written summary	EPA and commenters	Share the summary of shared priorities with states and tribes
December 2014	Draft NWPG	EPA water subobjective leads and regions	Incorporate state and tribal early input into the first update of the NWPG draft.

*Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA), Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM), Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC), National Tribal Water Council (NTWC).