FY2016-2017 National Water Program Guidance

Office of Water

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Appendices

I. Introduction

The *FY 2016-2017 National Water Program Guidance* describes how the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water (OW) will work with states, territories, and tribal governments to protect and improve the quality of the Nation's waters both at the tap and in the environment. OW will also strive to continue identifying new approaches and partnerships to make and sustain improvements in public health and the environment.

The Office of Water is housed at EPA's headquarters and manages the delivery of the national water programs. The regional offices work with states, tribes, territories, and other stakeholders to implement OW's programs. In drafting this *Guidance*, OW recognizes the challenges that states, communities, and local governments face when it comes to satisfying the public's wastewater and drinking water needs while helping to reduce pollution and public health threats. OW addresses those challenges by supporting water programs that improve infrastructure, drive innovation, spurs technology, and increases sustainability, and by strengthening partnerships at the state, federal and local levels.

Structure of OW's *Guidance*:

Section II, *National Areas of Focus Guidance*: This section describes priority program areas for FY 2016-2017. EPA, states, and tribes should provide special attention to these national priority areas to ensure the safety and cleanliness of water consumed by people in the United States. In requesting special attention, however, OW recognizes that EPA regional offices, states, and tribes need flexibility allocating resources to achieve clean water and safe drinking water goals, given their specific circumstances. We look forward to strengthening partnerships as we move toward meeting those goals.

Section III, *Program Specific Guidance*: This section describes key actions to accomplish the public health and environmental goals outlined in EPA's *Strategic Plan*[1]. The *Strategic Plan* addresses national water programs listed in Goal 2; *Protecting America's Waters*. Goal 2 has two key objectives: *Protect Human Health* and *Protect and Restore Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems*. The key objectives listed in Goal 2 are supported by various subobjectives that define specific environmental or public health commitments established by the National Water Program.

The Office of Water's *Guidance* is organized into 15 subobjectives[2] and cross-cutting water themes. These subobjectives and cross-cutting themes describe the progress that EPA's Office of Water will strive to achieve during fiscal years 2016 and 2017. OW's *Guidance* also describes the program strategies that we will use to accomplish our objectives. The subobjectives are organized categorized in three subsections:

- Protect human health by improving the quality of drinking water, providing for safer fish and shellfish consumption, and assuring that recreational waters are safe for swimming
- Protect and restore the quality of the Nation's fresh waters, coastal waters, and wetlands
- Protect and restore the health of large aquatic ecosystems across the country

Performance Measure information:

[1] The EPA *Strategic Plan* is available at FY2016-2018 EPA Strategic Plan.
[2] The Guidance also contains one additional section covering the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary.

Appendix A includes a comprehensive list of performance measures. OW's performance measures have two purposes: support the subobjective strategies and assist the management of water programs. Measure information, including definition and methodology, is available online[3].

OW's Guidance includes two types of performance measures:

- "**Outcome" Strategic Target Measures:** Environmental or public health impacts (outcome) measures are described in the EPA *Strategic Plan* with long-range targets and in this *Guidance*.
- **National Program Activity Measures (PAMs):** Core water PAMs address activities and outputs resulting from program implementation by EPA, states, and tribes. These measures monitor programs' progress in accomplishing the goals stated in EPA's *Strategic Plan*. Many PAMs have national and regional "targets" for FY 2016. These targets serve as a point of reference to EPA's regional work with states and tribes. In addition to the national outcome measures and PAMs this guidance also includes outcome measures and PAMs specific to major ecosystems addressed by our water programs. These measures track progress in restoring and protecting these major ecosystems and are tailored to the specific problems in these systems and the programs developed to address them.

The process for managing water program strategies is divided into three parts:

- Part 1, the development of OW's *Guidance*:
    - The Office of Water also conducted an early engagement process with states and tribes in July and August 2014. The comments received ranged from general to cross program to specific program and measures. The comments were reviewed by water subobjective leads and regions and were incorporated, if appropriate, in the draft FY 2016-2017 NWPG.
    - Regional and headquarter offices reviewed measures in the fall of 2014. OW drafted a *Guidance* in February 2015 which was reviewed by both internal and external stakeholders, and the final *Guidance* by April 2015.
- Part 2, consultation and planning: EPA regions work with states, and tribes to develop detailed program implementation agreements. The purpose of the consultation is to convert the "targets" in OW's *Guidance* into regional "commitments" that are supported by Performance Partnership Agreements and other grant workplans with states and tribes. The process of consultation allocates available resources to program activities that are likely to result in optimal progress toward accomplishing water quality and public health goals while taking into account the circumstances and needs of the states and regions.
- Part 3, assessing progress: OW will continue to assess progress to program implementation and performance during Fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Grants Management:

OW will promote effective grants management to improve program performance. EPA has issued directives, policies, and guidance to help improve grants management. OW's policy requires all grantees to comply with applicable grants requirement even if program-specific guidance does not addresses the requirements.

[3] Supplemental information to the *Guidance* is at FY2016 National Water Program Measures.

The grant guidances for the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 106 Water Pollution Control, Public Water System Supervision (PWSS), Underground Injection Control (UIC), and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs are incorporated into relevant subobjectives in this *Guidance*.

EPA-States E-Enterprise for the Environment

Consistent with Section V of the Overview to the FY 2016-2017 NPM Guidances, this *Guidance* identifies and describes projects that the Office of Water is leading, supporting, or evaluating. These are current examples of priority activities — at different stages of definition and progress – which align with the E-Enterprise goals. Over the period of this NPM Guidance, we will complete some of these activities, substantially modify others, and develop and implement new projects. The Office of Water encourages states, tribes and other offices to coordinate with or participate in these projects where they see complementary priorities, processes, or objectives. Please refer to The Office of Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) Overview to the final FY2016-2017 National Program Manager (NPM) Guidances[4] for additional information about E-enterprises. General E-enterprise information[5], FY2015 action plan[6], Cross-Agency Strategies[7], and "About E-Enterprises for the Environment[8]" are also good resources to learn more about this E-enterprise goals.

The Office of Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) Overview:

The Office of Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) Overview to the National Program Manager (NPM) Guidances communicates important agency-wide information and should be reviewed in conjunction with this *Guidance* as well as other applicable requirements. The Agency's Overview also includes important background information and the eleven cross-program areas that are critical to effective implementation of EPA's environmental programs in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

Key contacts for the Office of Water's Guidance:

- Michael Shapiro, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water.
- Tim Fontaine, Senior Budget Officer and Director of Resource Management Staff.
- Sharon Vazquez, Program Evaluation and Planning Team Lead.
- Venus Miranda Reyes, Program Analyst.

Key contacts by subobjective are listed in Appendix B and posted with other related documents at NWPG Key Contacts.

[4] Read the Agency's Overview
[5] General E-Enterprise information: http://www2.epa.gov/e-enterprise and http://www.exchangenetwork.net/e-enterprise/
[6] FY2015 Action Plan
[7] Cross-Agency Strategies
[8] "About E-Enterprises for the Environment"

II. National Water Program Areas of Focus Guidance

A. Protecting Populations at Risk

1. Children's Health

Protecting children's environmental health is a priority for the National Water Program. Schools and child care centers are a critical subset of small drinking water systems for which EPA is also continuing to provide special emphasis in FY 2016 and FY 2017 to ensure that children receive water that is safe to drink. There are approximately 7,300 schools and child care centers that are also public water systems (PWS). Similar to other small systems, schools and child care centers often do not have the technical, managerial, or financial (TMF) capacity to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements, including maintaining a certified operator.

Children's Health Activities for FY 2016-2017

- States will assist in disseminating user-friendly materials developed by EPA and will provide training and outreach to ensure that these systems understand their responsibilities to comply with the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR).[9]
- States will work, including in partnership with EPA, to ensure that violations occurring at schools and child care centers are addressed quickly and these systems are returned to compliance.

Children's Health Performance Measures

- Indicator SDW-17 (page 1, Appendix A) tracks schools and child care centers meeting health-based drinking water standards.

2. Environmental Justice

OW will work to create healthy and sustainable communities, for all people, by decreasing environmental burdens and increasing environmental benefits. To implement the Agency's environmental justice (EJ) priority, to expand the conversation on environmentalism and working for EJ, the EPA adopted Plan EJ 2014[10], as its overarching EJ strategy. OW supports this priority by working with NPMs and regions to mobilize resources to address the needs of disproportionately unserved and underserved communities through strategies and tools that include: (1) EJSCREEN, (2) EJ Legal Tools, (3) incorporating EJ in rules, (4) incorporating EJ in permits, and (5) intra- and interagency collaborations to support community-based work in overburdened communities.

OW places emphasis on achieving results in areas with potential EJ concerns through Water Safe to Drink (Subobjective 2.1.1) and Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat (Subobjective 2.1.2). In addition, the National Water Program places emphasis on other EJ Water Related Elements: 1) Sustain and Restore the U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Health (Subobjective 2.2.9); 2) Sustain and Restore Pacific Island Territories (Subobjective 2.2.10); and 3) Alaska Native Village (ANV) Program. This focus will result in improved environmental quality for all people, including the unserved and underserved populations living in areas with potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts on human health. OW will integrate EJ principles into its programmatic and regional decision making through the use of rulemaking, policy, screening and legal tools.

[9] Read more on RTCR
[10] Read more on Plan EJ 2014

Environmental Justice Activities for FY 2016-2017

- OW will explore ways to collaborate with OEJ and other EPA offices on how to best develop climate change adaptation policies and strategies that pay close attention to populations that are especially vulnerable to a changing climate.
- OW will continue to consult with EJ communities to improve our understanding and analyses of the potential impacts of water regulations on those communities.
- OW will work closely with other EPA offices to ensure that the Agency's broader EJ efforts are informed by the consideration of communities' drinking water and surface water quality.
- OW, along with other EPA NPMs and regions, are working to transition their existing EJ screening efforts from existing tools and approaches toward EJSCREEN, EPA's nationally consistent EJ screening tool that is currently available for use by EPA staff. OW will continue to support the National Water Program's use of EJSCREEN to inform surface water EJ screening, in coordination with other EPA offices, regions, and state and tribal partners.
- OW will continue to develop Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities that will allow managers of the various components of the National Water Program to identify and target their specific program responsibilities toward communities of potential EJ concern. OW will leverage the existing EJSCREEN methodology and data for identifying potential EJ communities while adding OW-related program data.
- As part of the EJ in Permitting pilot, and to the extent resources and circumstances allow, EPA headquarters and regions will work to test, evaluate, and refine draft tools to enhance consideration of EJ when developing EPA-issued permits and ensure opportunities for meaningful public involvement.
- OW will continue to develop and track measures that characterize actions taken, or that characterize environmental or health conditions of overburdened communities/children as outlined in the *FY 2012 Annual Action for the Cross-cutting Strategy for EJ and Children's Health*, using EJSCREEN and other EJ tools as appropriate.
- The Urban Waters Program[11] will advance EJ goals through activities such as: providing technical support and funding for place-based projects through EPA's Urban Waters Small Grants program; EPA funding to the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; support provided by the Urban Waters Federal Partnership; EJ related support to the Urban Waters Learning Network; and development of tools for local action at the community level. The National Water Program will share both barriers and effective practices for engaging overburdened communities that are identified through Urban Waters program activities. These lessons learned will be shared within the National Water Program and with OEJ.
- OW will promote infrastructure improvements to small and disadvantaged communities through DWSRF that reduce public exposure to contaminants through compliance with regulations and support the reliable delivery of safe water by community water systems (CWSs).
- OW will promote infrastructure improvements to small and disadvantaged communities through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) that protect and restore water quality.
- The EPA National Tribal Drinking Water Program[12] will continue to maintain its commitment to improve the provision of safe drinking water in Indian country by working with PWSs to maintain and improve compliance with the national primary drinking water regulations (NPDWRs) through use of infrastructure funding, technical assistance, and enforcement actions. EPA will also continue to work in partnership with the Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and U.S. Department of Housing and

[11] Read more on the Urban Waters Program
[12] Read more on tribal program funding

Urban Development (HUD) through the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF)[13] to increase access to safe water, basic sanitation, and solid waste management services. To support better management and maintenance of water systems in Indian country, EPA will continue to implement the National Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification program to ensure that tribal water utility obtain the proper certification needed to provide safe drinking water. In addition, OW will work with partners to develop a methodology to assess the financial cost burden to operate and maintain drinking water and clean water infrastructure.

- OW will focus on activities encouraging states to assess fish and shellfish tissue for contaminants in waters used for fishing by minority and sensitive populations, particularly those that catch fish for subsistence. Such populations may include women of child bearing age, children, African Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, Native American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.
- EPA will continue to prioritize funding to U.S.-Mexico border communities based on the most severe public health and environmental conditions. These communities are looking to EPA as a last-resort funding source when utilities, cities, or states are not able to fully finance needed infrastructure improvements.
- The ANV[14] program, through the State of Alaska, will provide grant funds to under-served Native Alaska communities to improve or to construct drinking water and wastewater facilities thereby improving local health and sanitation conditions. Additionally, EPA will provide funding for ANV infrastructure needs through the clean water and drinking water tribal set-aside programs[15]. The ANV program is unique in that it is also authorized to support training and technical assistance programs related to the technical, managerial, and financial requirements of managing drinking water and sanitation systems in rural Alaska.
- In the Pacific Island territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), EPA will continue the strategic use of grants, technical assistance, and enforcement to improve institutional capacity and infrastructure. Water and sewer service in the U.S. Pacific Islands has lagged that of the U.S. mainland for decades. More specifically, EPA will use grants, technical assistance, and enforcement to improve utility engineering and management, construct better infrastructure, and promote asset management to extend the life of infrastructure, all with the intent to provide Pacific Islanders with the same quality of water that most of the U.S. enjoys, and protect Pacific Islanders from undertreated sewage.
- OW will work with states to identify ways to protect vulnerable populations through authorized state clean water and drinking water programs.

Environmental Justice Performance Measures

For Urban Waters program measures, the National Water Program will use EJSCREEN to inform an analysis of the program's activities supporting environmental justice and to inform program planning. Measure WQ-25a tracks the number of urban water projects initiated addressing water quality issues in the community.

The challenges associated with the provision of safe drinking water in Indian country are similar to challenges facing other small communities: a lack of technical, managerial, and financial capacity to effectively operate and maintain drinking water systems. The magnitude of these challenges in Indian country is demonstrated by tribal water system compliance with health-based regulations (measure SDW-SP3.N11). EPA recognizes that not all tribal communities are disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards, and thus, do not present a universal need for EJ. However, the measure indicates that a greater proportion of the overall population in Indian country lacks access to safe drinking water and receives drinking water that is not in compliance with

[13] Read more on ITF
[14] Read more on ANV
[15] Read more on the Tribal Set-Asides Program

all applicable health-based drinking water standards compared to the U.S. population on the whole. In addition, measure SDW-18-N.11 tracks the number of American Indian and Alaska Native homes provided access to safe drinking water in coordination with other federal agencies.

Through the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program, underserved communities build and improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Many households in the communities receive drinking water or wastewater service for the first time. These first time service connections are tracked by measures MB-SP24.N11 and MB-SP25.N11 - additional homes served by improvements in water services.

ANVs are unique populations that often have extreme sanitation difficulties relative to populations in the lower 48 states. Measure WQ-23 tracks the percentage of serviceable rural Alaska homes with access to safe drinking water supply and wastewater disposal. When compared to the national average, ANVs continue to stand out as under-served populations for both safe drinking water infrastructure and adequate wastewater treatment. Consequently, these villages experience disproportional exposure to untreated or under-treated wastewater.

B. Improving the Integrity of the Nation's Drinking Water and Clean Water Quality

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). The fundamental public health protection mission of the national drinking water program is to ensure that PWSs deliver drinking water that meets national primary drinking water standards to their customers. The development and implementation of health protection-based regulatory standards for drinking water quality to limit human exposure to contaminants of concern is the cornerstone of the program. Systems meet standards by employing "multiple barriers of protection" including source water protection to limit contaminant occurrence, various stages of treatment, proper operation and maintenance of the distribution and finished water storage system, operator certification and training, and customer awareness. Efforts continue to be made to bring non-complying systems into compliance and to help all systems be prepared to comply with the new regulations and be sustainable over the long run.

EPA published the RTCR in February 2013. The RTCR is a revision to the 1989 Total Coliform Rule (TCR)[16] and strengthens the objective of the TCR to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbial contamination. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the revised requirements based on recommendations by a federal advisory committee including consideration of state and public comments. The final RTCR[17] requires PWSs that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and correct problems (the "find and fix" model), establishes criteria for PWSs to qualify for and stay on reduced monitoring reducing water system burden and provide incentives for better system operation. The 1989 TCR remains effective until March 31, 2016. PWSs and primacy agencies must comply with the requirements of the RTCR beginning April 1, 2016. During FY 2016, HQ and regional programs will continue to develop guidance materials, and provide outreach and training to states and drinking water systems to help with implementing of the RTCR. In addition, since a large percentage of states have requested an extension to the deadline for adoption of the RTCR, HQ will provide technical assistance to the regions in their partnership with the states on workload activities to ensure effective implementation of the rule.

The Lead and Copper Rule. Completing the review of the Lead and Copper Rule in accordance with the EPA's Final Plan for Periodic Retrospective Review of Existing Regulations. The Retrospective Review sought ways to simplify and clarify requirements imposed on drinking water systems to maintain safe levels of

[16] Read more on TCR
[17] Read more on RTCR

lead and copper in drinking water. As part of the guidance process, EPA solicited input from a working group of stakeholders, who will inform recommendations from the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. The EPA will propose revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule in FY 2015. The final revisions will be promulgated within 18 months of publication of the proposal.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Program Reviews. Also discussed in Section III.C, the NPDES program is committed to closer coordination between EPA headquarters, regions, and states – as well as between EPA's water and enforcement/compliance programs - to integrate the oversight of NPDES permitting and enforcement activities and promote greater program efficiency, transparency, and integrity.

After piloting Permit Quality Review And State Review Framework (PQR-SRF) integrated reviews in FY 2012 and FY 2013, EPA determined that the efficiency and benefits of integrated reviews vary across EPA regions and states. Therefore, beginning in FY 2014 and continuing in FY 2015, EPA regions conducted PQR and SRF reviews either separately or integrated, at their discretion. This practice will continue in FY 2016 and FY 2017. Given the Agency goal of completing NPDES reviews for all states (including states not yet authorized to implement the NPDES program) on a five-year cycle, EPA expects to conduct approximately 10 reviews in each upcoming fiscal year. Note that EPA headquarters conducts PQRs for the states, territories, and tribes for which EPA regions write NPDES permits. The system tracking PQR action items will no longer be updated to include SRF review action items but EPA will maintain and update its commitment and tracking system to reflect implementation of action items identified in PQRs.

Improving the Integrity of the Nation's Drinking Water and Clean Water Quality Activities for FY 2016-2017

RTCR

- In FY 2016 and 2017, states will begin to implement the RTCR. States that have obtained an extension to submit their primacy applications in 2016 will work with EPA regions to have their primacy applications reviewed to ensure efficient implementation of the RTCR. EPA will partner with states to identify additional training and technical assistance materials. See also Section III.B.1.

NPDES Program Reviews

- In FY 2016 and FY 2017, EPA will continue the process of conducting PQR/SRF NPDES reviews. Given the Agency goal of completing NPDES reviews for all states (including states not yet authorized to implement the NPDES program) on a five-year cycle, EPA expects to conduct 10-12 reviews per fiscal year.
- EPA will maintain its commitment and tracking system to reflect implementation of action items identified in PQRs.

Improving the Integrity of the Nation's Drinking Water and Clean Water Quality Program Measures

- Subobjective 2.1.1 and measures SDW-211, SDW-SP1.N11, SDW-SP2, and SDW-SP3.N11will reflect compliance with the RTCR starting in FY 2016.
- WQ-11 (page 4, Appendix A) tracks the cumulative number, and national percent, of follow-up actions that are completed by assessed NPDES programs.

C. Providing Safe and Sustainable Water Resources and Infrastructure

Rebuilding After Hurricane Sandy. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, wastewater and drinking water systems in New York and New Jersey were so severely damaged that some could not provide safe drinking water or treat raw sewage. The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (DRAA) of 2013 provided funding to EPA's DWSRF and CWSRF for eligible projects whose purpose is to reduce flood damage risk and vulnerability or to enhance resiliency to rapid hydrologic change or a natural disaster at treatment works. Drinking water and wastewater projects funded by the DRAA may serve as a model for adaptation and resiliency to future disasters resulting from intense weather events, ocean surges, sea level rise, and water inundation.

Protecting Drinking Water Supplies. The Source Water Protection Program is a voluntary program of federal agencies, states, associations, local governments, drinking water utilities and other organizations working to protect drinking water sources through collaboration and partnerships.[18] Source water includes surface water and ground water, as well as the interchange between them[19]. Source water protection objectives include preventing contamination of source waters and reducing existing levels of contamination, leading to reduced risks to public health, and potential drinking water treatment cost savings. Source water availability is integral to drinking water protection.

Improving Small System Capacity. Many small PWSs[20] face challenges in reliably providing safe drinking water and meeting the requirements of SDWA. As a result, some small systems may experience frequent or long-term compliance challenges. The 1996 SDWA Amendments recognized these challenges and established a strong emphasis on enhanced water system management to achieve public health protection. The Amendments also provided a framework for assisting PWSs in acquiring and maintaining TMF capacity that is necessary for systems to provide safe water over the long-term and promote sustainable water infrastructure. EPA continues to work with states and tribes, as well as with utility associations, third-party technical assistance providers and other federal partners, to promote the sustainability practices that are the foundation for building technical, managerial, and financial capacity, known as Capacity Development.[21] The process includes the implementation of system-wide planning practices such as asset management, water conservation and efficiency, energy efficiency, rate setting and effective pricing practices.[22] A new small drinking water system priority goal is included in the FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan that focuses on the next phase of the 2012-2013 priority goal – to have additional states and tribes improve system capacity:

- By September 30, 2015, EPA will engage with an additional ten states (for a total of 30 states) and three tribes to improve small drinking water system capability to provide safe drinking water, an invaluable resource.

Maintaining Healthy Waters. Implementing holistic approaches, including green infrastructure, help maintain healthy waters. The Nation has made significant progress in cleaning up polluted waters. Yet, while substantial resources are devoted to restoring impaired waters, the Nation continues to experience the loss of some of the remaining healthy aquatic ecosystems.[23] This is due to other significant causes including habitat loss and fragmentation, hydrologic alteration and loss of connectivity, invasive species, and climate change.

[18] Read more on SWP
[19] Read more on ground water
[20] Read more on Small Systems
[21] Read more on Capacity Development
[22] Read more on water infrastructure sustainability
[23] Heinz Center. *State of the Nation's Ecosystems Report.* Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2008.

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative[24] (HWI) encourages a strategic, systems approach to protecting healthy watersheds by working with states and other partners to implement targeted and integrated protection approaches that recognize the dynamics and interconnectivity of aquatic ecosystems in the landscape.[25] In FY 2016- 2017, EPA will expand the protection of healthy waters via a Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant that will fund projects around the country while leveraging non-federal dollars for healthy waters protection.

Supporting Green Infrastructure. EPA released a new Green Infrastructure Strategic Agenda in October 2013 and has now provided more than $2.2 million in on-the-ground technical assistance to 39 communities to help with green infrastructure implementation (see Section III.C). EPA has worked with Council on Environmental Quality and other federal agencies to identify ways that the federal government can make it easier for communities to implement green infrastructure. In the past year, EPA has provided more than $1 million in on-the-ground technical assistance to 19 communities to help them implement green infrastructure as part of our community partnership program. EPA is assisting communities with green designs, benefits assessments, and code reviews. EPA has provided more than $3 million for urban waters small grants, many of which support green initiatives. EPA also collaborates with Department of Transportation (DOT), HUD, and USDA through its Partnership for Sustainable Communities. More than $1 million of funding has been provided by EPA for its Greening America's Capitals and Sustainable Communities Building Blocks technical assistance programs. To date, EPA's CWSRF has provided more than $600 million for green infrastructure practices. EPA is also collaborating with FEMA to advance the understanding of the benefits of green infrastructure in reducing the impact of floods.

Supporting Sustainable Water Infrastructure. EPA is pursuing a Sustainable Infrastructure Program[26], designed to institutionalize practices by water and wastewater utilities that will help ensure the sustainability of the communities these systems serve, and maximize the value of each infrastructure dollar spent. The activities comprising the program are based on two basic tenets:

- To be sustainable as a community, you need sustainable infrastructure.
- To achieve sustainable water infrastructure, you need sustainable utilities.

To those ends, EPA is working to ensure that water infrastructure decisions also support other community sustainability priorities. This will help provide more livable communities and reduce long-term infrastructure needs and costs. EPA is working to promote effective and sustainable utility management. Those efforts center around upfront planning that incorporates the assessment of life cycle costs, innovative and green alternatives, and collateral environmental benefits into infrastructure investment strategies, as well as the adoption of sustainable practices across a full range of utility operations. EPA is also promoting the sustainability of water resources through its WaterSense Program, which is focused on reducing consumer demand for water by developing specifications for products that use less water than standard models and educating the public on the importance of water efficiency. States are an important partner in EPA's efforts. EPA will continue to provide information to states, including but not limited to the SRF programs, and encourage states to work with utilities to adopt sustainable management practices in close collaboration with their communities.

EPA will support the Build America initiative by focusing on financing innovation and public-private partnerships, serving the needs of large, medium, and small water and wastewater systems as they modernize. Areas of focus may include water and energy efficiency for utilities, water reuse, green infrastructure, climate resiliency, and financing for small systems. Should Congressional funding be available, EPA will also

[24] Read more on the HWI and C.1.b.
[25] U.S. EPA (2011). *Healthy Watersheds Initiative: National Framework and Action Plan. Office of Water. EPA 841-R-11-005.* Read more on HWI
[26] Read more on the Sustainable Infrastructure Program

implement the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), an innovative financing mechanism for water-related infrastructure of national or regional significance. WIFIA will provide low interest loan financing for the construction of water and wastewater infrastructure and will be implemented in a manner that complements SRF programs. Modern and resilient infrastructure will better protect and improve public health, the natural environment, and economic vitality.

Sustainable Water Infrastructure is an integral part of the Sustainable Communities Partnership between HUD, DOT, and EPA. EPA will continue working with the partners to integrate infrastructure planning across water, housing, and transportation sectors to achieve the partnership goals.

Integrating Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Plans. Also discussed in Subobjective III.C, EPA has formalized its commitment to integrated planning approaches to municipal wastewater and stormwater management. An integrated planning process has the potential to identify a prioritized critical path to achieving the water quality objectives of the CWA by identifying efficiencies in implementing competing requirements that arise from separate wastewater and stormwater projects, including capital investments and operation and maintenance requirements. This approach can also lead to use of more sustainable and comprehensive solutions, such as green infrastructure, that improve water quality as well as support other quality of life attributes that enhance the vitality of communities.

Providing Safe and Sustainable Water Resources and Infrastructure Activities for FY 2016-2017

Rebuilding After Hurricane Sandy. Addressing the devastation that Hurricane Sandy wrought on the residents of New Jersey and New York remains a high priority for EPA and will be achieved through close coordination with EPA Region 2 and the affected states.

- EPA will work to administer DRAA funding in coordination with the DWSRF and CWSRF programs in Region 2.
- The Agency will work closely with the States of New Jersey and New York to help increase the resiliency of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in both states to withstand the effects of severe storms similar to Sandy.

Protecting Water Supplies. Source water protection can be undertaken on many scales, including watersheds and aquifers. Opportunities to collaborate and take action exist at the national, regional, state, and local levels. States are strongly encouraged to:

- Engage State Conservationists and local conservation districts to protect source waters from nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, including through USDA funding opportunities and promotion of land conservation programs and best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality.
- Take collaborative actions that integrate CWA and SDWA source water protection activities to advance public health and environmental protection objectives at the state, interstate and local levels.
- Consider source water protection as part of storm water management in conjunction with green infrastructure activities.
- Work with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to maintain healthy land cover on federal lands to protect water quality.
- Promote consideration of source water, including water availability, in efforts related to the effects of climate change and other future pressures on fresh water resources.
- Use GIS tools, such as EPA's Drinking Water Mapping Application for Protecting Source Waters (DWMAPS), to identify threats to drinking water sources and prioritize protective actions.

To support **Capacity Development** for drinking water systems, EPA will continue to collaborate with states and other partners on a variety of activities, including:

- Sharing of tools, approaches, best practices, and innovations to promote sustainable practices, including asset management[27] and energy and water efficiency,[28] in drinking water systems.
- Promoting the use of the Check Up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS) asset management software.[29]
- Promoting EPA's Energy Use Assessment Tool[30] for drinking water systems. Energy represents the largest controllable cost of providing water or wastewater services to the public.
- Promoting water efficiency and strategies to reduce water loss. Given growing constraints on water resources, cost of treatment, and aging infrastructure, it is increasingly important to focus on water efficiency from a resource management and economic perspective.[31]
- Disseminating best practices and maintaining focus to assist non-CWSs, including campgrounds, restaurants, and hospitals, in reliably providing safe drinking water.[32]
- Working with utilities and other partners (e.g., Department of Veterans Affairs) to address water sector workforce recruitment and retention in support of a well-trained, knowledgeable workforce to ensure safe drinking water and wastewater management.[33]
- Identifying opportunities to coordinate with other funding agencies (e.g., USDA Rural Development) to more effectively assist small systems.
- Working with EPA and other partners to promote various forms of system partnerships, including regionalization and shared treatment, that can provide opportunities for water systems to collaborate on compliance solutions and operations and maintenance activities and share costs with nearby systems, thereby enabling them to become sustainable and provide safe and affordable water to their communities.[34]
- Working with EPA and other partners to build small system resiliency.

Green infrastructure activities include:

- EPA will continue work with other federal agencies to align programs and leverage available resources to identify ways to make it easier for communities to implement green infrastructure. EPA will continue to implement its Green Infrastructure Strategic Agenda focused on providing information and technical resources to communities.
- EPA intends to provide assistance to communities with green designs and benefits assessments.
- EPA will continue its work with its federal and external partners through it Urban Waters Program to identify inter-agency and multi-stakeholder models for local success.
- EPA will continue developing opportunities for raising awareness of the CWSRF as a viable funding source for green infrastructure projects.

Sustainable Water Infrastructure activities include:

- EPA will continue to work with states and other partners under EPA's Decentralized Memorandum of Understanding to promote better management practices for septic/decentralized systems.

[27] Read more on Asset Management
[28] Read more on Water and Energy Efficiency
[29] Read more on CUPSS
[30] Read more on the Energy Use Assessment Tool
[31] Read more on water efficiency
[32] Read about Non-Community Water Systems
[33] Read more on Water Sector Workforce
[34] Read more on Water System Partnerships

- EPA will continue to work with designers, engineers, local communities, and other partners to develop tools that help small communities evaluate appropriate wastewater infrastructure options.
- EPA's State Revolving Fund programs will continue to emphasize program oversight.
- EPA will continue to work with HUD and DOT as part of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities to coordinate federal housing, transportation, and other infrastructure investments to protect the environment, promote equitable development, and help address the challenges of climate change.
- EPA will work with its federal partners to support the Build America initiative.
- EPA will implement the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

Providing Safe and Sustainable Water Resources and Infrastructure Program Measures

- SDW-SP4a and SDW-SP4b reflect, respectively, progress as defined by states in minimizing risks to public health through source water protection for CWSs and for the percent of population served by those systems.

- To support implementation of small system efforts, EPA tracks indicators for state DWSRF projects targeting small systems (SDW-11) and small system noncompliance and their capacity to quickly return to compliance with health-based standards (SDW-15).

- To reinforce the critical need of improving the protection of public health for people served by small systems, EPA established a two-year Agency Priority Goal in FY 2012 aimed at engaging with twenty states to improve small drinking water system capability through increased participation in EPA's Optimization and Capacity Development Programs.[35] EPA extended the APG in FY 2014-2015 to reach more states and began piloting the approach with tribes.

- WQ-17 tracks the fund utilization rate (cumulative loan agreement dollars to the cumulative funds available for projects) for the CWSRF.

D. Controlling Nutrient Pollution

As stated in the March 2011 memorandum, "Working in Partnership with States to Address Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution through Use of a Framework for State Nutrient Reductions"[36], EPA believes that nitrogen and phosphorus pollution is one of the most serious and pervasive water quality problems. Sources of nutrients present in water bodies are both natural and anthropogenic (human-influenced). Human-induced nutrient pollution comes from a number of point and non-point sources including urban stormwater runoff, municipal and industrial wastewater discharges, row crop agriculture, animal feeding operations (AFOs) and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), and atmospheric deposition. Controlling nutrient pollution from these sources requires holistic, integrated solutions that emphasize accountability.

In FY 2016-2017, EPA will continue to collaborate with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). The NWQI aligns well with the NPS pollution challenges and priorities in many states. The overall goal of the NWQI is for USDA-NRCS to assist agricultural producers to improve water quality in small HUC-12 watersheds where this is a critical concern. The NRCS has been providing five percent ($28-34 million) in financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to address agriculture-related nutrient, sediment, pathogen impairments in waters that are 303(d)-listed or otherwise impaired or threatened and consideration was given to impaired

[35] Read more on EPA's Small Systems Agency Priority Goal.
[36] Read the memorandum

waters that are also sources of drinking water. States will provide resources to monitor water quality progress in at least one NWQI watershed per state using CWA Section 319 or other resources.

Under the NPDES permitting program, EPA and authorized states, tribes, and territories are required to issue permits with effluent limits as well as other requirements (e.g. best management practices, water quality trading, nutrient management plans, etc.) to protect water quality standards (WQS) to all point sources discharging pollutants to any water of the U.S. This includes limits for nutrient pollution where reasonable potential exists to cause or contribute to an excursion above WQS. EPA continues to work with state and tribal partners to ensure effluent limits for nutrient pollution are included in permits where necessary.

Controlling Nutrient Pollution Activities for FY2016-2017

- EPA water program managers should place a high priority on working with interested state governments and other federal agencies, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, to accelerate near-term efforts to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution. To this end, when developing FY 2016-2017 Section 106 grant work plans, EPA regions and state partners should specifically discuss what actions will be taken in FY 2016-2017 toward reducing nutrient pollution.
- EPA water program managers should place a high priority on working with interested state governments and other federal agencies, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, to accelerate near-term efforts to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution. While EPA has a number of tools and approaches available and states need room to innovate and respond to local water quality needs, EPA has observed a framework consisting of a number of elements is vital to making strong progress. To this end, when developing FY 2016-2017 Section 106 grant work plans, EPA regions and state partners should specifically discuss what actions will be taken in FY 2016 toward reducing nutrient pollution.
- EPA encourages states to begin work immediately setting priorities on a watershed or statewide basis, establishing nutrient reduction targets, and adopting numeric nutrient criteria for at least one class of waterbodies by no later than 2016.
- EPA will continue implementing the 319 program with a large number of projects focused on reducing nutrient pollution from agricultural or urban/suburban sources.
- EPA managers should continue working with states to ensure effective permitting of nutrient pollution to protect state WQS.

Performance Measures for Controlling Nutrient Pollution

- WQ-01a and WQ-01d track the number of numeric WQS for total nitrogen and total phosphorus adopted by states and territories and approved by EPA, or promulgated by EPA plus those planned for adoption within the next three years.
- WQ-09a, b, and c track the reduction in runoff of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. Because WQ-09 deals with sediments as well as nutrients, it is further discussed under the section entitled, "Implement Practices to Reduce Pollution from all Nonpoint Sources".
- WQ-10 tracks progress in restoring waters identified on states' 303(d) impaired waters lists as primarily impaired by NPSs. Because WQ-10 deals with pollutants in addition to nutrients, it is further discussed under the section entitled, "Implement Practices to Reduce Pollution from all Nonpoint Sources".
- WQ-13d tracks the number of CAFOs permitted by an individual or general permit.

E. Assuring High Quality and Accessible Water Information

Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). Accurate, complete, and transparent system performance data is essential in understanding how the nation's PWSs are faring in meeting the expectation of

delivering high quality safe drinking water to consumers. SDWIS [37] serves as the primary source of national information on system compliance with all health-based regulatory requirements of SDWA and is used by most primacy agencies to assist in their management of the PWSS program.

Developing E-Enterprise for the Environment Solutions for Water Programs, SDWIS. EPA is replacing the existing SDWIS State software[38] and the SDWIS Fed Operational Data Store with SDWIS Primacy Agency (Prime). EPA is employing E-Enterprise for the Environment principles of shared governance with states and leveraging E-Enterprise for the Environment solutions in developing the next generation of SDWIS. SDWIS Prime will enhance and improve state program management and enable better targeting of resources to systems in need; reduce the total cost of ownership; enable faster implementation of drinking water rules; provide tools to ensure consistent determinations for compliance with drinking water rules; improve data quality; and support efficient sharing of drinking water compliance monitoring data between EPA, states, and the public. EPA is developing tools and processes to assist states in transitioning to use of SDWIS Prime.

Enhancing Access to Drinking Water System Compliance Information. In March 2010, EPA announced the Drinking Water Strategy (Strategy)[39], which envisions a comprehensive new approach to public health protection under the SDWA and other federal statutes, including a call for EPA to partner with states to share monitoring data collected and reported by PWSs to primacy agencies. Making these data publicly available is intended to result in greater transparency into drinking water quality from the national to the individual water system level, thereby increasing public awareness of status and trends in drinking water quality and its importance to public health. EPA acknowledges the growing demand from environmental agencies, public health agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public for access to a broader range of information about drinking water quality than is currently available from EPA. Building on recent work between OGWDW and states, EPA is employing E-Enterprise for the Environment principles of shared governance with states and is leveraging E-enterprise solutions in developing a Compliance Monitoring Data Portal to facilitate the electronic transmission of data between public water systems, laboratories and primacy agencies. Obtaining monitoring data electronically from public water systems will reduce data reporting and entry burden for water systems, laboratories, and states, improve data quality, and will facilitate more efficient sharing of data among EPA, states, and the public.

Drinking Water Mapping Application for Protecting Source Waters (DWMAPS). Recent emergencies and large-scale contamination events highlight the need to improve awareness of risks to drinking water. DWMAPS is an internet-based geographic information systems (GIS) tool for drinking water source water protection and assessment. While DWMAPS is currently a tool for EPA use, OGWDW is working to provide availability of DWMAPS to state agencies, drinking water utilities, source water collaboratives, watershed groups, and others. DWMAPS will include a nationwide mapping tool, a customizable source water protection planning tool, and suite of data exchange services to help ensure safe drinking water.

Providing Accessible and Understandable Clean Water Data. EPA will continue to increase public accessibility and understandability of water quality data and the effects of water quality on public health and local economies. The Agency's goal is to simplify and automate reporting to raise awareness, reduce burden, and increase transparency. EPA will support states' and tribes' management and use of water quality data by improving automation of screening, analysis, visualization, and reporting of water quality data to support priority setting, resource allocation for protection and restoration activities, and public accountability. E-Enterprise solutions for clean water programs include tools to screen and analyze water quality data available

[37] Read more on SDWIS
[38] Read more on SDWIS State
[39] Read more on the Drinking Water Strategy

through the Storage and Retrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)[40] and the Water Quality data portal and expanded display of water quality information via How's My Waterway website/app[41].

In addition, EPA will continue to work with states and tribes to implement the Water Quality Framework which is a new way of integrating EPA's data and information systems to more fully support water quality managers. The Framework will streamline water quality assessment and reporting while providing a more complete picture of the nation's water quality.

As EPA moves toward the development of an e-Enterprise solution for federal agencies, states, tribes, territories, the regulated community, the Agency has identified projects under the NPDES program in support of the Executive Order 13610, *Identifying and Reducing Regulatory Burdens,* that will eliminate paperwork burdens. Specifically, projects have been identified for piloting the electronic reporting of CWA NPDES program data (e.g., Notice of Intent for general permits, Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Data) and potential Clean Watersheds Needs Survey data using e-Enterprise solutions (e.g., internal and external shared services, fillable forms). The goal is to provide significant burden reduction for permitting authorities, EPA, and the regulated community while giving the public more complete and improved information about sources of water pollution in their communities. In FY 2016-2017, OW will continue to work with OECA to make NPDES data more readily accessible to the public.

Also as part of e-Enterprise, EPA is scoping out an EPA/Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) effort that will improve how data collected from sensors can be discoverable and interoperable across the multiple entities that are collecting data using sensors. In FY2016-2017 EPA will identify 3-5 watersheds where EPA would work with partners at all levels (Federal, state, tribal, and local) who are collecting water quality data as well as partners collecting water quantity data to demonstrate the seamless sharing of sensor data in a common format across multiple platforms. We envision that by working with the private sector (manufacturers of sensors and data loggers, telemetry vendors, and data management providers) EPA could demonstrate the ability for partners to be able to retrieve, QA/QC, analyze, and share their data seamlessly. Based on what's learned in these watershed demonstration projects, EPA would seek to expand this capability nationwide.

Assuring High Quality and Accessible Water Information Activities for FY 2016-2017

Drinking Water Information

1. States will participate in EPA-led development sessions to complete SDWIS Prime. During FY 2016, state SDWIS Prime Transition Teams will also prepare to migrate data from SDWIS State and state-developed data systems to SDWIS Prime and will prepare to reconfigure state developed applications to interact with SDWIS Prime instead of with SDWIS State. States will begin utilizing SDWIS Prime during FY2017
2. States will partner with EPA in identifying cost-effective ways to leverage web technologies to support laboratories, water systems, states and EPA as they manage, report, and utilize drinking water data and to improve data quality. EPA will manage a contract vehicle for states to fund tasks related to SDWIS Prime and Compliance Monitoring Data Portal. States can apply for Exchange Network grants and can utilize Public Water System Supervision grant funds and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for eligible state activities related to SDWIS Prime and the Compliance Monitoring Data Portal.

Clean Water Information

[40] Read more on STORET
[41] Access "How's My Waterway?"

- EPA will increase amount of water quality data state programs transmit to EPA via the Water Quality Exchange (WQX).
- EPA will improve user access in the Water Quality data Portal to available analytical tools and models.
- EPA will deliver National Aquatic Resource Survey results and data to the public and science community.
- EPA will deliver a revised tool for submitting local assessment unit decisions and actions linked to NHDPlus catchments.
- EPA will continue to work with states to incorporate electronic reporting approaches into implementation of the NPDES Program, as discussed in more detail in the OECA draft NPM guidance.

Program Measures for Assuring High Quality and Accessible Water Information

Existing program measures do not track these activities. Implementation of the Drinking Water Strategy, Compliance Monitoring Data Portal, and SDWIS Prime will, however, significantly affect how the data that underlie the PWSS program's compliance measures are shared among EPA and state partners and the transparency with which information about drinking water quality is made available to the public.

III. National Water Program (Subobjective) Specific Guidance

A. Cross-Cutting Themes

1. National Water Program and Tribes

EPA is committed to protecting and restoring waters in Indian country and ANVs to ensure that drinking water is safe and aquatic ecosystems sustain fish; plants and wildlife; and economic, recreational, and subsistence activities. As outlined in the *EPA FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan*, the Agency will continue to engage with tribes to build effective and results-oriented environmental programs. Consistent with the Strategic Plan's *Cross-Cutting Fundamental Strategy: Strengthening State, Tribal and International Partnerships*, OW will emphasize improving relationships with tribes through partnerships, outreach, and consultation. In particular for FY 2016 and FY 2017, OW will implement tribal program strategies and evaluate progress on actions in Indian country that support goals described in the *EPA Strategic Plan*. EPA will evaluate progress using a set of National Water Program measures directly supporting tribes. These measures are highlighted below and further described in *Appendix A*. EPA will also work with tribes to improve environmental conditions and public health in communities overburdened by environmental pollution in support of the Strategic Plan's *Cross-Cutting Fundamental Strategy: Working for Environmental Justice and Children's Health*[42].

EPA continues to work with tribes toward full implementation of water programs in Indian country (i.e., programs implemented by tribes or by EPA). EPA, in consultation with tribes, also works with states to protect water resources outside of Indian country where tribes have rights, such as treaty guarantees of resource protection. EPA's National Water Program recognizes that as sovereign entities and environmental co-regulators, Indian tribes play a major role in protecting the water resources vital to their existence, and many are seeking to develop comprehensive and effective water quality programs to improve and protect water quality on tribal lands.

Tribal Activities for FY 2016-2017

To support and enhance tribal efforts in FY 2016 and FY 2017, OW is taking many actions that include tribes to protect water resources. These actions are described throughout this guidance, along with other important information that may be of interest to tribes. Selected tribal activities are highlighted here, and include:

- The National Water Program will continue to implement the *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes*[43] using developed guidelines and best practices for OW to coordinate and optimize tribal consultation efforts.
- Pursue planned rulemaking to:
    - provide opportunities for tribes to more fully engage in the CWA Impaired Water Listing and TMDL Program.
    - streamline how tribes apply for treatment in a manner similar to a State (TAS) for the water quality standards program and other Clean Water Act regulatory programs.
- Provide appropriate tools, including training and guidance documents, for implementing needed tribal water programs.
- Continue to communicate CWA tribal training opportunities through a tribal listserv.

[42] Please see *Protecting Populations at Risk*, Section II.A. in this *Guidance*.
[43] Read more on the EPA Policy

- Update OW's website to improve access to tribally-relevant information.
- Continue National Water Program management support and involvement at the highest levels.
- Support the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) to promote information exchange and technical assistance among tribes to protect and restore water resources, and identify and analyze high-priority water topics from a tribal perspective. The NTWC serves as a national forum for tribal water managers to interact with each other, with tribes, and directly with EPA to promote actions that improve ground, surface, and drinking water quality.
- Pursue new tribal strategic actions in the National Water Program's Strategy: Response to Climate Change to support tribes' ability to preserve, adapt and maintain the viability of their culture, traditions, natural resources, and economies in the face of a changing climate.
- Identify and focus available resources and provide technical assistance and guidance appropriately to help tribes:
    - Develop and implement water quality programs under the Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian tribes under CWA Section 106:
        - Assist tribes in developing monitoring strategies appropriate to their water quality programs through training and technical assistance and work with tribes to provide data in a format accessible for storage in EPA data systems (measure WQ-06).
        - Work with tribes to track improvements or where water quality is meeting benchmark criteria and showing no degradation on tribal lands (measures WQ-SP14a.N11 and WQ-SP14b.N11).
        - Implement any of the three approaches for protecting water quality contained in the Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian tribes under CWA Section 106, regarding water quality standards. See Section III.C.1.a.i.
    - Restore and improve water quality on a watershed basis. See Section III.C.1.b on HWI.
    - Develop and manage NPS pollution programs (e.g. through watershed-based plans, BMPs, and restoration activities). See Section III.C.1.a.v.
    - Implement core elements of a wetlands program or a wetlands monitoring strategy.
    - Adopt the fish tissue criterion for mercury that EPA issued in 2001 and apply it based on implementation guidance. See Section III.B.2.
- Maintain OW's commitment to improve the provision of safe drinking water in Indian country by working with PWSs to maintain and improve compliance with the NPDWRs and become more resilient through use of infrastructure funding, technical assistance, and enforcement actions. See Section III.B.1.a.
- Continue to work in partnership with the Indian Health Service (IHS), USDA, HUD, and BIA through the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) to increase access to safe water and basic sanitation.
- To support better management and maintenance of water systems on tribal lands, EPA will continue to implement the National Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification program to ensure that tribal water utility operators have the appropriate certification needed to provide safe drinking water.
- The ANV Program, through the State of Alaska, will provide grant funds to under-served communities to improve or to construct drinking water and wastewater facilities to improve local health and sanitation conditions. The ANV Program will also support training and technical assistance programs related to the TMF requirements of managing sanitation systems in rural Alaska. See Section II.A.2.
- Support tribal projects in the Puget Sound and other large aquatic ecosystems. See Section III.D.5.

Tribal Supporting Performance Measures

Throughout 2006 – 2017, EPA worked with states and tribes to align and streamline performance measures. The National Water Program will continue to actively engage states and tribes in the Agency's performance measurement improvement efforts.

Water Safe to Drink: SDW-SP3.N11; SDW-18.N11; SDW-01b; SDW-20.

Improved Water Quality on a Watershed Basis: WQ-SP14a.N11; WQ-SP14b.N11; WQ-02; WQ-03b; WQ-12b; WQ-19b; WQ-23; WQ-24.N11.

Increase Wetlands: WT-SP22; WT-02a.

2. Protecting Urban Waters

The goal of the Urban Waters Program[44] is to help communities - particularly underserved communities - access, restore, and benefit from their urban waters and the surrounding land. By promoting public access to urban waters, EPA will help communities become active participants in the enjoyment, restoration, and protection of these urban waters. By linking water to other community priorities, EPA will help make the condition of these waters more relevant to nearby communities and help to sustain their involvement over the time horizon needed for water quality improvement.

Urban Water Activities for FY 2016-2017

State, tribal, and local government agencies are encouraged to build on their existing partnerships and develop new partnerships among appropriate state programs and with non-profits, private sector, academia and community groups, especially those addressing EJ concerns around activities that advance local urban water quality protection and restoration goals. The Urban Waters Program anticipates the following activities in FY 2016 and FY 2017:

- Continue to play an active role as a member of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership[45] and facilitate the meetings of the national Partnership Workgroup. Work with partners, including the non-governmental organization and association members, to align resources, funding, and expertise to restore urban waters and revitalize the communities that surround them. Identify new key partners to increase support to communities. Support existing Urban Waters Federal Partnership locations.
- Support the award of Urban Waters Small Grants[46] that will advance the restoration of urban waters through activities that also support community revitalization and local priorities. Grants support activities such as green infrastructure, water quality monitoring and local watershed planning.
- Support to EPA grantees will continue through the Urban Waters Learning, a virtual forum for peer-to-peer learning, exchanging ideas and best practices, and sharing technical expertise. The Urban Waters Learning Network receives its funding from EPA Urban Waters Program[47].
- Continue to support the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program, a public/private grant program managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, by encouraging broad participation among the Urban Waters Federal Partnership to launch a fourth round of grant opportunities. EPA provides funding to this grant program. Modest funding from several agencies can leverage private funds and expanded commitment to improving urban water quality goals.[48]

[44] Read more on the Urban Waters Program
[45] Read more on the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.
[46] Read more on Urban Waters Small Grants.
[47] Read more on the Urban Waters Learning Network.
[48] Read more.

- Continue to collaborate with community-based programs across the Agency leveraging authorities and technical resources to maximize the effectiveness of all programs.

Areas of activity may include green infrastructure, source water protection, water sector workforce development, watershed planning, land revitalization, water quality monitoring and assessment.

Urban Water Performance Measures

WQ-25a tracks the number of urban water projects initiated addressing water quality issues in the community.

WQ-25b tracks the number of urban waters projects completed.

3. Climate Change

A changing climate will have significant impacts on water resources and pose difficult challenges for water program managers at federal, state, and local levels. Sustaining improvements in water quality and improving water quality conditions will require the National Water Program to successfully implement a comprehensive and effective response to climate change. In addition, the National Water Program will expand efforts to reduce greenhouse gases associated with water management and strengthen efforts to protect and expand the capacity of aquatic resources to sequester carbon.

In December 2012, the National Water Program published the *National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change*[49] which builds on an earlier strategy released in 2008. The *2012 Strategy* documents the diversity and seriousness of climate change impacts on water resources, describes long-term goals for protecting water resources for future generations, and provides the framework for the water elements of the EPA Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans published by the Office of Water and EPA Regional Offices in November of 2014.

Climate Change Activities for FY 2016-2017

In FY 2016 and FY 2017, the National Water Program will expand efforts to assure that core clean water and safe drinking water programs are adapting to a changing climate. Some key activities are described below.

- National program offices at EPA headquarters and water programs at EPA regional offices will continue implementing priority actions identified in the Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans[50] including:
    - Work with states and water utilities to prepare for a changing climate and more extreme weather events by promoting the use of the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT), identifying water facilities on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts at risk from storm surges, and supporting extreme events workshops;
    - Promote wide delivery of training for EPA, state, and local government water program managers on climate change developed in 2014-2015;
    - Expand national and EPA regional office activities to communicate climate change and water resources information to stakeholders and the public;
    - Strengthen collaboration on climate change among the National Water Program and other EPA offices (e.g.; Office of Research and Development, Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance); and
    - Build stronger, mutually supporting relationships on climate change challenges among EPA water programs and related programs of other federal agencies (e.g.; National Oceanic and

[49] Read more on the *National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change*.
[50] Read more on the Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans.

Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Department of Agriculture).

- EPA will work with State, tribal, and local governments to promote consideration of climate-related adjustments to water programs developed during 2014 and 2015 that are designed to increase the resilience of water resources to climate change impacts. This could take place in conjunction with:
    - Management of clean water and drinking water State Revolving Funds;
    - Triennial reviews of state and tribal water quality standards;
    - Development of NPDES permits with a focus on stream flow, precipitation, and water temperature;
    - State water quality management plans or related planning mechanisms
    - Community drinking water system sanitary surveys.

- EPA will expand efforts to support place-based assessments of water resource vulnerability to climate change and development of risk-based response strategies. Key elements of this work will include:
    - Encourage states and watershed organizations to use the newly published workbook for climate adaptation planning at the watershed level (see: *Being Prepared for Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans*[51];
    - Support investments by National Estuary Programs in work to recognize climate change impacts and revise Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans as appropriate; and
    - Recognize and address climate change challenges facing programs to protect Great Waterbodies, including the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, and Gulf of Mexico, as well as large aquatic ecosystems.

In addition, the National Water Program will expand and strengthen efforts to reduce the release of greenhouse gases associated with water management and expand the capacity of aquatic resources to sequester carbon. Key activities in FY 2016-2017 will include:

- Expand the WaterSense program to improve water use efficiency and thereby reduce energy used to pump and treat water; and
- Promote greater energy efficiency in the water sector through partnerships and technical assistance providers; and
- Develop and pilot methods to assess the carbon sequestration functions of aquatic resources (e.g.; wetlands, mangroves, and sea grasses) and promote program management practices that protect and enhance carbon sequestration.

Climate Change Performance Measures

For FY 2016-2017, EPA is proposing program measures related to the progress of water programs in adapting to a changing climate and two measures related to reducing release of greenhouse gases and sequestering carbon. These measures support "Goal 1: Objective 1.1: Address Climate Change" in the *EPA 2014-2018 Strategic Plan*.

Measures relating to adapting clean water programs to be effective as the climate changes include:

[51] Read more on *Being Prepared for Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans*.

- Number of water or wastewater utilities that have registered to use Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) tool.
- Number of CWSRFs/DWSRFs that used financial incentives to promote climate resilience projects in the last year.

Measures supporting the *Strategic Plan* goal of reducing greenhouse gas releases include:

- Number of WaterSense partners working to improve water use efficiency.
- Number of water and wastewater utilities that use the Energy Star Portfolio Manager to manage energy.

4. Implementing Innovative Technology in Water

Innovative technology can play a significant role in solving many of the water-related problems facing the U.S. and also providing opportunities for economic development. The preponderance of evidence demonstrates that environmental protection and economic progress go hand-in-hand. President Obama said that the U.S. will win the future by out educating, out innovating, and out building competitors[52].

OW is committed to fostering and institutionalizing consideration, adoption and use of innovative technology to advance EPA's goal of clean and safe water across the entire spectrum of the water program. This will be done in close cooperation with EPA regions, states, tribes, and other partners. An innovative technology priority list was created, in no particular order, that presents opportunities to achieve significant reductions in cost and energy consumption enhance the attainment of clean and safe water, substantially faster and cheaper, and foster job creation for the economy:

- Increased focus on advancing sustainability.
- Develop innovative techniques and tools to maintain healthy watersheds and improve watershed health.
- Advance technologies and techniques to restore water bodies that do not meet WQSs.
- Develop innovative methods to address nutrient pollution.
- Continue development of innovation (next generation) municipal, industrial, and drinking water treatment technologies and system designs.
- Focus on development testing and implementation of wet weather quantity and quality controls.
- Develop alternative test methods for effective and less expensive monitoring.
- Continue development of more efficient and cost-effective information technology systems to promote sustainable system operation, maintenance, and planning.
- Develop more efficient and cost-effective methods for assessing and rehabilitating and retrofitting wastewater, drinking water, and storm water infrastructure.
- Identify opportunities and approaches for institutionalizing innovation throughout OW programs.
- Evaluate financing innovations to support investments that improve water infrastructure.
- Develop methods to ensure that innovative approaches focus on protection and preservation of natural ecosystems.
- Develop methods related to technology assessment and verification performance.

[52] Read more on the vision for technology innovation

The previous Acting Assistant Administrator for OW, Nancy Stoner, released a Technology Innovation Blueprint[53], which identifies the actions, challenges, and the path forward to employ the above priority list in assisting with current water resource issues.

Innovative Technology Activities for FY 2016-2017

- EPA's National Water Program will foster water technology and innovation through many different forums in cooperation with states and the full spectrum of water partners. These efforts will be routinely summarized on the Technology and Innovation webpage and in progress reports.
- EPA water program will assess all programs and initiatives to identify where opportunities exist to leverage technology innovation.
- EPA water program will address potential barriers that must be addressed to ensure successful implementation.
- EPA water program will ensure the use of innovative technology as a means to address current program priorities.

5. Grants Management

OW places a high priority on effective grants management. The key areas to be emphasized as grant programs are implemented are:

- Promoting competition to the maximum extent practicable;
- Monitoring assistance agreements and ensuring compliance with post-award management standards;
- Assuring that project officers and their supervisors adequately address grants management responsibilities; and
- Linking grants performance to the achievement of environmental results as laid out in the Agency's *Strategic Plan* and this *Guidance*.

a. Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements

OW strongly supports the Agency policy to promote competition to the maximum extent practicable in the award of assistance agreements. Project officers must comply with Agency policy concerning competition in the award of grants and cooperative agreements and ensure that the competitive process is fair and impartial, that all applicants are evaluated only on the criteria stated in the announcement, and that no applicant receives an unfair advantage.

The Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements, EPA Order 5700.5A1[54], effective January 15, 2005, applies to: (1) competitive announcements issued, released, or posted after January 14, 2005; (2) assistance agreement competitions, awards, and disputes based on competitive announcements issued, released, or posted after January 14, 2005; (3) non-competitive awards resulting from non-competitive funding recommendations submitted to a Grants Management Office after January 14, 2005; and (4) assistance agreement amendments issued after January 14, 2005.

If program offices and regional offices choose to conduct competitions for awards under programs that are exempt from the Competition Order, they must comply with the Order and any applicable guidance issued by the Grants Competition Advocate (GCA). This includes complying with OMB standard formatting requirements for federal agency announcements of funding opportunities and OMB

[53] Read more on OW's blueprint for technology innovation
[54] Read more on the Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements.

requirements related to Grants.gov[55], which is the official federal government website where applicants can find and apply to funding opportunities from all federal grant-making agencies.

On October 12, 2011, Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD) issued a memorandum approving a competition exemption for awards to non-profit co-regulator/co-implementor organizations (collectively referred to as "co-regulator organizations") for core co-regulator organization type activities funded with State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) categorical appropriations under the associated program support cost authority. The competition exemption only applies to certain STAG funded awards and is subject to several conditions. For EPA to use STAG funding under the associated program support cost authority, the activities funded must support the environmental protection programs of non-federal governmental partners and the services the co-regulator organizations provide must be for the direct use and of primary benefit of these entities and not EPA. For the funds that would otherwise be allotted to state governmental entities, EPA policy requires that EPA obtain the prior approval of the affected state agency or department before such funding is used for awards to co-regulator organizations for associated program support on their behalf.

On June 2, 2011, the Administrator issued the "U.S. EPA Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation" which affirmed the Agency's commitment to anticipate and plan for future changes in climate and incorporate them into our programs, policies and operations. Subsequently, OGD and OP issued a memorandum on October 18, 2011, requesting EPA headquarters and regional program offices to work to incorporate climate change considerations into applicable competitive funding opportunities where the outcomes of the project are sensitive to climate or where the project could be more effective if climate change were addressed.

b. Policy on Compliance Review and Monitoring

OW is required to develop and carry out a post-award monitoring plan and conduct baseline monitoring for every award. EPA Order 5700.6A2, *Policy on Compliance, Review and Monitoring*, effective January 1, 2008, helps to ensure effective post-award oversight of recipient performance and management. The Order encompasses both the administrative and programmatic aspects of the Agency's financial assistance programs. From the programmatic standpoint, this monitoring should ensure satisfaction of five core areas:

- Compliance with all programmatic terms and conditions;
- Correlation of the recipient's work plan/application and actual progress under the award;
- Availability of funds to complete the project;
- Proper management of and accounting for equipment purchased under the award; and
- Compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements of the program.

If during monitoring it is determined that there is reason to believe that the grantee has committed or commits fraud, waste and/or abuse, then the project officer must contact the OIG. Baseline monitoring activities must be documented in the Post-Award Database in the Integrated Grants Management System (IGMS). Advanced monitoring activities must be documented in the official grant file and the Grantee Compliance Database in IGMS.

c. Performance Standards for Grants Management

Project officers of assistance agreements participate in a wide range of pre-and post-award activities. OGD issued *Guidance for Assessing Grants Management and the Management of Interagency Agreements under the Performance Appraisal and Recognition System (PARS)* on September 29, 2014 to

[55] Access Grants.gov

be used for 2014 PARS appraisals of project officers who are managing at least one active grant during the rating period, and their supervisors/managers. The memo also provides guidance for the development of 2015 performance agreements. OW supports the requirement that project officers and their supervisors/managers assess grants management responsibilities through the Agency's PARS process.

d. Environmental Results Under EPA Assistance Agreements

EPA Order 5700.7, which went into effect in 2005, states that it is EPA policy to:

- Link proposed assistance agreements to the Agency's *Strategic Plan;*
- Ensure that outputs and outcomes are appropriately addressed in assistance agreement competitive funding announcements, work plans, and performance reports; and
- Consider how the results from completed assistance agreement projects contribute to the Agency's programmatic goals and responsibilities.

The Order applies to all non-competitive funding packages/funding recommendations submitted to Grants Management Offices after January 1, 2005, all competitive assistance agreements resulting from competitive funding announcements issued after January 1, 2005, and competitive funding announcements issued after January 1, 2005. Project officers must include in the Funding Recommendation a description of how the project fits within the Agency's *Strategic Plan*. The description must identify all applicable EPA strategic goal(s), objectives, and where available, subobjective(s), consistent with the appropriate Program Results Code(s).

In addition, project officers must:

- Consider how the results from completed assistance agreement projects contribute to the Agency's programmatic goals and objectives;
- Ensure that well-defined outputs and outcomes are appropriately addressed in assistance agreement work plans, solicitations, and performance reports; and
- Certify/assure that they have reviewed the assistance agreement work plan and that the work plan contains outputs and outcomes.

e. Policy on Streamlining State Grants

The Agency's long-term goal is for EPA and states to achieve greater consistency in workplan formats. To achieve that goal, on January 24, 2011, OGD issued Grants Policy Issuance (GPI) 11-03 *State Grant Workplans and Progress Reports*[56]. The GPI requires that workplans and associated progress reports for 14 identified state categorical grant programs prominently display three Essential Elements (the Strategic Plan Goal; the Strategic Plan Objective; and the Workplan Commitments plus time frame) to further accountability, strategic plan alignment, and consistent performance reporting. A database (i.e., State Grant IT Application[57]) to electronically store workplans and progress reports for the 14 identified state categorical grant programs was made available December 3, 2012.

On September 21, 2012, OGD issued GPI 12-06 *Timely Obligation, Award and Expenditure of EPA Grant Funds*[58]. The GPI establishes policies to streamline grant processes and improve grant outlay rates. Section 7.0 of the GPI establishes streamlining principles for 16 identified state categorical grant programs. The streamlining principles apply to the workplan negotiation phase, the application phase, and the award phase.

[56] Read more on the *State Grant Workplans and Progress Reports*.
[57] Read more.
[58] Read more on *Timely Obligation, Award and Expenditure of EPA Grant Funds*.

B. Strategies to Protect Public Health

For each of the key subobjectives related to water addressed in the EPA *Strategic Plan* and this *Guidance*, EPA has worked with states, tribes, and other stakeholders to define strategies for accomplishing the improvements in the environment or public health identified for the subobjective. This *Guidance* draws from the *Strategic Plan*, but describes plans and strategies at a more operational level and focuses on FY 2016.

1. Water Safe to Drink

The fundamental public health protection mission of the national drinking water program[59] is to ensure that PWSs deliver drinking water that meets national primary drinking water standards to their customers. The protection of the Nation's public health through safe drinking water has been the shared responsibility of EPA, states, and tribes for more than 35 years. Currently, 51,535 CWSs[60] nationwide supply drinking water to more than 300 million Americans (approximately 95% of the U.S. population). The development and implementation of health protection-based regulatory standards for drinking water quality to limit human exposure to contaminants of concern is the cornerstone of the program.

a. Implement Core National Drinking Water Program Areas that are Critical to Providing Safe Drinking Water.

Collectively, these six core areas of the national safe drinking water program comprise a comprehensive approach to protecting public health.

i. Development/Revision of Drinking Water Standards/Regulations. SDWA requires the Agency to develop a list of unregulated contaminants that are known or anticipated to occur in PWSs and may require regulation. This list is known as the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL)[61] and the Agency is required to publish this list every five years. SDWA also requires the Agency to determine whether to regulate at least five CCL contaminants with a NPDWR[62] using three statutory criteria. Like CCL, the regulatory determinations process is also on a five year cycle.

Development or Revision of Drinking Water Standards Activities for FY 2016-2017

The Agency will continue to address the development or revision of drinking water standards to protect human health in FY 2016-2017 and will work with states and tribes to:

- Provide technical and scientific support for the development of drinking water regulations. State representatives (co-regulators) often participate with EPA personnel in the regulatory development work groups that develop drinking water regulations.
- Implementation of the third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3)[63]; as reporting, analysis, and posting of monitoring results will continue through mid-2016.

[59] Read more on drinking water.
[60] Although SDWA applies to 156,539 public water systems nationwide (as of October 2012), which include schools, hospitals, factories, campgrounds, motels, gas stations, etc. that have their own water system, this measure focuses only on CWSs. A CWS is a public water system that provides water to the same population year-round. As of October 2014, there were 51,535 CWSs. EPA also continues to focus attention on addressing compliance and sustainability challenges faced by non-CWSs.
[61] Read more on CCLs.
[62] Read more on NPDWRs.
[63] Read more on UCMR3.

- Develop the final rule to support the collection of drinking water contaminant occurrence data under the next cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4). Review, analyze, and address the public comments received in response to the proposed UCMR 4 published in 2015, and publish the final rule in 2017. Work with states, laboratories, and public water systems throughout 2017 to prepare for the 2018-2020 monitoring. This SDWA required effort is conducted every five years.
- Provide technical and scientific support that includes development and validation of analytical methods for updating rules and implementing the UCMR, training and supporting states in their oversight of *Cryptosporidium* laboratories, and responding to technical implementation questions regarding the entire range of NPDWRs.
- Conclude the compilation and to evaluation of new information on health effects, occurrence, treatment technologies, and other information for regulated contaminants and publish the third Six-Year Review (in 2016) that identifies, prioritizes, and targets those regulations for revision that are most likely to result in meaningful opportunities for health risk reduction and/or cost savings to PWSs and their customers while maintaining or providing for greater levels of public health protection. This SDWA required effort is conducted every six years.
- Evaluate and utilize the input received from ORD and U.S. Food and Drug Administration scientists that addressed Science Advisory Board recommendations regarding data collection and the review and development of PBPK/PD models to relate perchlorate exposure to biological effects "downstream" from the inhibition of iodide uptake. EPA will publish the proposed regulation and analyses for public review and comment in 2016 and promulgate the final rule in 2017.
- Review and evaluate monitoring data from UCMR 3, collected during 2013-2015, regarding carcinogenic volatile organic compounds (cVOCs). EPA expects to propose a cVOCs Group Regulation in 2018. This group of up to 16 contaminants includes trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and other regulated and unregulated carcinogenic volatile contaminants.
- Propose a rule in 2016 that makes conforming changes to existing regulations based on the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act (RLDWA), which was enacted in 2011, and, as such, affects the use and introduction into commerce of lead pipes, plumbing fittings or fixtures, and solder and flux. The RLDWA redefined "lead-free" in SDWA to lower the maximum content of lead, establish a method to calculate lead content, and eliminate the requirement that lead-free products be in compliance with voluntary third party standards for leaching of lead.
- Collaborate with stakeholders, scientists, and the public to undertake the highest priority research and information collection activities to better understand water quality issues.
- Explore how best to address issues identified about the inspection, cleanliness, health risks, and safety of finished drinking water storage facilities (e.g. storage tanks).
- Fostering the development of new drinking water technologies to address health risks posed by a broad array of contaminants in support of the Drinking Water Strategy.

ii. Implementation of Drinking Water Standards/Regulations and Technical Assistance. The implementation of programs designed to assist PWSs in complying with drinking water regulations is essential to EPA's core mission of protecting public health in the U.S.

Implementation of Drinking Water Standards/Regulations and Technical Assistance Activities for 2016-2017

EPA will work in concert with states and tribes to facilitate PWS compliance with drinking water regulations through a variety of activities:

- **Conduct Sanitary Surveys[64]:** States, tribes, and EPA direct implementation programs will conduct sanitary surveys at PWSs according to the schedules set forth in the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and in the Ground Water Rule, which in FY 2014 was included for the first time in measures SDW-01a and SDWA-01b. Primacy agencies should work with water systems to resolve significant deficiencies identified during sanitary surveys as quickly as possible.
- **Conduct Technical Assistance and Training[65]:** States, tribes, and EPA direct implementation programs should focus their assistance to water systems to address their implementation challenges, particularly with the Revised Total Coliform Rule, Ground Water Rule[66] and the Stage 2 Disinfection/Disinfection By-Products Rule[67]. Primacy agencies will need to assist small water systems transitioning to locational running annual average compliance and provide education on the new requirements and assistance to consecutive systems that may be monitoring for the first time. Primacy agencies should also monitor systems to follow up with any identified steps to minimize exceedances in the future.
- **Participate in Area-wide Optimization Program (AWOP) Activities:** EPA's AWOP[68], which provides compliance assistance to drinking water systems, continues to work with systems and states to develop and implement a variety of approaches to improve water system performance. Optimization tools include comprehensive performance evaluations (CPEs) to assess the performance of filtration technology and distribution system optimization (DSO) techniques.
- **Participate in the Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program:** EPA will continue the program that sets standards and establishes methods for EPA, state, tribal, and privately-owned laboratories that analyze drinking water samples. Through this program, EPA headquarters conducts EPA regional program reviews, visiting each EPA regional office on a triennial basis, and evaluates oversight of state laboratories and the state laboratory certification programs within regional purview. In addition, EPA annually delivers a minimum of three (1. Chemistry, 2. Microbiology, and 3. *Cryptosporidium*) Certification Officer Training courses for state and regional representatives.
- **Submit data to the federal SDWIS to support effective PWSS program implementation:** Primacy agencies are required to provide timely, accurate, and complete inventory, violations, and enforcement data to SDWIS. Primacy agencies may do this through the SDWIS State software developed by EPA to provide support for state implementation of the PWSS program[69] or through submission of files through the State-EPA Exchange Network to SDWIS Fed.
- **Coordinate with Enforcement:** States and EPA regions with direct implementation for PWSS programs will work with their enforcement counterparts and with EPA to identify instances of actual or expected non-compliance that pose risks to public health and will take appropriate actions as necessary. EPA regional offices and OW will continue to work with OECA. Collaboration across the drinking water program is critical to ensuring that PWSs with compliance issues are addressed through the most effective means, including targeted funding, compliance assistance and enforcement.

iii. DWSRF[70] and Sustainable Water Infrastructure. EPA's drinking water program is emphasizing several national SRF priorities to strengthen the program for the long-term. These include increasing the speed with which appropriated funds move to projects; ensuring that the highest priority projects are ready to proceed to funding; reducing unliquidated obligations within state DWSRF programs, ensuring the financial integrity of

[64] Read more on sanitary surveys.
[65] Read more on EPA's training on the National Primary Drinking Water Rules.
[66] Read more on the Groundwater Rule (GWR).
[67] Read more on the Stage 2 DBP rule.
[68] Read more on AWOP.
[69] Read more on SDWIS State.
[70] Read more on DWSRF.

the program through strong auditing, consistent with overarching federal law and guidance; and enhancing coordination between the DWSRF and PWSS programs.

DWSRF and Sustainable Water Infrastructure Activities for 2016-2017

States are expected to:

- Apply for their capitalization grant in the first year of availability to facilitate earlier use of funds for project financing.
- Provide plans for financing projects not yet started under open grants from years prior to 2013.
- Report fund utilization[71] for projects (see Program Activity Measure SDW-04) and the number of projects that have initiated operations (see Program Activity Measure SDW-05).
- Receive DWSRF monies based on the 2011 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey[72] of approximately 52,000 CWSs and 21,400 not-for-profit non-CWSs.
- Use the program's new model Intended Use Plan (IUP)[73] reflecting required elements to prepare the state grant application.
- Give adequate consideration to funding preliminary design for projects to be ready for construction financing.
- Continue implementation of the SRF Sustainability Policy[74] to promote water system technical, managerial, and financial capacity as a critical means to meet infrastructure needs and further enhance program performance and efficiency and to ensure compliance. State programs can utilize DWSRF set-asides to promote asset management, system-wide planning, and other sustainable management practices at PWSs aimed at reducing water loss and better understanding linkages between water production/distribution and energy use.[75]
- Coordinate across drinking water programs, including the PWSS, source water protection, capacity development, and operator certification, in order to identify systems in noncompliance with SDWA requirements or challenged to be sustainable, and then provide loans and/or technical assistance to improve their capacity to provide safe drinking water.
- Encourage the use of set-asides for source water protection activities, where appropriate. Effective source water protection has the potential to off-set the need for infrastructure upgrades and additional treatment costs.

iv. Water System Security[76]. Since the events of 9/11, EPA has been designated as the sector-specific Agency responsible for infrastructure protection activities for the Nation's drinking water and wastewater systems. EPA is utilizing its position within the water sector and working with its stakeholders to provide information to help protect the Nation's drinking water supply from terrorist threats and all hazard events.

Water System Security Activities for FY 2016-2017

As required by Executive Order (EO) 13636, Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, EPA will work with DHS, as well as the Water Sector Coordinating Council and Water Government Coordinating Council, to

[71] Read more on the fund utilization rate.
[72] Read more on the Needs Survey.
[73] Read more on intended use plans.
[74] Read more on the SRF Sustainability Policy.
[75] Read more on set-aside use to promote capacity development at http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/dwsrf/pdfs/techas.pdf, http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/dwsrf/pdfs/capdev.pdf, http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/dwsrf/pdfs/opcert.pdf.
[76] Read more on water system security.

encourage water and wastewater utilities to use the Cybersecurity Framework and participate in the DHS Voluntary Program for Framework implementation.

In FY 2016 and FY 2017, EPA will continue to fulfill its requirements under Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 by progressing to the next phase of the Water Security Initiative (WSI)[77] pilot program and the Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA). EPA will, in collaboration with our regional counterparts, states, and utilities:

- Issue the System Response Surveillance System Framework, which will assist drinking water utilities with assessing and enhancing their capabilities for early detection of and response to water contamination and other water quality problems.
- Initiate a national outreach strategy under WSI to encourage water utilities to adopt effective, implementable, and sustainable contamination warning system practices. This strategy will include in-person training sessions throughout the country and guidance materials for water utilities on designing, deploying, and testing contamination warning systems based on lessons learned from the pilots.
- Plan exercises designed to further implement the WLA Response Plan which provides processes and procedures for a coordinated laboratory response to water contamination incidents.
- Expand membership in the WLA to include water utilities that need access to laboratory analytical services during an unintentional or intentional contamination event, but that are ineligible under the current WLA membership criteria due to their limited in-house laboratory capabilities.

In FY 2016 and FY 2017, EPA will continue collaboration with our regional counterparts, states, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and water sector officials to:

- Improve the use of intrastate and interstate mutual aid to restore utility operations more quickly by supporting tabletop exercises and improvement planning.
- Provide training and tools for water utilities to better understand their emergency response roles and responsibilities and integrate preparedness activities into their daily operations with user-friendly templates and free and easily accessible online training.
- Provide technical assistance to state/local governments on coordinating the recovery of and integrating resiliency into drinking water and wastewater infrastructure systems.
- Plan and conduct series of extreme weather event workshops with Atlantic coastal communities. These workshops would address both short term emergency preparedness and long term planning.
- Promote awareness and adoption of drinking water and wastewater preparedness and resiliency programs throughout the Nation to further Agency priorities and the interests, needs, and priorities of stakeholders through outreach efforts at water sector, and other interdependent sectors conferences and exhibits.
- Develop and conduct webcasts and exercises to prepare utilities, emergency responders, and decision-makers to evaluate and respond to physical, cyber, and contamination threats and events;
- Create, update, and disseminate tools and provide technical assistance to ensure that water and wastewater utilities and emergency responders react rapidly and effectively to intentional contamination and natural disasters.
- Sustain and improve the operation of the Water Desk in the Agency's Emergency Operations Center by updating roles/responsibilities, improving internal communications, training staff in the incident command

[77] Read more on WSI.

structure, ensuring adequate staffing during activation of the desk, and coordinating with EPA regional field personnel and response partners.
- Refine and provide outreach and training on a risk assessment tool that will enable utilities to address the risks from all hazards, including climate change impacts.
- Under the Climate Ready Water Utilities initiative, continue to update practical tools and training that enable drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities, particularly in hurricane prone regions, to integrate resiliency to climate change into short and long term planning.

v. Source Water Protection Programs[78]. See National Water Program Area of Focus in Section II.C, *Protecting Drinking Water Supplies*. EPA's source water protection program aims to prevent contamination from reaching sources of drinking water. The prevalence of emerging contaminants as well as chemical spill and contamination emergencies highlight the need to protect watersheds upstream of drinking water supplies.

Source Water Activities for FY 2016-2017:

- Develop the Drinking Water Mapping Application for Protecting Source Waters (DWMAPS), a web-based GIS system for tracking potential sources of contamination (both point and nonpoint sources) upstream of PWSs. DWMAPS will also include tools to facilitate updates to Source Water Assessments, and training resources for applying these tools to state and local drinking water concerns.
- Promote integration of the CWA and SDWA to identify and achieve mutual clean water and safe drinking water goals. Work with states and other stakeholders to promote actions outlined in the state-EPA collaborative toolkit, *Opportunities to Protect Drinking Water Sources and Advance Watershed Goals through the CWA*.
- Work with partners in the Source Water Collaborative to promote actions toward reducing nonpoint and point sources of contamination in drinking water.

vi. Underground Injection Control[79]. SDWA requires EPA to develop minimum federal requirements for UIC programs that address well construction, permitting, operation, and closure in order to protect public health by preventing injection wells from contaminating underground sources of drinking water (USDW).

UIC Activities for FY 2016-2017

EPA will work in concert with states and tries to facilitate UIC compliance through a variety of activities, including:

- Implementing the UIC programs for well classes I – V to ensure that injection wells are permitted and operated in a manner that protects USDWs from endangerment. (See measures SDW-07 and SDW-08.)
- Submitting well-specific data for well classes I – V to the UIC National Database.
- For state programs seeking primacy for the Class VI well program, developing complete primacy applications for the Class VI well program and working with EPA to refine and revise their Class VI primacy applications as needed after submission. States will work with permit applicants upon obtaining primacy and EPA will work to transition any issued Class VI permits over to the state once primacy has been granted. (See measures SDW-19a and SDW-19b.)
- Working towards a consistent and predictable process for the review of aquifer exemption requests under SDWA.

[78] Read more on SWP.
[79] Read more on UIC.

- Ensure that hydraulic fracturing using diesel fuels are authorized under the applicable UIC program.

b. Improvement of small drinking water system technical, managerial, and financial capacity.

See National Water Program Area of Focus in Section II.C, *Improving Small System Capacity*.

c. Grant Guidances

EPA manages the following three grant programs to the states and tribes, authorized under SDWA, to support the implementation of the drinking water core program and achieve EPA's strategic goals related to drinking water. Below are the grant guidances for FY 2016.

Public Water System Supervision Grant Guidance to states, tribes, and EPA regions with primacy enforcement authority

The PWSS program is fundamental to the implementation of SDWA and EPA and state's role in the protection of public health. The memo entitled *Guidance and Tentative Grant Allotments to Support Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Programs on Tribal Lands*, provided in 2008, continues to apply in FY 2016-2017 to EPA regions that receive tribal PWSS funding to support the Tribal Drinking Water Program. This *Guidance* for FY 2016 includes guidance for state, territories, and tribal recipients of PWSS program grants, as well as for EPA regions with primacy enforcement authority. Grant recipients are expected to conduct their programs to help achieve the goals, objectives, subobjectives, strategic targets, and PAMs specified in Safe Drinking Water Section of this *Guidance*. In addition, grant recipients should be focused on preserving the gains of the previous years' efforts and striving to build upon them to the extent possible.

The overall objective of the PWSS grant program[80] is to protect public health by ensuring that:

- PWSs, of all types and sizes, that are currently in compliance, remain in compliance;
- PWSs, of all types and sizes, that are not currently in compliance, achieve compliance;
- PWSs, of all types and sizes, are preparing to comply with new drinking water regulations that will be taking effect in FY 2016.

Assisting PWSs in meeting this objective and achieving long-term sustainability requires grantees to adopt a variety of approaches and coordinate efforts across the drinking water program.

PWSS Grant Activities for FY 2016-2017

Building on the ongoing efforts of grantees to implement the PWSS program, FY 2016-2017 priority activities for the PWSS grantees should include the following:

- Timely submission of primacy program revisions for the purpose of adopting new or revised federal regulations;
- Completion of sanitary surveys;
- Microbial and Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts rules implementation, including the Revised Total Coliform Rule, Ground Water Rule, the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, and the Long-term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule;
- Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act implementation;
- Addressing arsenic and nitrate non-compliance;
- Consideration of climate effects on PWSs; and
- Technical and compliance assistance to PWSs to ensure the reliable delivery of safe water.

[80] Read more on the PWSS Grant Program and the Tribal PWSS Grant Program.

A proportion of each PWSS grant should be devoted to ensuring that data are effectively managed and that required data are submitted to EPA. Specifically that:

- Water system compliance determinations are consistent with federal and state regulations;
- Corrective actions associated with data file reviews are implemented; and
- PWSS grantees submit to EPA the required inventory, compliance, and enforcement data. This data should be timely, accurate, and complete.

The PWSS grant allotments are based on factors such as population, geographic area, and PWSs inventory. State-by-state allotments and the total amount available to each region for its tribal support program will be available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/pws/grants/allotments_state-terr.html.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Grant Guidance to states

This *Guidance* for FY 2016 and FY 2017 includes guidance for state recipients of DWSRF program grants[81]. Grant recipients are expected to conduct their programs to help achieve the goals, objectives, sub-objectives, strategic targets, and PAMs specified in this *Guidance*. In addition, grant recipients should be focused on ensuring that the gains of the previous years' efforts are preserved and built upon.

The DWSRF Program is governed by 40 CFR Part 35 Subpart L, which implements SDWA Section 1452. Additional guidance has been, and continues to be, issued as necessary to address program implementation needs. The ARRA supplemental appropriation for the DWSRF contained a number of new requirements unique to that appropriation. ARRA was implemented through guidance. Federal appropriations bills for FY 2010-2012 contained specific requirements (similar to certain requirements of ARRA) on the amounts appropriated in each of those years and those specific requirements have been implemented through annual "Procedures", issued jointly by OGWDW and the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM).

The SDWA Amendments of 1996 establish the DWSRF Program with the central purpose of providing financial assistance to water systems and to state programs to help achieve the public health protection objectives of the Act. SDWA requires that priority for funding be given to those projects that address the most serious risk to human health; are necessary to ensure compliance with SDWA; and assist systems most in need on a per household basis.

States, at their discretion, may reserve up to a total of 31% of any DWSRF capitalization grant for "set-asides" to fund DWSRF program administration, small system technical assistance, state program management, and local assistance. This includes:

- Support for the state PWSS program.
- State wide operator certification programs.
- State wide capacity development planning.
- System source water protection.
- System level capacity development actions.

To ensure the appropriate balance between financing capital projects to improve the delivery of safe water and funding non-capital set-aside assistance for water systems, the PWSS program in each state has the lead responsibility for determining the priority for providing these two forms of assistance to water systems. This balance of funding priorities is to be reflected in the state's IUP. SDWA requires that states submit an annual IUP that details how the state will use DWSRF program funds, including new capitalization grants, as well as other grant funds, repayments, and other resources. A Project Priority List is a required element of the IUP.

[81] Read more on DWSRF grant programs.

The Project Priority List is a cornerstone of the IUP and presents all the capital projects awaiting DWSRF assistance in priority funding order. States must also include a "Fundable List" showing the specific projects that the state actually anticipates being ready to proceed to receiving assistance in the year ahead. Additionally, states are required to submit set-aside work plans that detail how set-aside funds will be used. Finally, states must submit, biennially, a report that explains how DWSRF funds were actually used. States are also required to submit annual data on program performance. Auditing is required to the extent laid out in the Single Audit Act.

EPA regions perform annual on-site reviews of state programs, including project file reviews and transaction testing. For ARRA, an ARRA specific review was added as well as ARRA specific project file reviews and transaction testing. These reviews serve as EPA's baseline monitoring for the DWSRF.

The DWSRF grant allotments are based on the Drinking Water Needs Survey. State-by-state allotments, territorial funds, and the total amount available to each region for tribes will be available at http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/dwsrf/index.cfm.

In FY 2016-2017, EPA and the states should take all appropriate and timely steps to ensure that all SRF funds move as expeditiously as possible from EPA through states and into high priority projects, consistent with sound program oversight, achieving the public health protection objectives of SDWA. This includes continued emphasis on expediting/streamlining project outlay and billing to reduce ULOs.

Underground Injection Control Grants Grant Guidance to states and tribes

The UIC Program is vital to the protection of USDW. EPA works with states and tribes to regulate and monitor the injection of fluids, both hazardous and non-hazardous, into wells, to prevent contamination. This *Guidance* for FY 2016-2017 includes guidance for state and tribal recipients of UIC grant program funds. Each year, grant funds are distributed by the national UIC Program to help UIC programs enforce the minimum federal UIC requirements. These funds are authorized by Congress under SDWA Section 1443. Grant recipients are expected to conduct their programs to help achieve the goals, objectives, sub-objectives, strategic targets, and PAMs specified in this *Guidance*. In addition, grant resources should be focused on ensuring that the gains of the previous years' efforts are preserved and built upon.

The overall objective of the UIC grant program is to protect public health by enforcing minimum requirements to ensure that:

- All injection is authorized under either general rules or specific permits;
- Injection well owners and operators do not site, construct, operate, maintain, convert, plug, abandon, or conduct any other injection activity that endangers USDW;
- Injected fluids stay within the well and the intended injection zone; and
- No injection occurs which allows for the introduction of any contaminant into an USDW if the presence of that contaminant may cause a violation of any primary drinking water standard or otherwise adversely affect public health.

Assisting owners and operators of UIC facilities in meeting these objectives require grantees to adopt a variety of approaches and to coordinate efforts with other groundwater protection programs. FY 2013 priority activities for the UIC grant fund recipients should include the following:

- Timely submission of primacy program revisions for the purpose of adopting new or revised federal regulations;
- Maintaining program capacity to implement UIC program requirements for all classes of wells;

- Ensuring that Class I, II and III (salt solution) wells that lose mechanical integrity are returned to compliance;
- Addressing high priority Class V wells; and
- Populating the UIC National Database by sharing well specific data.

The grant allotments are determined by the UIC Grant Allocation Model and follow the criteria identified in SDWA Section 1443 which requires UIC allocations to be based on such factors as "population, geographic area, extent of underground injection practices, and other relevant factors."

2. Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat

Elevated blood mercury levels pose a significant health risk, especially to pregnant women, nursing mothers, and young children. And the consumption of mercury-contaminated fish is the primary source of mercury in blood. Across the country as of 2010, states and tribes have issued fish consumption advisories for a range of contaminants covering 1.3 million river miles and almost 18 million lake acres. In addition, a significant portion of the valuable shellfishing acres managed by states and tribes is not open for use. EPA's national approach to meeting safe fish goals and improving the quality of fishing waters is described in this section.

EPA's approach to making fish and shellfish safer to eat includes several key elements:

- Encourage development of statewide mercury reduction strategies;
- Reduce air deposition of mercury; and
- Improve the quality of fishing waters.

EPA will also improve public information and notification of fish consumption recommendations and risks in order to help people make more informed choices about selecting fish to eat.

Fish and Shellfish Activities for FY 2016-2017

Reduce Air Deposition of Mercury. Most fish advisories are for mercury[82], and a critical element of the strategy to reduce mercury in fish is reducing emissions of mercury from combustion sources in the U.S. On a nationwide basis, by 2010, federal regulatory programs were expected to reduce electric-generating unit emissions of mercury from their 2000 level (see EPA *Strategic Plan*; Goal 1: Taking Action on Climate Change and Improving Air Quality).

Comprehensive Statewide Mercury Reduction Programs. EPA recognizes that restoration of waterbodies impaired by mercury may require coordinated efforts to address widely dispersed sources of contamination and that restoration may require a long-term commitment. EPA will continue to support state efforts to identify specific waters with high mercury levels and then address these problems using core CWA program authorities, including total maximum daily load (TMDL) and permitting programs.

Improve the Quality of Fishing Waters. Success in achieving improved quality in shellfishing waters relies on implementation of CWA programs that are focused on sources causing shellfish acres to be closed. Important new technologies include pathogen source tracking, new indicators of pathogen contamination and predictive correlations between environmental stressors and their effects. Once critical areas and sources are identified, expanded monitoring and development of TMDLs may support revision of discharge permit limits to ensure compliance with applicable CWA requirements.

[82] Read more on fish consumption advisories.

Another key element of the strategy is to expand and improve information and notification of the risks of fish consumption. As part of this work, EPA is also encouraging and supporting states and tribes to adopt the fish tissue criterion for mercury that EPA issued in 2001 and apply it based on implementation guidance.

In addition, a wide range of clean water programs that applies throughout the country will generally reduce pathogen indicator levels in key waters. For example, improved implementation of NPDES permit requirements for Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), CAFOs, and storm water runoff, as well as improved NPS control efforts, may contribute to restoration of shellfish uses.

Fish and Shellfish Performance Measures

Measure FS-SP6.N11 tracks the percent of women of childbearing age having mercury levels in blood above the level of concern.

EPA is actively monitoring the development of fish consumption advisories and working with states to improve monitoring to support this effort. Forty-two percent of lake acres and 36 percent of river miles have been assessed as of 2010 to support waterbody-specific or regional consumption advisories or a determination that no consumption advice is necessary (see measures FS-1a and b). EPA also encourages states and tribes to monitor fish tissue based on national guidance and most states are now using EPA guidance recommendations in their fish advisory programs.

3. Water Safe for Swimming

The Nation's waters, especially beaches in coastal areas and the Great Lakes, provide recreational opportunities for millions of Americans. Swimming in some recreational waters, however, can pose a risk of illness as a result of exposure to microbial pathogens. By "recreational waters" EPA means waters officially designated by states, authorized tribes, and territories for primary contact recreation use.

For FY 2016, EPA's national strategy for improving the safety of recreational waters will include four key elements:

- Work to implement 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria for pathogen indicators;
- Identify unsafe recreational waters;
- Reduce pathogen indicator levels in all recreational waters; and
- Provide technical and program support to states for their beach monitoring and notification activities.

Safe Swimming Activities for FY 2016-2017

Focusing on the Implementation of the 2012 Recommended Water Quality Criteria (RWQC). EPA published final revised recreational water quality criteria in December 2012[83]. The BEACH Act directs states with BEACH Act waters to adopt new or revised RWQC into state WQS by December 2015. EPA encourages states with non-BEACH Act waters to consider the 2012 RWQC in their next triennial review. OW will provide guidance and tools to the states in the implementation of the criteria.

Identify Unsafe Recreational Waters and Begin Restoration. A key component of the strategy to restore waters unsafe for swimming is to identify the specific waters that are unsafe and develop plans to accomplish the needed restoration. A key part of this work is to maintain strong progress toward implementation of TMDLs.

[83] Read more.

In a related effort, OW will work in partnership with OECA to better focus compliance and enforcement resources to unsafe recreational waters. In addition, wet weather discharges, which are a major source of pathogens, are one of OECA's national priorities.

Reduce Pathogen Indicator Densities in Recreational Waters Generally. In addition to focusing on waters that are unsafe for swimming today, EPA will continue working with states, local governments, and tribes in FY 2016 to reduce the overall level of pathogens and other harmful pollutants discharged to recreational waters using three key approaches:

- Reduce pollution from CSOs that are not in compliance with the CWA and 1994 CSO Control Policy;
- Address other sources discharging sewage-contaminated water under the NPDES permit program; and
- Encourage improved management of septic systems.

Overflows from Combined Sewer Systems (CSSs) and Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSSs) most often contain high levels of suspended solids, pathogenic microorganisms, toxic pollutions, floatables, nutrients, oxygen-demanding organic compounds, oil and grease, and other pollutants and can cause exceedances of WQS. Such exceedances may pose risks to human health, threaten aquatic life and its habitat, and impair the use and enjoyment of the Nation's waterways. EPA is working with states and local governments to fully implement the CSO Policy providing for the development and implementation of long-term CSO control plans. EPA expects that 789 (92%) out of the 862 CSO communities will have enforceable schedules in place to implement approved long-term CSO control plans, including sewer separation, in FY 2016 (see measure SS-1). EPA will also work with states to resolve longstanding issues associated with sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and bypasses at treatment plants.

Other key sources of fecal contamination to the Nation's waters are discharges from CAFOs, municipal storm sewer systems, and industrial facilities. EPA expects to work with states to assure that these facilities are covered by permits where necessary. In addition, EPA expects to work with the states to develop approaches for monitoring wet weather discharges and impacts to surface waters, developing water quality-based effluent limits, and identifying effective control measures and BMPs. For CAFOs, NPDES regulations currently require facilities with discharges to seek permit coverage. Full implementation of the NPDES permitting requirement for CAFOs may result in reduced discharges of contamination due to permitting requirements that place controls on discharges of manure and process wastewater.

Finally, there is growing evidence that ineffective septic systems are adversely impacting water resources. EPA will work with state, tribal, and local governments to develop voluntary approaches to improving management of these systems.

Provide Technical Support for Beach Monitoring and Public Notification. Another important element of the strategy for improving the safety of recreational waters is improving monitoring of public beaches and notifying the public of unsafe conditions. OW issued updated *National Beach Guidance and Required Performance Criteria* (Beach Guidance) in 2014. The Beach Guidance requires BEACH Act states to submit schedules for adopting WQS consistent with the 2012 RWQC and for identifying and using an appropriate beach notification threshold. The guidance also discusses methods that can provide faster monitoring results (qPCR and modeling) and incorporates new media and other innovative approaches to communicating advisories to the public.

C. Strategies to Protect and Restore Fresh Waters, Coastal Waters, and Wetlands

1. Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis

EPA will continue to work with states, tribes, and others to implement programs to protect and restore water resources with four key goals in mind:

- **Core Water Programs:** EPA, states, and tribes need to continue maintaining and improving the integration and implementation of the core national clean water programs throughout the country to most effectively protect and restore water quality.
- **Use of the Watershed Approach:** EPA will continue to support the implementation of "watershed approaches" to restoring and protecting waters. This work will be coordinated with the efforts to restore and protect large aquatic ecosystems discussed in Part IV of this *Guidance*.
- **Water Restoration Goals and Strategies:** EPA will continue to work with states and tribes to strengthen capacities to identify and address impaired waters, including the development of integrated protection and restoration strategies, and to use adaptive management approaches to implement cost-effective restoration solutions, giving priority to watershed approaches where appropriate.
- **Water Protection Goals and Strategies:** EPA will work with states and tribes to strengthen capacities to identify and protect high quality waters and watersheds, and to integrate protection and restoration as part of a comprehensive approach to achieve environmental results.

a. Implement Core Clean Water Programs to Protect All Waters Nationwide

EPA will continue to work with states, and tribes to effectively implement and better integrate programs established under CWA to protect, improve, and restore water quality. To achieve this, EPA will apply adaptive management principles to our core programs and initiatives. Key tasks for FY 2016-2017 include:

- Strengthen the WQS program;
- Improve water quality monitoring and assessment;
- Implement TMDLs and other watershed plans;
- Strengthen the NPDES permit program;
- Implement practices to reduce pollution from all NPSs;
- Implement the CWSRF; and
- Support drinking water protection, through a variety of means, including the CWA-SDWA Collaboration Initiative.

As part of this process, EPA will continue efforts to integrate across programs, media and federal agencies to more effectively support efforts to protect and restore waters, including drinking water sources, as envisioned in the CWA-SDWA Collaboration Initiative (Section II.C, Protecting Water Supplies). In addition, EPA anticipates more states and tribes will pursue wetland program and implementation funding through Section 106 grants,having made significant progress in building capacity under the Wetland Program Development Grants over the past 20 years. The ability of states and tribes to combine program funding sources and authorities supports watershed and basin-wide approaches to achieve yield greater results.

In the event that OW finds that existing programs, initiatives, or processes are not resulting in a significant contribution to national goals, we will work with regions, states, tribes, and other partners to rethink and redesign the delivery of clean water programs to more effectively protect and restore waterbodies and watersheds. Similarly, EPA regional offices have the flexibility to emphasize various parts of core national programs and modify targets to meet EPA regional and state needs and conditions. In addition, EPA will continue to work with states and tribes to implement the Water Quality Framework, which is a new way of

integrating EPA's data and information systems to more fully support water quality managers' information needs. The Framework will streamline water quality assessment and reporting while providing a more complete picture of the nation's water quality. Integrating the data systems through the Framework provides the following benefits:

- Reduce state burden by streamlining the Clean Water Act assessment and reporting process;
- Provide the means to tell the 'whole' story from monitoring to assessment to restoration;
- Provide better measurement and reporting of water quality improvement;
- Provide more transparency in water quality decision making;
- Allow for tools to identify relevant monitoring data for water quality assessments;
- Support state development of tools to automate the screening of monitoring data against water quality standards; and
- Connect data, decisions, and actions geo-spatially.

Section 106 Grant Guidance to States, Interstate Agencies, and Tribes: General Information

This *National Water Program Guidance* for FY 2016 and FY 2017 includes guidance for state and interstate recipients of Section 106 grants for Water Pollution Control Programs. As a general matter, grant recipients are expected to conduct their programs to help achieve the goals, objectives, subobjectives, strategic targets, and measures specified in Section III.C.1 of this *Guidance*. In addition, this section includes specific guidance for state, interstate, and tribal grant recipients in these Section 106 Grant Guidance areas. Together, section III.C.1, the grant guidance sections, and Appendix D replace the biannual Section 106 Grant Guidance.

The Section 106 Program is providing associated program support, to states and tribes participating in the National Aquatics Resource Survey (NARS) by directly funding work related to the survey. EPA developed guidance for the use of associated program support costs authority by the Section 106 Program. In addition, the use of associated program support costs authority to fund the national survey will be discussed in detail in the next national survey guidance. Please see the Section 106 grant guidance on monitoring and Appendix D for more information.

This grant guidance covers only the core water pollution control activities listed above. EPA continues to provide separate guidance for the following water pollution control activities:

- Tribal water pollution control programs.[84]
- State and Interstate use of Monitoring Initiative funds.[85]
- Water pollution enforcement activities.[86]

i. Strengthen Water Quality Standards Program

WQS[87] are the regulatory and scientific foundation of water quality protection programs (WQPP) under the CWA. Under the Act, states and authorized tribes establish WQS that define the goals and limits for waters within their jurisdictions. These standards are then used to determine which waters must be cleaned up, how much may be discharged, and what is needed for protection.

[84] Read more. Tribes with EPA-approved WQS should also see the Section 106 guidance on WQS for states, interstate agencies, and authorized tribes below.
[85] Read more.
[86] Read more.
[87] Read more.

Water Quality Standards Activities for FY 2016-2017

To help achieve strategic targets, EPA will continue to review and approve or disapprove state and tribal WQS and promulgate replacement standards where needed; develop water quality criteria, information, methods, models, and policies to ensure that each waterbody in the U.S. has a clear, comprehensive suite of standards consistent with CWA, and as needed, provide technical and scientific support to states, territories, and authorized tribes in the development of their standards.

EPA continues to place a high priority on state and territories adoption of numeric water quality criteria for nitrogen and phosphorus pollution to help address water quality issues of eutrophication and human health (see measure WQ-01a). Please also see discussion on *Controlling Nutrient Pollution* in Section II.D.

Continuing degradation of previously high quality waters is of increasing concern. EPA's antidegradation policy calls for states and authorized tribes to conduct a public review of proposed activities that are likely to lower water quality in high quality waters to determine whether the proposed degradation is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located. EPA strongly encourages states and authorized tribes without antidegradation implementation procedures to establish them as soon as possible to ensure that antidegradation policies are implemented.

EPA continues to encourage and support tribes in implementing one of the three approaches for protecting water quality contained in EPA's *Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act*[88]. The three approaches are: the non-regulatory approach; the tribal law water quality protection approach; and the EPA-approved water quality protection approach. EPA tracks the progress of tribes adopting EPA-approved WQS under the third approach (see measure WQ-02).

EPA will also work with states, territories, and authorized tribes to ensure the effective operation of the standards program, including working with them to keep their WQS up to date with the latest scientific information (see measures WQ-03a and 03b) and to facilitate adoption of standards that EPA can approve (see measure WQ-04a).

Section 106 Grant Guidance to States, Interstate Agencies, and Authorized Tribes: Water Quality Standards.

It is EPA's objective for states and authorized tribes[89] to administer the water quality program consistent with the requirements of the CWA and the WQS regulation. EPA expects states and tribes will enhance the quality and timeliness of their WQS triennial reviews so that these standards reflect EPA guidance and updated scientific information. EPA encourages states and tribes to reach early agreement with EPA on triennial review priorities and schedules and coordinate at critical points to facilitate timely EPA reviews of state WQS submissions. It is particularly important for states and tribes to keep their water quality criteria up to date, including considering all the scientific information EPA has issued for specific pollutants since the state or tribe last updated those criteria, and adding or revising criteria as necessary (see measures WQ-03a and 03b). States with disapproved standards provisions should work with EPA to resolve the disapprovals promptly. States having waters with federally promulgated standards should consider adopting their own EPA-approved standards to enable EPA to remove the federal standards.

EPA's March 2011 memorandum concerning a framework for nutrient reductions reaffirmed EPA's commitment to partnering with states and collaborating with stakeholders to make greater progress in

[88] Read the Final Section 106 Tribal Grant Guidance.
[89] Tribes that EPA has found eligible under CWA section 518(e) to be treated in a similar manner as a state (TAS) to administer WQS programs.

accelerating the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus loadings to our Nation's waters. EPA continues to encourage states to set priorities on a watershed or statewide basis, establish nutrient reduction targets, reduce point and nonpoint source nutrient loads, inform the public, provide accountability, and adopt numeric nutrient criteria (NNC).

Originated in FY 2013, WQ-26 focused on identifying strong state and territorial progress toward achieving elements #1 (priority setting), #2 (reduction targets), and #8 (NNC). It was noted in the 2013 measure definition that EPA might modify the measure in future years to address other framework elements. Beginning in 2016, EPA is eliminating WQ-26 and instead considering a new measure in the future regarding control of point sources of nutrient pollution which is related to the third element (ensuring effectiveness of point source permits) of the framework. As EPA continues to place a high priority on states adopting numeric WQS for total nitrogen and total phosphorus that apply to all waters, the component of WQ-26 that tracked NNC progress will now be tracked as one element of water quality criteria measure WQ-01a.

EPA strongly encourages states and authorized tribes without antidegradation implementation methods to establish them as soon as possible, consistent with EPA's regulation.

States and tribes should make their WQS accessible to the public on the Internet in a systematic format. Users should be able to identify the current EPA-approved standards that apply to each waterbody in the state or reservation, for example by providing tables and maps of designated uses and related criteria.

ii. Improve Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

EPA's goal is to achieve greater integration of federal, regional, state, tribal, and local level monitoring efforts to connect monitoring and assessment activities across geographic scales, in a cost-efficient and effective manner, so that scientifically defensible monitoring data is available to address issues and problems at each of these scales. EPA will continue to work with states, tribes, territories, and other partners to provide the monitoring[90] data and information needed to make good water quality protection and restoration decisions and to track changes in the Nation's water quality over time. In addition, EPA will work with states and other partners to address research and technical gaps related to sampling methods, analytical approaches, and data management.

State and EPA cooperation on statistically-valid assessments of water condition nationwide remains a top priority. The report for the rivers-and-streams survey conducted in FY 2013/2014 will be distributed in FY 2016 and completed in FY 2017. As part of the national surveys, EPA, states, and tribes will collaborate to conduct the FY 2015 field sampling for the National Coastal Condition Assessment. Following the FY 2015 release of the National Wetland Condition Assessment, EPA, states, and tribes will collaborate to plan and implement the 2016 NWCA. Similarly, the National Lakes Assessment will release NLA 2012 in FY 2015 and begin planning NLA 2017 in FY 2016.

EPA also stresses the importance of using statistical surveys to generate statewide assessments and track broad-scale trends for state waters; enhancing and implementing designs to address water information needs at local scales (e.g., watersheds) including monitoring waters where restoration actions have been implemented, and integrating both statistical surveys and targeted monitoring to assess the condition of all water resources over time. EPA developed a Statewide Statistical Survey Web Data Entry Tool to facilitate reporting of these results with the state Integrated Report (IR). Based on this reporting, EPA has added an indicator measure to explore use of state scale survey results to report on protection and maintenance of water quality. This indicator measure positions states to develop a baseline from which to track long term water quality changes

[90] Read more on monitoring data.

across the population of waters within their state, with documents confidence. The proposed Statewide Statistical Survey Indicator Measure is:

Number of states protecting or improving water quality conditions, as demonstrated by state-scale statistical surveys

- *On average, water quality is improving or at least not degrading (there is no statistically significant decrease in mean water quality);*
- *The percentage of waters in good condition is increasing or remaining constant; and*
- *The percentage of waters in poor condition is decreasing or remaining constant.*

EPA will assist tribes in developing monitoring strategies appropriate to their water quality programs through training and technical assistance and work with tribes to provide data in a format accessible for storage in EPA data systems (see measure WQ-06a). As tribal strategies are developed, EPA will work with tribes to implement them over time.

EPA is also working with tribes to track improvements where water quality is meeting benchmark criteria and showing no degradation on tribal lands (see measures WQ-SP14a.N11 and WQ-SP14b.N11).

There is increased emphasis on protection of high-quality watersheds and how they support all other Clean Water Act efforts and help mitigate the effects of Climate Change by moderating flow and keeping habitat corridors intact. EPA has established an MOU with the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) and The Nature Conservancy to help highlight protection of healthy watersheds and showcase pilot efforts to integrate these protection efforts into Clean Water Act programs, and will launch a national Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant to sponsor projects nationwide.

Section 106 Grant Guidance to States, Interstate Agencies, and Tribes: Monitoring

CWA Section 106(e)(1) and 40 CFR Part 35.168(a) provide that EPA award Section 106 funds to a state only if the state has provided for or is carrying out as part of its program, the establishment and operation of appropriate devices, methods, systems, and procedures necessary to monitor and to compile and analyze data on the quality of navigable waters in the state, and provision for annually updating the data and including it in the Section 305(b) report. EPA issued the 2003 guidance, "Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program"[91] (Elements Guidance) as a recommended set of basic components of a state water monitoring program to aid in improving monitoring and assessment programs.

EPA encourages states, territories, and interstate commissions to use a combination of Section 106 monitoring funds, base 106 funds, and other resources available to enhance their monitoring activities, and meet the objectives of the Elements Guidance[92]. These efforts include:

- Implementing monitoring strategies;
- Undertaking statistical surveys;
- Improving management of water quality data, including annual transmission to EPA via WQX; and
- Submitting integrated assessment reports under CWA Section 305(b) including results of state-scale statistical surveys, and listing of impaired waters under CWA Section 303(d) by April 1, 2016.

EPA will continue to include a term and condition in Section 106 grants that states will transmit their water quality data to the national STORET Warehouse using the WQX framework to satisfy the general obligation to

[91] Read more on the Elements Guidance.
[92] Read more on the Elements Guidance.

report water quality data annually.[93] EPA will support states' use of WQX and WQX Web to submit data to the STORET Data Warehouse through technical assistance and Exchange Network grants. This support and assistance will also be provided for states to share Integrated Reporting results under CWA Sections 303(d) and 305(b), and the tools to support this reporting are currently being modernized in collaboration with states. EPA will support state transition to and implementation of the new ATTAINS data flow. Water quality assessment data are critical to measuring progress towards the Agency's and states' goals of restoring and improving water quality. EPA has requested an increase in Section 106 funds to support states' management and use of water quality data by improving automation of screening, analysis, visualization, and reporting of water quality data to support priority setting, resource allocation for protection and restoration activities, and public accountability.

EPA continues to offer associated program support authority to fund field and laboratory services for states and tribes. Generally, the associated program support costs authority is used to fund activities that promote the common goals of the requesting state(s) and/or promote administrative efficiency and cost savings to the recipients. EPA can provide associated program support through a grant, contract, or Interagency Agreement (IA). In the case of Monitoring Initiative funds, EPA is offering the associated program support vehicle as another option to assist in implementing national surveys. EPA anticipates that use of this vehicle in support of the national surveys will decrease administrative burdens and provide other cost savings for participating states and tribes.

EPA will work with states and tribes to determine the level of funds that each recipient wants to allocate for national contracts through the associated program support costs authority. The services funded through this vehicle will include laboratory analysis and field sampling for the National Wetlands Condition Assessment and the National Lakes Assessment. States and tribes may work with their EPA regional office to opt out of this associated program support vehicle. Regions will obtain written confirmation from each Section 106 agency receiving a share of the National Survey funds of their approval of the specific amount identified as associated program support. For states and tribes that opt-out of this associated program support vehicle, in-kind services will still be available. Although EPA is expanding the options for obtaining support for implementing field and lab work, EPA encourages states and tribes with the capacity to conduct independent field and/or lab work to do so themselves. Additional information can be found in Appendix D and will be included in the Monitoring Initiative Guidance.

iii. Implement TMDLs and Other Watershed Related Plans

The CWA 303(d) program is continuing to work with states to implement the 303(d) Program Vision[94] to more effectively achieve the water quality goals of each state by setting long-term priorities. These long-term priorities will serve as the foundation to guide how the state will implement its responsibilities under the CWA 303(d) program. Timely submittal of required CWA Section 303(d) lists is necessary to effectively coordinate with other CWA programs to target the development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for CWA Section 303(d) listed impaired waterbodies. TMDLs are a critical tool for meeting water quality restoration goals,[95] and will continue to be the primary feature of the program. TMDLs focus on clearly defined environmental goals and establish a pollutant budget, which is then implemented via permit requirements and through local, state, and federal watershed plans/programs[96]. Through partnerships with the

[93] Read more on STORET and WQX.
[94] Read more on the 303(d) Program Vision.
[95] Read more on the 303(d) and TMDL Program.
[96] Read more on TMDLs.

states, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), USFS[97], and others, EPA has established networks that are uniquely positioned to improve water quality through development and implementation of TMDLs and alternative restoration and protection approaches. For impaired waters where alternatives to TMDLs (e.g., watershed plans) are better suited to achieve water qualtiy goals, these networks are positioned to develop and implement alternative approaches. These networks are also working to identify and protect healthy waters/watersheds. Integrating core program tools, using the watershed approach, helps focus efforts to restore and protect the nation's waters. In areas where drinking water supplies have been identified as impaired, states should work across their CWA programs to determine the most appropriate strategy to restore and maintain water quality standards attainment in these critical water resources.

EPA is implementing a new approach to track water quality progress using the National Hydrography Dataset Plus (NHD*Plus*) to calculate priority watershed areas using the NHD*Plus* 'catchments' to describe where states have developed TMDLs, alternative restoration and protection approaches. This approach provides a consistent method for measuring progress at the local scale, while allowing for tighter integration with data and assessments at the state and national scale. The program will continue to report on the new performance measures (i.e., WQ-27 and WQ-28) using this approach.

Lastly, EPA is developing a planned rulemaking to provide opportunities for tribes to more fully engage in the CWA Impaired Water Listing and TMDL Program. CWA section 518 provides that eligible tribes may seek TAS for CWA section 303; however existing regulations do not explicitly address how tribes obtain TAS for the 303(d) Program. Regulations are already in place expressly establishing a TAS process for each of the other relevant CWA programs available to tribes (*e.g.*, WQS, NPDES, section 404 permitting for the discharge of dredged or fill material). In this rulemaking, EPA would propose a process for tribes to apply to EPA for TAS authority to establish lists of impaired waters and TMDLs pursuant to section 303(d) of the CWA.

In 2014, EPA engaged in pre-proposal consultation and coordination with tribes and states to gather input. EPA is now reviewing and analyzing all of the input received, and developing a draft of the planned proposed rule. The proposal could be published in the *Federal Register* in early 2015, with 60 days for public comment, and opportunities for further consultation and coordination with states and tribes.

Section 106 Grant Guidance to States, Interstate Agencies, and Tribes: Identifying Impairments and Developing TMDLs

As previously mentioned, EPA encourages states to effectively assess their waters and make all necessary efforts to ensure the timely submittal of required CWA Section 303(d) lists of impaired waters, which contain information made available in the Assessment, TMDL Tracking, and Implementation System (ATTAINS). Continued coordination across multiple programs within and outside the state is encouraged as more difficult TMDLs are being developed (e.g., broad-scale mercury and nutrient). EPA will continue to work with states, interstate agencies, and tribes to foster a watershed approach as the guiding principle of clean water programs. While TMDLs will continue to be the primary tool, EPA recognizes that in certain situations, alternative restoration approaches may be more appropriate to meet water quality restoration goals. See information above and measure WQ-27 and WQ-28 for information on EPA's expectations. Geospatial data continues to be a critical component of the state's reporting. Through approaches identified as part of the Water Quality

[97] Read more on partnership with U.S. Forest Service.

Framework, EPA will continue to work with the states to develop and provide accurate geospatial data that can support the tracking of progress as well as be made available to the public.

iv. Strengthen the NPDES Permit Program

The NPDES Program[98] requires point source dischargers to be permitted and requires pretreatment programs to control certain discharges to the Nation's publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). EPA is working with states to structure the permit program to better support comprehensive protection of water quality on a watershed basis and efficiently manage recent increases in the scope of the program arising from court orders and emerging environmental issues. In addition, the NPDES Program has been working closely with OECA to implement the CWA Action Plan[99]. Some key NPDES program efforts include:

NPDES Program Strategic Planning: The NPDES program is undergoing a strategic planning effort aimed at meeting 21st century water quality challenges with appropriately focused permitting and oversight processes, modernized data management, and effective use of skilled talent. EPA will work with states to further outline these goals and how they will be met. EPA aims to strengthen partnerships and clarify roles between headquarters, EPA regions, and states, as well as between the WQS, TMDL, and NPDES programs. Additionally, as part of this effort, performance measures will likely be revised, as discussed in the High Priority Permits section below. EPA's Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) will also continue working with OECA to streamline oversight, compliance monitoring, and enforcement in the NPDES program and to create efficiencies and improve transparency by converting paper reporting to electronic.

Permit Quality Reviews (PQR), and Action Items[100]: As discussed in Section II.B, *Improving the Integrity of the Nation's Drinking Water and Clean Water Quality*, OW manages the PQR process to assess the health and integrity of the NPDES program in authorized states, tribes, territories, and EPA regions. EPA maintains a commitment and tracking system to ensure that NPDES Action Items identified in these assessments are implemented. Implementation is measured through measure WQ-11. Additional NPDES Action Items will continue to be identified and addressed through this process in FY 2016 and FY 2017. After piloting PQR-SRF integrated reviews in FY 2012 and FY 2013, EPA determined efficiency and benefits of integrated reviews vary across EPA regions and states. Therefore, since FY 2014, EPA regions are conducting PQR and SRF reviews either separately or integrated, at their discretion.

High Priority Permits and Permit Backlog: The NPDES permitted universe has grown and diversified over the last 25 years without comparable increases in resources. While permitting efficiencies (such as general permits and use of permit templates) can help the permitting authority keep up with much of their NPDES permitted universe, some backlog in permit issuance is inevitable. States and EPA regions must be able to prioritize permits. It is important that permitting authorities issue permits with the most environmental significance for public health and water quality protection on a timely basis.

OWM has worked with states and EPA regions over the last several years through measures WQ-19a and b to select high priority permits based on programmatic and environmental significance and commit to issuing a specific number of those permits during the fiscal year. There are also long-standing measures focused on the permit backlog (WQ-12a and b). In recent discussions with EPA regions and states, it has been suggested that the priority permits and backlog measures could be revised to better reflect program health and integrity and allow the permitting authority to focus on those permits that are truly the most environmentally significant.

[98] Read more on the NPDES Program.
[99] Read more on the CWA Action Plan.
[100] Read more on PQRs.

Historically, much emphasis has been placed on reducing the overall permit backlog, with the percent of non-tribal facilities covered by current (i.e., not backlogged) permits being one of OW's Key Performance Indicators (KPI). This potentially competes with efforts to address the most environmentally significant permits and can skew an evaluation of overall program health because, often, the most environmentally significant permits are the most time-consuming to issue due to complex environmental issues and the involvement of many stakeholders.

In FY 2016, OWM will continue to work with EPA regions and states to set targets for the existing priority permits and backlog measures, but will also work with EPA regions and states to determine a new approach for these measures for FY 2017. OWM believes that certain prioritization criteria should be uniform nationwide but that EPA regions and states should also have flexibility in identifying their high priority permits. OWM is also considering making a priority permits measure a KPI in place of the backlog measure or reducing the 90% current goal for the backlog measure to allow more focus on those most environmentally significant permits that may take more time to issue.

Watershed Permits/Water Quality Trading: Organizing permits on a watershed basis can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the program. Permits can also be used as an effective mechanism to facilitate cost-effective pollution reduction through water quality trading. EPA will continue to coordinate with EPA regional offices, states, USDA, and other federal agencies to implement watershed programs.

Green Infrastructure[101]: As discussed in Section II.C, *Providing Safe and Sustainable Water Resources and Infrastructure*, EPA released a new Green Infrastructure Strategic Agenda[102] in October 2013. The new version expands capacity building efforts and includes a new emphasis on aligning federal support for green infrastructure. EPA also launched a Green Infrastructure Collaborative with external stakeholders and other federal agencies to leverage public and private resources to advance broader use of green infrastructure. In FY 2016 and FY 2017, EPA will continue to provide technical assistance to community partners, deliver webinars, and prepare decision tools to encourage the use of green infrastructure in permitting and enforcement activities. EPA supports use of CWA Section 106 funds to provide programmatic support for green infrastructure efforts, which promote prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

Pesticides[103]: On January 7, 2009, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit determined that NPDES permits are required for discharges from the application of pesticides to waters of the U.S. In response to the Court's decision, EPA issued a final NPDES pesticides general permit (PGP) on October 31, 2011 for areas of the country where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. EPA has been and will continue to assist NPDES-authorized states to oversee implementation of those permits, and assist in a national effort to educate the pesticides application industry regarding the new permit requirements.

Vessels: In December 2013, EPA issued the second Vessel General Permit (VGP) which provides coverage for commercial vessels in U.S. waters.[104]

Among other things, the 2013 Final VGP contains numeric ballast water discharge limits for most vessels which will reduce the threat posed by the transport of invasive species to U.S. waters. Ballast water discharges have resulted in the introduction of numerous aquatic invasive species, resulting in severe degradation of many ecosystems and billions of dollars of economic damages. Also, this permit contains more stringent effluent

[101] Read more on green infrastructure.
[102] Read more on the Green Infrastructure Strategic Agenda.
[103] Read more.
[104] Read more.

limits for oil-to-sea interfaces and exhaust gas scrubber washwater, which will help prevent adverse environmental impacts of chronic discharge of oils and grease into U.S. waters.

Stormwater[105]: In October 2008, the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (NRC) made several recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the EPA's stormwater program and the quality of urban streams. EPA has evaluated the NRC findings and is implementing a strategy to provide incentives, technical assistance, and tools to communities to encourage them to implement strong stormwater programs; leverage existing requirements to strengthen municipal stormwater permits; and continue to promote green infrastructure as an integral part of stormwater management.

CAFOs: In July 2012, EPA amended the CAFO regulations to remove the requirement that CAFOs that "propose to discharge" must seek NPDES permit coverage. EPA made these revisions in response to the court decision in *National Pork Producers Council v. EPA.* EPA is working to assure that all states have up-to-date CAFO NPDES programs and that all CAFOs that discharge seek and obtain NPDES permit coverage. In addition, EPA will continue to track the number of CAFOs covered by NPDES permits (see measure WQ-13).

Chesapeake Bay: On December 29, 2010, EPA established the Chesapeake Bay TMDL[106], a historic and comprehensive "pollution diet" with appropriate accountability measures to initiate sweeping actions to restore clean water in the Chesapeake Bay and the region's streams, creeks, and rivers. The TMDL is designed to ensure that all nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution control efforts needed to fully restore the Bay and its tidal rivers are in place by 2025, with controls, practices and actions in place by 2017 that would achieve 60% of the necessary reductions. As the TMDL has moved into the implementation phase, NPDES permits for discharges contributing to nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution are being written to incorporate the TMDL where applicable. These efforts will continue in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows and Bypasses: EPA will continue to work with states to resolve longstanding issues related to overflows in separate sanitary sewer systems and bypasses at the treatment plant. On June 19-20, 2014, EPA held a forum of public health experts to discuss the public health implications of discharges into waterways of 'blended' effluent from publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) served by sanitary sewer collection systems. EPA continues to work with states and other stakeholders to develop a compendium of performance data for a spectrum of design and operational options associated with blending wet weather flows that will help inform discussions to resolve longstanding issues related to blending.

Integrated Wastewater and Stormwater Planning: Also discussed in Section II.C, *Providing Safe and Sustainable Water Resources and Infrastructure*. In recent years, EPA has begun to embrace integrated planning approaches to municipal wastewater and stormwater management. OW and OECA further committed to work with states and communities to implement and use integrated planning in their October 27, 2011, memorandum *"Achieving Water Quality Through Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Plans."* On June 5, 2012, the Integrated Planning Approach framework[107] was released. EPA will work with states to determine the appropriate roles of permit and enforcement authorities in addressing the regulatory requirements identified in municipal integrated plans. On January 13, 2013, EPA issued a memorandum "*Assessing Financial Capability for Municipal Clean Water Act Requirements*"[108] that identifies issues the Agency is working closely with local governments to clarify. On November 24, 2014, EPA released the Financial Capability Assessment Framework[109] that discusses key elements of EPA's approach in working with permittees and

[105] Read more.
[106] Read more on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.
[107] Read the October 27, 2011 and June 5, 2012 memorandums.
[108] Read more on the "*Assessing Financial Capability for Municipal Clean Water Act Requirements*" memorandum.
[109] Read the November 24, 2014, framework.

provides examples of additional information that may help communities provide a more complete and accurate picture of their financial capability. In 2014, EPA announced its provision of $335,000 in technical assistance to five communities to develop components of integrated plans to support CWA permit conditions.

Pretreatment[110]: EPA and states will monitor the number and national percentage of significant industrial users that have control mechanisms in place to implement applicable pretreatment requirements prior to discharging to POTWs. EPA will also monitor the number and national percentage of categorical industrial users in non-approved pretreatment POTWs that have control mechanisms in place to implement applicable pretreatment requirements (see measures WQ-14a & b).

Compliance and Enforcement: As part of the CWA Action Plan[111], OECA is leading an effort to develop and implement an improved framework to identify and prioritize the most serious NPDES violations for follow up action. OECA will then align it with appropriate enforcement response recommendations and program performance expectations. In addition, this effort is expected to identify necessary tools to support the improved framework. This work will continue in FY 2016 and FY 2017. OW continues to work with OECA on the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule, as part of E-Enterprise (expected to be finalized by the end of calendar year 2015, and will continue to advance E-Enterprise activities whether related to this rulemaking or other efforts.

Section 106 Grant Guidance to States and Interstate Agencies: Permits, Enforcement, and Compliance
States should continue to implement significant actions identified during regional reviews and PQRs to assure effective management of the permit program and to adopt efficiencies to improve environmental results.. States should also implement recommended significant actions identified under the EPA/Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) enforcement and compliance "State Review Framework" process. EPA will track the implementation of the significant action items described above (see measure WQ-11). EPA will work with each state to evaluate and set programmatic and performance goals to maximize water quality improvement and achieve state and EPA regional priorities across CWA programs to maintain the integrity of the NPDES programs. EPA and states should work together to optimally balance competing priorities, schedules for action items based on the significance of the action, and program revisions. States should place emphasis on implementing criteria to ensure that priority permits selected are those offering the greatest benefit to improve water quality. States are encouraged to seek opportunities to incorporate efficiency tools, such as trading and linking development of WQS, TMDLs, and permits. States are expected to ensure that stormwater permits are reissued on a timely basis and to strengthen the provisions of municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits as they are reissued to include clear and enforceable requirements. States should consider incorporating green infrastructure in all stormwater permits. States need to update their programs to implement the CAFO rule, including regulations, permits and technical standards, and work closely with their inspection and enforcement programs to ensure full implementation of the NPDES CAFO regulations. In general, states should ensure that permittees submit data that accurately characterizes the pollutant loadings in their discharge for reasonable potential determinations and other reporting.

Whether through direct input or batch upload, states are expected to ensure data availability by fully populating the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS)-NPDES with the data elements that are comparable to Water Enforcement National Data Base (WENDB) (December 28, 2007 memo from Michael Stahl and James Hanlon, "ICIS Addendum to the Appendix of the 1985 Permit Compliance System Policy Statement") for the appropriate regulated universes of facilities. After the effective date of the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule (expected by the end of calendar year 2015), all states and applicable NPDES-regulated facilities are required

[110] Read more on the Pretreatment Program.
[111] Read more on the CWA Action Plan.

to fully comply with that regulation, including the reporting to EPA of required NPDES information as identified in existing regulation, that regulation, or its appendices, and by the deadlines identified in that regulation. The required data will include 1) information from NPDES-authorized states regarding their program implementation activities, such as permit issuance, inspections, violation determinations, and enforcement actions, and 2) information from NPDES-regulated facilities, if applicable, for NPDES reporting requirements including those associated with Discharge Monitoring Reports, Notices of Intent for coverage under general permits, and various program reports. OECA has a separate NPM Guidance, which identifies activities for improving enforcement efforts aimed at addressing water quality impairment through the CWA Action Plan[112]. OW and states will be working closely with OECA as the CWA Action Plan is implemented.

v. Implement Practices to Reduce Pollution from all Nonpoint Sources

As highlighted briefly in the *Controlling Nutrient Pollution*, Section II.D, NPS pollution[113] from sources, such as agricultural lands, forestry sites, and urban areas, is the largest single remaining cause of water pollution. EPA provides grant funds to states and tribes under CWA Section 319 to implement comprehensive programs to control nonpoint pollution, including reduction of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loadings. EPA will continue to monitor progress in reducing loadings of these key pollutants in the EPA's Section 319 Grants Reporting and Tracking System under measure WQ-09. In addition, EPA estimates that more than half of the waters identified on states' Section 303(d) impaired waters list are primarily impaired by NPS pollutants and EPA will continue to track progress in restoring these waters nationwide through measure WQ-10. In FY 2016-2017, EPA will continue to oversee implementation of the CWA Section 319 program reforms issued in 2013. EPA will also continue growing the collaboration with USDA via the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), continuing to leverage our respective programs and to support states' monitoring water quality results from the partnership in selected NWQI watersheds.

In addition to overseeing implementation of the 319 program and grant guidelines, EPA continues to encourage states to use the CWA Section 319 program to support a more comprehensive, watershed approach to protecting and restoring priority waterbody types for the state, including all types of surface water (and ground water if applicable) as identified in the state's NPS management program. EPA continues to support states, territories, and tribes in developing comprehensive watershed-based plans geared towards restoring impaired waters on a watershed basis while still protecting high quality and threatened waters as necessary. In FY 2016-2017, EPA will continue to work closely with and support the many efforts of states, interstate agencies, tribes, local governments and communities, watershed groups, and others to develop and implement their local watershed-based plans. States also have the flexibility through their CWSRF programs to provide funding that supports efforts to control pollution from NPSs.

During FY 2016-2017, states, territories, and tribes will continue to implement their NPS management programs and should update their NPS management programs if necessary. States and territories will adhere to the revised "Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories". Tribes will continue to follow the separate tribal Section 319 guidelines.

vi. Implement the CWSRF

In 2016-2017, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program will promote the implementation of the CWSRF Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA - 2014) amendments. A particular focus will be implementing the cost and effectiveness planning provision under WRRDA, which takes effect on October 1, 2015. This provision requires certain CWSRF assistance recipients to certify that they have

[112] Read more on the CWA Action Plan.
[113] Read more on nonpoint source pollution.

studied and evaluated the cost and effectiveness of the processes, materials, techniques, and technologies for carrying out the proposed project or activity and selected, to the maximum extent practicable, a project or activity that maximizes the potential for efficient water use, reuse, recapture, and conservation, and energy conservation. The CWSRF program will provide technical assistance, conduct oversight, and evaluate progress made under the cost and effectiveness planning provision.

The CWSRF will continue to work with states and communities in 2016-2017 to implement the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Policy to promote system-wide planning. This includes promoting the consideration of infrastructure alternatives, including green and decentralized alternatives, and ensuring that systems have the financial capacity and rate structures to construct, operate, maintain, and replace infrastructure over time. In this effort, EPA is working to ensure that federal dollars provided through the CWSRF act as a catalyst for efficient system-wide planning; improvements in technical, financial, and managerial capacity; and the design, construction, and ongoing management of sustainable water infrastructure.

b. Accelerate Watershed Protection

Today's water quality problems are often caused by many significant factors that are not adequately addressed by these core programs, including loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation, hydrologic alteration, invasive species, and climate change. Addressing complex water quality problems demands a watershed systems approach to protection that considers both aquatic habitats and the critical watershed processes that drive the condition of aquatic ecosystems. This approach is implemented by states and at the local level through a comprehensive approach that leverages and integrates protection activities of multiple stakeholder programs to protect the entire watershed system. As described under *Providing Safe and Sustainable Water Resources and Infrastructure* in Section II.C, to increase focus on protecting and maintaining our Nation's remaining healthy waters, EPA is implementing a proactive approach called HWI[114].

EPA will continue to work with states, tribes, and other partners to strengthen capacities to identify and protect high quality waters and watersheds. In an effort to promote and encourage the progress made and still needed for statewide assessments that identify healthy watersheds, EPA developed a technical document[115] that provides a systems-based approach, examples of healthy watershed attribute assessments, integrated assessment approaches, examples of management approaches, sources of national data, and key assessment tools. The data and information gathered from both individual and integrated assessments of landscape condition, habitat, hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, and biological condition can help inform management approaches, including implementing water quality and other protection programs. Regions are currently developing and/or implementing healthy watersheds strategies. Activities underway include working with states to: (1) develop state watershed protection strategies that include integrating healthy watersheds protection into existing programs; and (2) conduct integrated assessments to identify healthy watersheds across the state and assess hydrologic regimes needed for aquatic ecosystems.

EPA will continue to implement the HWI Action Plan[116], including providing support for:

- Statewide integrated assessments that identify healthy watersheds and assessments of healthy watershed components that build state capacity to improve protection of healthy watershed aquatic ecosystems;
- Implementation of coordinated state programs that track and protect healthy watersheds;

[114] Read more.
[115] Read more at U.S. EPA (2012). *Identifying and Protecting Healthy Watersheds Concepts, Assessments, and Management Approaches. EPA 841-B-11-002*.
[116] U.S. EPA (2011). *Healthy Watersheds Initiative: National Framework and Action Plan.* Office of Water. EPA 841-R-11-005.

- Implementation of strategies at the local level that protect watershed resilience;
- Integration of healthy watersheds protection into core water programs;
- Development of EPA Regional Healthy Watersheds Strategies;
- Continued collaboration with partners including other federal agencies, national state associations, NGOs, and others; and
- Continued communication on the need to protect healthy watersheds, tools to assist healthy watersheds efforts, and progress to date.

c. Define Waterbody/Watershed Standards Attainment Goals and Strategies

EPA has identified some 4,800 small watersheds where one or more waterbodies are impaired and the watershed approach is being applied. The goal is to evaluate how the Watershed Approach is working by showing a measurable improvement in 575 such watersheds by 2018 (see measure WQ-SP12.N11).

Regions are encouraged to use some or all of the following strategies in marshalling resources to support waterbody and watershed restoration:

- Realign water programs and resources as needed, including proposal of reductions in allocations among core water program implementation as reflected in commitments to annual measure targets;
- Coordinate waterbody restoration efforts with CWA Section 319 funds reserved for development of watershed-based plans;
- Make effective use of SRFs provided under CWA Title VI;
- Make effective use of water quality planning funds provided under CWA Section 604(b);
- Leverage resources available from other federal agencies, including the USDA; and
- Apply funds appropriated by Congress for watershed or related projects.

In 2002, states identified some 39,503 specific waters as impaired (i.e., not attaining WQS). Since then, the measures that track progress towards restoring impaired waters (see measures WQ-SP10.N11, WQ-SP11, and WQ-SP12.N11) have continued to use this 2002 baseline. While states have taken significant steps to improve impaired waters using the fixed 2002 baseline year, EPA recognizes that there are concerns with continuing to measure progress regarding these measures against the 2002 baseline (e.g., does not account for water quality improvements when measured against waters/pollutants identified as impaired and listed after establishment of the 2002 baseline, and continues to be a highly manual process). In response, EPA completed an effort in FY 2014 with states to identify a potential replacement measure for inclusion in the next EPA Strategic Plan (i.e., 2018). The proposed draft concepts for the measures are:

A. Extent of area within a state where all assessed causes of impairment and/or designated uses are now meeting water quality standards.
B. Extent of area within a state where one or more of the assessed causes of impairment and/or designated uses (a) have activities that are being implemented; and/or (b) are now meeting water quality standards.
C. Extent of area within a state where unimpaired waters have been identified for protection activities and continue to support water quality standards (i.e., designated uses).

Similar to the new 303(d) program measures previously discussed, EPA will use a new approach to track water quality progress using the National Hydrography Dataset Plus (NHD*Plus*) to calculate watershed area for using the NHD*Plus* 'catchments' to describe where water quality standards are being attained, implementation of activities that will lead to water qualtiy standards attainment is occurring, and protection activities are occurring to support continued water quality standards attainment. This approach will consistently measure

progress at the local scale, while allowing for tighter integration with data and assessments at the state and national scale. In FY 2016, EPA will continue to work with states on the development of these potential replacement measures.

In the interim, EPA will continue to track progress towards restoring impaired waters (WQ-SP10.N11, WQ-SP11, and WQ-SP12.N11) using the 2002 baseline. EPA is committed to working with partners to develop solutions that can be implemented in the future.

2. Improve Coastal and Ocean Waters

Estuaries, coastal waters, and oceans are among the most productive ecosystems on earth[117]. Healthy ocean and coastal waters support fishing, recreation, tourism, and industry. Yet many challenges, such as pollution from maritime and land-based sources, and climate change, have left these ecosystems and our coastal communities vulnerable to degraded water quality, hypoxic zones, habitat loss, and diminished fish, shellfish, and coral population. EPA works closely with other federal agencies, state, Tribal, and local governments to address these challenges. For FY 2016-2017, EPA's national strategy for improving the condition of coastal and ocean waters will include the key elements identified below:

1. develop strategies to protect and restore the quality of coastal and marine habitats, such as estuaries and coral reefs, from many stressors, including climate change;
2. maintain coastal monitoring and assessment programs to inform policy and program decisions for protection of the marine and near coastal environment;
3. ensure coastal and marine ecosystem protection by controlling and preventing pollutants from land-based sources and vessels;
4. manage ocean dumping of dredged material and disposal of other pollutants in the ocean; and
5. develop strategies and programs to address emerging environmental threats to the marine and coastal water quality such as ocean acidification and aquatic trash and debris.

Coastal and Ocean Waters Activities for FY 2016-2017

1) ***Coastal Monitoring and Assessment.*** EPA has made improved monitoring of water quality conditions[118] a top priority for oceans, coasts, as well as inland waters. The *National Coastal Condition Reports* (NCCRs) describe the ecological and environmental conditions in U.S. coastal waters[119]. In FY 2015, EPA will publish the *National Coastal Condition Assessment 2010 Report (NCCA 2010 Report)*. Building on coastal condition assessment reports issued in 2001, 2004, 2008, and 2012, the *NCCA 2010 Report* will describe the health of major marine eco-regions along the coasts of the U.S. and will depict assessment trends for the Nation and for individual marine eco-regions. The coastal condition assessments are the basis for the measures of progress in estuarine and coastal water quality used in the current EPA *Strategic Plan*.

In addition to changing the name of the report from the *NCCR V* to the *NCCA 2010 Report*, the NCCA program has undergone several other changes. The NCCA program is no longer an Office of Research and Development research program; rather, it is now an Office of Water monitoring program conducted under the auspices of the National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS). As such, the *NCCA* will assess the estuarine and Great Lakes coastal condition every five years, rotating with the other NARS assessments.

[117] Read more.
[118] Read more.
[119] Read more.

Additionally, several indicators have been updated since the *NCCR* was published in 2012. As a result of these changes, the NCCA program is deleting the coastal measure (CO-222.N11) and including it in the NARS measure (WQ-SP13.N11), and aligning the language to read "Ensure that the condition of the coastal waters does not degrade (i.e., there is no statistically significant increase in the percent of coastal waters rated "poor" and no statistically significant decrease in the coastal waters rated "good" based on the biological index)." This change would result in the results of the NCCA program only being reported in the year when the reports are published.

2) ***State Coastal Programs.*** States play a critical role in protection of coastal waters through the implementation of core CWA programs, ranging from permit programs to financing of wastewater treatment plants. States also lead the implementation of efforts to assure the high quality of the Nation's swimming beaches; including implementation of the BEACH Act (see the Water Safe for Swimming Subobjective).

EPA will continue to coordinate with states interested in establishing "no discharge zones" (NDZ) to control vessel sewage under the CWA. This process will include answering any questions or concerns regarding the establishment of NDZs, and providing states with guidance on NDZ applications to allow for adequate EPA review.

3) ***Implement NEP***[120]**.** The overall health of the Nation's estuarine ecosystems depends on the protection and restoration of high-quality habitat and water quality. The National Estuary Program (NEP) is a local, stakeholder-driven, voluntary program whose broad goal is to protect and restore the water quality and ecological integrity of estuaries of national significance known as National Estuary Programs. The goals and objectives of each NEP are identified in their Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs). There are 28 estuaries of national significance, or NEPs, located along the east, west, Gulf coasts as well as in Puerto Rico. EPA will continue supporting the NEPs' implementation of their individual CCMPs.

4) **Climate Ready Estuaries**[121]**:** EPA will continue to build capacity within the NEP to adapt to the impacts of climate change on the coasts. EPA will provide additional assistance and technical support to individual NEPs in support of NEP efforts to conduct risk-based vulnerability assessments and to develop adaptation plans for NEP study areas.

5) ***Ocean Protection Programs.*** EPA addresses a number of critical environmental issues with its ocean protection programs.

Ocean dumping: To ensure U.S. ports can be reached by large sea-going vessels, several hundred million cubic yards of sediment are dredged each year from U.S. waterways, ports, and harbors. EPA's ocean dumping management program regulates ocean dumping (including disposal of wastes and dredged material) to protect the environment from any material that will degrade or endanger human health, welfare, or amenities, the marine environment, ecological systems, and/or economic opportunities. Under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), EPA is responsible for issuing ocean dumping permits for all materials other than dredged material. In the case of dredged material, the decision to issue an MPRSA permit is made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), using

[120] Read more on NEPs.
[121] Read on Climate Ready Estuaries.

EPA's environmental criteria and subject to EPA's concurrence. EPA is responsible for designating and managing recommended ocean dumping sites for all types of materials.

EPA will continue to monitor active dredged material ocean dump sites nationwide to ensure achievement of environmentally acceptable conditions, as reflected in each site's management and monitoring plan. EPA will secure vessels to support ocean dumping monitoring activities, manage MPRSA permits and ocean disposal site designations, and assess impacts from ocean dumping in the marine environment. EPA will work with USACE and other agencies to improve dredged material disposal and management, involving local stakeholders and working to increase the beneficial use of dredged material. EPA will continue to participate with other nations to support the effective international regulation of ocean dumping, including sub-seabed sequestration of carbon, and marine geoengineering (e.g., fertilization of the ocean) through the London Convention and Protocol.

Ocean and coastal acidification: EPA will continue work with federal, state, and private sector stakeholders to address the issue of rising acidity levels in near coastal and marine waters. Such work will include pH trend monitoring, analytical research on land-based acidification sources and impacts, assessment of societal cost impacts of acidification on local economies, and facilitation of public dialogue to develop and implement mitigation strategies.

Coral reef protection: EPA headquarters and regions will address coral reef degradation and death resulting from increased acidification, as well as from other land-based stressors, such as nutrient runoff and marine trash. The Agency will foster a greater public awareness among policy makers and the general public of the nexus between climate change and coral reef decline.

Pollution from vessels, marinas, and ports: EPA will assess the impacts of pollutants from vessel-related activities and locations. Such pollutants include vessel sewage, invasive species, pathogens and oil from vessel bilge and gray water, metals from hull coatings, heavy metals from dredged materials, and pollutants in stormwater run-off. Analyses will inform regulatory and/or non-regulatory program development to address sewage discharge, clean boating and marina operations, port and shipping-related water quality initiatives, and the promulgation of Uniform National Discharge Standards governing discharges from military vessels.

Trash Free Waters: EPA will continue implementation of this program to prevent loadings of trash into water, which was identified in 2014 as a U.S. Government priority at the State Department "One Ocean" conference. Trash Free Waters activities include research on ecological and possible human health effects from aquatic trash (particularly microplastics); the development of regional strategies in collaboration with states, municipalities, and others; and implementation of a national challenge program with major business sectors to achieve zero loadings through innovative technologies, messaging, product design, growth of material recovery markets, etc.

Seeking Comment: The EPA has a suite of existing measures that track ocean protection and restoration progress. However, the EPA believes that our existing measures may not fully capture the progress and achievements being made. The EPA is seeking comments from states, tribes and other stakeholders on whether the existing measures are the best measures for tracking progress and which existing measures, if any, should be decommissioned to possibly make way for new measures. We also invite comment on whether there are other ways to measure or explain program progress and/or achievements.

Coastal and Ocean Waters Program Measures

- CO-432.N11 tracks the number of habitat acres protected or restored within NEP study areas.

- CO-SP20.N11 tracks the percent of active ocean dredged material disposal sites that have achieved environmentally acceptable conditions (as reflected in each site's management plan and measured through on-site monitoring programs).
- CO-02 tracks total coastal and noncoastal statutory square miles protected by NDZs.
- CO-04 tracks the cash and in-kind resources that NEP directors and staff obtain to fund the implementation of their CCMP.
- CO-06 tracks monitoring activities at active ocean dredged material sites.

3. Increase Wetlands

EPA's Wetlands Program[122] combines technical and financial assistance to state, tribal, and local partners with outreach and education, in addition to wetlands regulation under CWA Section 404 for the purpose of restoring, improving, and protecting wetlands in the U.S. objectives of EPA's strategy include helping states and tribes build wetlands protection program capacity and integrating wetlands and watershed protection. Through a collaborative effort with our many partners culminating in a May 2008 report, EPA's Wetlands Program articulated a set of national strategies in the areas of monitoring, state and tribal capacity, regulatory programs, jurisdictional determinations, and restoration partnerships.

Wetlands Activities for FY 2016-2017

No Net Loss. EPA contributes to achieving no overall net loss of wetlands through the wetlands regulatory program established under CWA Section 404[123]. USACE is the principal permitting agency for the CWA Section 404 permits, but EPA has a statutory role to provide input to USACE as it reviews proposed discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands. EPA also has a statutory role to oversee states that assume the CWA Section 404 permitting program.

EPA will support states that decide to explore assumption of the CWA Section 404 permitting program from the USACE. Additional states are anticipated to start pre-assumption activities and others may formally apply for 404 assumption based on an increased interest by states in streamlining regulatory programs and other reasons.

EPA will continue to work with USACE to ensure application of the CWA Section 404(b)(1) guidelines which require that discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. be avoided and minimized to the extent practicable and unavoidable impacts are compensated for. Part of this work also includes making jurisdictional determinations consistent with the 2015 Clean Water Rule[124].

- EPA regions should identify whether USACE issuing a CWA Section 404 permit would result in adverse human health or environmental effects on low-income and minority populations, including impacts to water supplies and fisheries. Where such effects are likely, EPA regions should suggest ways and measures to avoid and/or mitigate such impacts through comments to USACE.
- EPA regions should continue to identify instances where the EPA may need to prohibit, deny, or restrict the use of waters as a disposal site (Section 404(c)) or elevate specific proposed USACE permit decisions to Army Headquarters (Section 404(q)).
- States and tribes can assist EPA in these reviews by sharing their CWA Section 401 certifications on USACE permits[125].

[122] Read more on wetlands.
[123] Read more on CWA Section 404.
[124] Read more on the 2015 Clean Water Rule.
[125] Read more on CWA Section 401.

- Each EPA region will also identify opportunities to partner with USACE in meeting performance measures for compliance with 404(b)(1) guidelines. At a minimum, these include:
- Environmental review of CWA Section 404 permits to ensure wetland impacts are avoided and minimized;
- Ensure when wetland impacts cannot be avoided under CWA Section 404 permits, that the unavoidable impacts are compensated for;
- Participation in joint impact and mitigation site inspections, and Interagency Review Team activities;
- Assistance on development of mitigation site performance standards and monitoring protocols; and
- Enhanced coordination on resolution of enforcement cases.

Net Gain Goal. Meeting the "net gain" element of the wetland goal is primarily accomplished by other federal programs (Farm Bill agriculture incentive programs and wetlands acquisition and restoration programs, including those administered by USFWS and non-federal programs). EPA will work to improve levels of wetland protection by states and via EPA and other federal programs through actions that include:

- Working with and integrating wetlands protection into other EPA programs, such as CWA Section 319, SRF, NEP, and Brownfields;
- Providing grants and technical assistance to state, tribal, or local organizations;
- Developing technical assistance and informational tools for wetlands protection; and
- Expanding collaboration with USDA, Department of the Interior, NOAA, and other federal agencies with wetlands restoration programs to ensure the greatest environmental outcomes and non-governmental organizations whose mission and activities include protection and restoration of wetland resources. Emphasis will be placed on restoration of wetlands in the Gulf of Mexico states and on projects increasing the resiliency of wetlands to climate change and enhancing the ecologic services associated with wetland systems.

For FY 2016-2017, EPA expects to track the following key activities for accomplishing its wetland goals:

Wetlands Restored and Enhanced Through Partnerships: EPA will track this commitment as a sub-set of the overall net gain goal and will track and report the results separately under measure WT-01. These acres may include those supported by Wetland Five-Star Restoration Grants, NEP, CWA Section 319 NPS grants, Brownfield grants, EPA's Great Waterbody Programs, and other EPA programs. This does not include enforcement or mitigation acres.

State/Tribal Programs[126]: EPA is enhancing its support for state and tribal wetland programs by providing more directed technical assistance and making refinements to the Wetland Program Development Grants. In reporting progress under measure WT-02a, EPA will assess the number of states and tribes that have substantially increased their capacity in one or more core elements. This is an indicator measure.

Regulatory Program Performance: Data on Aquatic Resources Tracking for Effective Regulation (DARTER) is EPA's system to manage its workflow in CWA Section 404 permit program. DARTER allows EPA staff to track agency involvement in pre-application coordination, review of public notices for proposed permits, and access shared data from USACE's national regulatory program data management system, known as OMBIL[127] Regulatory Module (ORM2). Using ORM 2.0 and DARTER as a data source, measure WT-03 documents the annual percentage of 404 standard permits where EPA coordinated with the permitting authority and that coordination resulted in an environmental improvement in the final permit decision.

[126] Read more.
[127] Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link (OMBIL)

Wetland Monitoring[128]: EPA will continue to work with states and tribes to build the capability to monitor trends in wetland condition as defined through biological metrics and assessments. Part of this work is the NWCA, which provides a statistically valid assessment of the ecological condition of the Nation's wetlands, thus providing a baseline data layer that could be used in subsequent years to gauge changes in wetland condition and potentially the impacts of climate change on wetland ecological integrity. Field work for the second survey will commence in FY 2016. Progress by states in developing their monitoring capacity is tracked in measure WT-02a. Examples of activities indicating the state is "on track" include, but are not limited to:

- Building technical and financial capacity to conduct state scale studies of wetland condition apart from or in conjunction with EPA's NWCAs;
- Developing or adapting wetland assessment tools for use in the state;
- Monitoring activity that are underway for wetland type(s)/watershed(s) stated in strategy or goals; and
- Developing a monitoring strategy with a goal of evaluating baseline wetland condition. Baseline condition may be established using landscape assessment (Tier 1), rapid assessment (Tier 2), or intensive site assessment (Tier 3).
- Develop plans to document trends in wetland condition over time.

Seeking Comment: The EPA has a suite of existing measures that track wetlands protection and restoration progress. However, the EPA believes that our existing measures may not fully capture the progress and achievements being made. The EPA is seeking comments from states, tribes and other stakeholders on whether the existing measures are the best measures for tracking progress and which existing measures, if any, should be decommissioned to possibly make way for new measures. We also invite comment on whether there are other ways to measure or explain program progress and/or achievements.

Wetlands Performance Measures

- WT-SP22 tracks the overall net loss of wetlands resulting from regulatory actions.
- WT-01 tracks acres restored and improved through partnerships.
- WT-02a reflects EPA's goal of increasing state and tribal capacity in these core wetland management areas.
- WT-03 tracks the effectiveness of EPA's environmental review of CWA Section 404 permits.

D. Strategies to Protect and Restore the Health of Communities and Large Aquatic Ecosystems

1. The Great Lakes

The goal of EPA's Great Lakes program[129] is to restore and maintain the environmental integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem, as mandated by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)[130], the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*, and CWA. As the primary means of accomplishing this goal, EPA leads the Interagency

[128] Read more on wetland monitoring.
[129] Read more on EPA's Great Lakes Program.
[130] Read more on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Task Force in implementation of the FY 2015 to FY 2019 GLRI *Action Plan*[131]. This interagency collaboration accelerates progress, avoids potential duplication of effort, and saves money. Through a coordinated interagency process led by EPA, implementation of GLRI is helping to restore the Great Lakes ecosystem, enhance the economic health of the region, and ultimately improve the public health of the area's 30 million Americans.

Great Lakes Activities for FY 2016-2017

EPA works with its GLRI partners to select the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes restoration and protection based on criteria, such as feasibility of prompt implementation and timely achievement of measurable outcomes. Special emphasis will continue to be placed on: 1) cleaning up and de-listing Areas of Concern; 2) reducing phosphorus contributions from agricultural and urban lands that contribute to harmful algal blooms and other water quality impairments; and 3) invasive species prevention. Key expected activities for FY 2016 and FY 2017 are described below.

Remediate, Restore, and Delist Areas of Concern (AOCs). EPA and its partners will continue accelerating the pace of U.S. AOC delistings. EPA and its federal partners will work with and fund stakeholders to remove BUIs (indicators of poor environmental health) and implement management actions necessary for delisting in the remaining U.S. AOCs. Agencies will support BUI removal through sediment remediation under the Great Lakes Legacy Act (part of the GLRI) and other restoration activities.

Increase knowledge about contaminants in Great Lakes fish and wildlife. Federal agencies and their partners will provide information on the health risks and benefits of Great Lakes fish consumption and evaluate emerging contaminants that have the greatest potential to adversely impact Great Lakes fish and wildlife.

Invasive Species. Federal agencies and their partners will continue to prevent new invasive species, including Asian Carp, from establishing self-sustaining Great Lakes populations and to increase the effectiveness of existing surveillance programs by establishing a coordinated, multi-species early detection network. Federal agencies will support state and tribal development and implementation of Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans, including "readiness exercises" and responses to new detections. Grants will fund initiatives to block invasive species pathways of introduction to the Great Lakes ecosystem. Risk assessments will be refined to inform the targeting of species, pathways, and sites for early detection monitoring. Federal agencies will restore sites degraded by invasive species; implement control projects in national forests, parks and wildlife refuges; and promote large scale protection and restoration through partnerships. Federal agencies and their partners will continue to develop and enhance technologies to control Great Lakes invasive species; develop and enhance invasive species "collaboratives" to support rapid responses and to communicate the latest control and management techniques; and support development or enhancement of species-specific collaborations.

Reduce nutrient loads from agricultural watersheds and untreated runoff from urban watersheds. Federal agencies and their partners will continue to reduce nutrient runoff in watersheds targeted through the GLRI science-based adaptive management process. The work will: advance drinking water source protection, increase voluntary agricultural conservation practices to achieve downstream water quality improvements; and use voluntary, incentive-based and existing regulatory approaches to reduce nutrient losses. Federal agencies and their partners will develop assessments of the extent to which harmful algal blooms are impacted by various factors and of the relationship between algal blooms and hypoxia. Federal agencies and their partners will continue to implement watershed management and green infrastructure projects to reduce the impacts of

[131] Read more on the FY 2015 to FY 2019 GLRI *Action Plan*.

polluted urban runoff on nearshore water quality at beaches and in other coastal areas. In urban areas that have adopted watershed management strategies, projects will capture or slow the flow of untreated runoff and filter out sediment, nutrients, toxic contaminants, pathogens, and other pollutants prior to entering Great Lakes tributaries and nearshore waters; support green infrastructure; install tributary buffers; restore coastal wetlands; and re-vegetate and re-forest areas near Great Lakes coasts and tributaries.

Protect, restore and enhance habitats to help sustain healthy populations of native species. Federal agencies and their partners will implement protection, restoration, and enhancement projects focused on open water, nearshore, connecting channels, coastal wetland and other habitats. Projects will be largely based on priorities in regional-scale conservation strategies and will include: removing dams and replacing culverts; restoring riparian and in-stream habitat: protecting and restoring coastal wetlands; restoring habitat necessary to sustain populations of migratory native species; implementing off shore reef rehabilitation projects; and protecting, restoring, and managing existing wetlands and high-quality upland areas.

Maintain, restore and enhance populations of native species. Federal agencies and their partners will work to maintain, restore and enhance populations of native fish and wildlife species. Projects will be targeted based on restoration and conservation plans and will: protect and restore species diversity; reintroduce populations of native species to restored habitats and evaluate their survival; protect or restore culturally significant species; manage invasive species that inhibit the sustainability of native species; pioneer species propagation and relocation techniques; and implement other activities necessary for the eventual recovery of federal and state threatened and endangered species.

Ensure climate resilience of GLRI-funded projects. Federal agencies will develop standardized climate resiliency criteria that will be used to design and select GLRI projects. These criteria will ensure, for example, that GLRI restoration projects incorporate plant and tree species that are suitable for current and projected future climatic conditions. Similarly, these criteria will be used to design watershed restoration projects to take into account potential impacts of more frequent or intense storms on water flow, erosion, and runoff.

Educate the next generation about the Great Lakes ecosystem objectives. Federal agencies and their partners will promote Great Lakes-based environmental education and stewardship for students and other interested audiences. GLRI partners will work with existing environmental education programs, foster the growth of new programs, and align new and/or existing curricula with the Great Lakes Literacy Principles as well as state and national academic learning standards. Federal agencies that are stewards of lands and waters important to the Great Lakes ecosystem will also provide place-based experiential learning to the public.

Implement a science-based adaptive management approach for GLRI. The GLRI science-based adaptive management process[132] will guide restoration and protection actions by using the best available science and applying lessons learned from past and ongoing GLRI projects and programs. Federal agencies involved in the GLRI will use this process to continue to identify the most critical environmental problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem and to select projects that will most effectively address those problems. As part of this process, federal agencies will consult with their state and tribal partners and will seek input from the Great Lakes Advisory Board, the scientific community, Lakewide Action and Management Plan partnerships, and the general public.

Great Lakes Performance Measures

The Great Lakes Program has a suite of 10 measures.

2. The Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) [133] is a unique regional partnership that has coordinated and conducted the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since 1983. EPA is the lead federal agency on the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC). In addition to the EPA Administrator, the EC consists of the governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, the mayor of the District of Columbia, and the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission. On June 16, 2014, Chesapeake Bay Program partners signed the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which provides for the first time the Bay's headwater states (Delaware, New York, and West Virginia) with full partnership in the Bay program.

Chesapeake Bay Activities for FY 2016-2017

EPA's focus in FY 2016-2017 will be to continue progress to restore the Bay's ecosystem and improve water quality by reducing loadings of phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment to achieve the President's expectations as described in Executive Order 13508. The will continue implementing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, considering necessary actions, providing states with the tools necessary for effective regulatory implementation, creating better tools for scientific analysis and accountability, and supporting regulatory compliance and enforcement. Through FY 2016, EPA will work with the Bay watershed jurisdictions to prepare for the FY 2017 TMDL midpoint assessment, a comprehensive review of TMDL progress made to date. The midpoint assessment will inform revisions of the Bay watershed jurisdictions' Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), which identify the actions the jurisdictions will take to meet their TMDL goals and targets.

Moreover, the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement establishes 10 goals and 31 outcomes for sustainable fisheries, water quality, vital habitats, climate change, toxic contaminants, land conservation, stewardship, environmental literacy, public access, and other areas consistent with the EO strategy.[134] EPA and its partners are developing management strategies in FY 2015 to achieve the agreement's goals and outcomes and will be implementing those strategies in FY 2016.

EPA strongly believes that local governments are critical partners in implementing the TMDL and is working to ensure that the states provide necessary support to local governments as they take the on-the-ground actions necessary to achieve the goals of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. EPA will continue to implement key initiatives

[132] Two science-based planning processes area involved — one that occurs every five years and one that is implemented annually. Every five years, federal agencies develop a GLRI Action Plan to establish principal initiatives, commitments, metrics, and long-term goals. Federal agencies also conduct annual planning to identify specific projects and programs to target the highest priority problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem.
[133] Read more on the CBP at http://www.epa.gov/region3/chesapeake/ and http://www.chesapeakebay.net/.
[134] Read more on the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

under Executive Order 13508, the jurisdictions' WIPs, and the Watershed Agreement, including: implementing the TMDL; assisting states in implementing and improving their WIPs; conducting evaluations of WIPs and milestones; maintaining oversight of state permitting and compliance actions for source sectors; improving a publicly accessible TMDL tracking and accountability system; improving transparency and accountability in the development and implementation of management strategies; deploying technology to integrate discrete Bay data systems and to present the data in an accessible accountability system called Chesapeake*Stat*; and moving forward on the Bay's challenges related to toxic contaminants.

In FY 2016-2017, EPA will continue its close work with the states and thousands of local governments that will be instrumental in meeting the TMDL allocations by providing implementation support and guidance to achieve the most efficient implementation of the TMDL. EPA will assist the jurisdictions in making scientifically informed determinations of the most effective ways to meet their TMDL obligations that will provide individually tailored solutions. Also, EPA will continue to work with the Bay jurisdictions to refine and implement state-developed nutrient offset and trading programs to aid in identifying cost-effective solutions for meeting the TMDL waste load and load allocations throughout the watershed.

EPA will continue to support implementation of innovative environmental market mechanisms as a means of effectively achieving the goals of the TMDL. The Chesapeake Bay TMDL establishes the expectation that the Bay jurisdictions will expand or establish nutrient credit trading and offset programs to allow development while continuing to reduce pollutant loads to the Bay and its tributaries. EPA has developed a series of technical memoranda on critical issues related to water quality trading and offsets to assist the jurisdictions with development and enhancement of their trading and offset programs.[135]

To ensure that the states are able to meet EPA's expectations under the TMDL and any new rulemakings, EPA will continue its broad range of grant programs and will prioritize funding to jurisdictions that are demonstrating progress. EPA will direct investments toward local governments and watershed organizations based on their ability to reduce nutrient and sediment loads via key sectors such as development and agriculture in urban and rural areas. EPA has continued to improve its guidance for accountability and implementation grants to ensure a high level of accountability for the use of these resources. These grants are an essential part of achieving the goals established for the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

EPA's CBP is committed to a high level of accountability and transparency with the public and other key stakeholders. Chesapeake*Stat* is a key element in the next generation of tools that EPA is developing to significantly enhance the accountability of program partners. Chesapeake*Stat* is a web based, geo-enabled tool for performance-based interactive decision-making for all Bay partners. The system allows the public to track progress and become informed and engaged in restoring the Bay. In FY 2016 and FY 2017, the Agency will continue refining and improving Chesapeake*Stat* by better integrating additional data to track implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL EPA also established two-year milestones for the outcomes outlined in the Executive Order strategy. The second set of the two-year milestones was released in January 2014 and covers calendar years 2014 and 2015[136]. To ensure that the Bay jurisdictions are effectively implementing the TMDL, EPA will improve and expand the Bay Tracking and Accountability System (BayTAS). EPA also will begin implementing the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014, which requires new financial reporting and evaluation of the program.

EPA will continue to enhance and improve the CBP's water quality monitoring network to better track TMDL progress, as well as developing new indicators and monitoring systems required under the new Watershed

[135] Read more on EPA's technical memoranda for water quality trading and offsets in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
[136] Read more on the milestones related to water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Agreement. EPA will invest in bringing more non-traditional monitoring partners, including watershed organizations, permittees, and local governments into the monitoring network, increasing the data available to assess stream and Bay health and responses to management actions.

In FY 2016 and FY 2017, the continued implementation of the Compliance and Enforcement Strategy for the Bay Watershed will target sources of pollution impairing the Bay in the watershed and airshed. The strategy combines the Agency's water, air and waste enforcement authorities to address violations of federal environmental laws resulting in nutrient, sediment, and other pollution in the Bay.

Chesapeake Bay Performance Measures

- CB-05.N14 tracks attainment of water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/underwater grasses, and chlorophyll *a*.
- CB-SP35, CB-SP36, and CB-SP37 track nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reduction in the Bay, respectively.

3. The Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico basin[137] has been called "America's Watershed". Its U.S. coastline is 1,630 miles; it is fed by 33 major rivers, and it receives drainage from 31 states in addition to a similar drainage area from Mexico. One sixth of the U.S. population now lives in Gulf Coast states, and the region is experiencing remarkably rapid population growth. In addition, the Gulf yields approximately 40% of the Nation's commercial fishery landings, and Gulf Coast wetlands comprise about half the national total and provide critical habitat for 75% of the migratory waterfowl traversing the U.S.

Gulf of Mexico Activities for FY 2016-2017

Enhance and/or Protect Coastal Habitat and Ecosystems. Reversing ongoing habitat degradation and preserving the remaining healthy habitats is necessary to protect the communities, cultures, and economy of the Gulf Coast. For decades, the Gulf Coast has endured extensive damage to key habitats, such as coastal wetlands, estuaries, barrier islands, upland habitats, seagrass beds, oyster reefs, corals, and offshore habitats. The overall wetland loss in the Gulf area is on the order of fifty percent and protection of the critical habitat that remains is essential to restoring the health of the Gulf aquatic system. The Gulf of Mexico Program Office will enhance cooperative planning and programs across the Gulf States and federal agencies to protect wetland and estuarine habitat.

The wise management of sediments for wetland creation, enhancement, and sustainability is of critical importance to the Gulf Coast region, especially given locally high rates of subsidence, or settling, and the region-wide threat from potential future impacts of climate change, including rising water levels. To successfully sustain and enhance coastal ecosystems, a broad sediment management effort is needed that incorporates beneficial use of dredge material, and other means of capturing all available sediment resources.

Improve Water Quality. The Clean Water Act provides authority and resources that are essential to protecting water quality in the Gulf of Mexico and in the larger Mississippi River Basin, which contributes pollution, especially oxygen demanding nutrients, to the Gulf. Enhanced monitoring and research is needed in the Gulf Coast region to make data more readily available. EPA regional offices and the Gulf of Mexico Program Office will work with states to continue to maximize the efficiency and utility of water quality monitoring efforts for local managers by coordinating and standardizing state and federal water quality data collection activities in the Gulf region. These efforts will assure the continued effective implementation of core clean

[137] Read more on the Gulf of Mexico Program.

water programs, ranging from discharge permits, to nonpoint pollution controls, to wastewater treatment, to protection of wetlands. The Gulf of Mexico Program Office also partners with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NASA Applied Science, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Geological Survey in support of this goal.

Specifically in FY 2016, the Gulf of Mexico Program Office will address excessive nutrient loadings that contribute to hypoxic conditions in the Gulf of Mexico. Working with the Hypoxia Task Force, and the states within the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basins, and other federal agencies, the Gulf of Mexico Program Office will continue to support nutrient reduction strategies that include an accountability framework for point and nonpoint sources contributing nitrogen and phosphorus loading to the Gulf, as well as watershed plans that provide a road map for addressing nonpoint sources. EPA will continue to coordinate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and with federal and state partners to support monitoring best management practices and water quality improvement. With key partners, the Gulf of Mexico Program Office will leverage resources to focus wetland restoration and development, as well as habitat restoration efforts toward projects within the Mississippi River Basin that will sequester nutrients from targeted watersheds and tributaries.

Enhance Community Resilience. The Gulf Coastal communities continuously face and adapt to various challenges of living along the Gulf of Mexico, such as storm risk, sea-level rise, land and habitat loss, depletion of natural resources, and compromised water quality. The economic, ecological, and social losses from coastal hazard events have grown as population growth places people in harm's way and as the ecosystems' natural resilience is compromised by development and pollution. In order to sustain and grow the Gulf region's economic prosperity, individuals, businesses, communities, and ecosystems all need to be more adaptable to change. In FY 2016, the Gulf of Mexico Program Office will assist with the development of information, tools, technologies, products, policies, or public decision processes that can be used by coastal communities to increase resilience to coastal natural hazards and sea level rise. The Gulf of Mexico Program Office works extensively and collaboratively with multiple agencies that share responsibility in this area, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea Grant Programs and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Environmental Education. Environmental education and outreach are essential to accomplish the Gulf of Mexico Program Office goal to promote and provide for healthy and resilient coastal habitats. Gulf residents and decision-makers need to understand and appreciate the connection between the health of the Gulf of Mexico and its watersheds and coasts, their own health, the economic vitality of their communities, and their overall quality of life. There also is a nationwide need for a better understanding of the link between the health of the Gulf of Mexico and the U.S. economy. The EPA's long-term goal is to increase awareness and stewardship of Gulf coastal resources and promote action among Gulf citizens.

Gulf of Mexico Performance Measures

The Gulf of Mexico Program Office previously tracked performance with the following measures, - only one of which will continue through the end of FY 2016 (see bold text):

- GM-SP38 tracks restored segments in 13 priority areas in the Gulf.
- GM-SP39 tracks acres restored, enhanced, or protected in the Gulf.
- GM-SP40.N11 is a long term measure tracking the size of the hypoxic zone in the Gulf. During FY 2014, a replacement was requested and approved by OMB for measure GM-SP38. The new measure language states "Improve and/or restore water and habitat quality to meet water quality standards in watersheds throughout the five Gulf States and the Mississippi River Basin." This change better reflects how the program office implements competitively funded projects and the partnerships which improve water and

habitat quality. Additional performance measure changes have been submitted and are under review and consideration.

4. Long Island Sound

EPA coordinates the Long Island Sound Study (LISS)[138] as an estuary of national significance and as a large aquatic ecosystem under Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 320 and 119. EPA core environmental management and regulatory control programs supplement and support the work of LISS Management Conference partners, to implement the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), established under CWA Section 320. The LISS is a partnership of federal, state and local governments, private industry, tribes, academia and the public that supports and funds the cleanup and restoration of the Sound. This cooperative environmental partnership relies on existing federal, state and local regulatory frameworks, programs, and funding to achieve restoration and protection goals.

Long Island Sound Activities for FY 2016-2017

EPA will continue to work with the LISS Management Conference partners – the states of New York and Connecticut and other federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, academia, industry, and the private sector – to implement the 2015 revised CCMP to restore and protect the Sound. Because the level of dissolved oxygen (DO) is critical to the health of aquatic life and to viable public and commercial use of the Sound, a major EPA and CCMP priority is controlling anthropogenic nitrogen sources to meet this water quality standard. Activities for FY 2016-2017 include:

- EPA will continue to work with the five watershed states (Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont) to maintain and improve the nitrogen TMDL limits through innovative techniques, such as nutrient bioextraction through shellfish and seaweed farming and other nonpoint source management efforts, and
- EPA will continue to support LISS partner efforts to implement new CCMP priorities through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant program, the Long Island Sound scientific research priorities, and through ongoing base program efforts that fund key partners' staff to monitor and assess water quality, climate change effects on ecosystem indicators, and to inform and involve the public to protect and restore the Sound.

Long Island Sound Performance Measures

- LI-SP41 tracks the progress in reducing trade-equalized point source nitrogen discharges to LIS.
- LI-SP42.N11 tracks the size in square miles of the observed maximum area of hypoxia in LIS.
- LI-SP43 tracks acres of coastal habitat restored, protected, or enhanced.
- LI-SP44 tracks the miles of river and stream corridors reopened to diadromous fish passage.

5. The Puget Sound

The Puget Sound in Washington State, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Georgia Basin to the north in Canada, together make up the *Salish Sea*; The Salish Sea ecosystem is the homeland of the Coast Salish people, comprising 19 tribes in the U.S. and 55 First Nations in Canada. The pressures from the Salish Sea basin's seven million inhabitants (expected to increase to over nine million by 2025) on the ecosystem are substantial. The Puget Sound basin represents the largest population and commercial center in the Pacific Northwest and the waters of Puget Sound provide a vital system of international ports, transportation systems,

[138] Read more on LISS.

and defense installations. The EPA's Puget Sound Program[139] works to ensure that the natural, cultural, and economic benefits of the Puget Sound ecosystem are protected and sustained, today and into the future. EPA has taken important steps to coordinate transboundary efforts with Canadian agencies and forge mutual commitments to protect and restore the ecosystem's resources.

Puget Sound Activities for FY 2016-2017

Tribal priorities

In FY 2016-2017, EPA will work to ensure that appropriated funding is achieving net increases in protected and restored riparian habitat with particular emphasis on salmon and shellfish areas, so that the inherent tribal rights associated with these natural resources are protected. Region 10's Puget Sound Program will consider and support where possible, the priorities of the 19 Puget Sound tribes and tribal consortiums with assistance agreement funding. EPA will also continue to respond to issues expressed in the 2011 Treaty Rights at Risk white paper.
In FY 2016-FY2017, EPA's Puget Sound program is working with NOAA and USDA/NRCS, as well as the Puget Sound Federal Caucus, Puget Sound Tribes, the State of Washington, and other stakeholders to develop and fund an effective coordinated investment strategy for restoring and protecting vital ecological resources with particular emphasis on riparian areas.

Action Agenda Implementation Strategies
In FY 2016-2017, EPA's Puget Sound Program will fund and support the implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda[140], which is the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) approved under the National Estuary Program.

Activities will carry out selected implementation strategies that serve as the pathways to achieve the targets in the Puget Sound Action Agenda. In FY 2016, the initial implementation strategies are still to be determined but will address such issues as:

- Increasing the abundance of endangered Chinook salmon stocks primarily through riparian and near shore habitat restoration and protection.
- Restoring estuarine habitat to gain 7,380 acres by 2020.
- Restoring flood plain function to achieve multi-benefit outcomes in important Puget Sound watersheds.
- Increasing eelgrass acreage to 120% of the extent of areas measured from 2000 to 2008.
- Sustaining Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) programs and supporting water quality actions to upgrade shellfish growing areas to achieve a net increase of 10,800 approved shellfish harvest acres by 2020.
- Reducing the effects of stormwater pollution to achieve freshwater quality improvements as measured by the benthic index of biotic integrity (BIBI), a performance measure in development by the Puget Sound program.

Additional implementation strategies to support the Action Agenda's vital sign indicators are planned for subsequent development in FY 2017 and beyond.

The Puget Sound program is building climate resiliency into the actions and projects funded with Puget Sound assistance agreements for habitat, shellfish, and water quality. The program includes regional and national

[139] Read more on the Puget Sound Program.
[140] Read more on the Puget Sound Action Agenda

climate adaptation and resiliency criteria in all applicable funding solicitations. Applications and workplans are evaluated for inclusion of climate related project design and factors to increase resiliency. Addressing ocean acidification, floodplain and riparian area protection and restoration, improved stormwater management to protect water quality and hydrology for maintaining aquatic habitats are all examples of prioritized work in the Puget Sound Action Agenda that contribute directly to climate change resiliency.

Puget Sound Performance Measures

OW performance measures for the Puget Sound program reflect EPA's commitment to protect water quality and restore habitat to levels that reverse the trends threatening salmon and shellfish resources. PS-SP49.N11 tracks acres of shellfish beds growing areas with the lifting of harvest restrictions. PS-SP51 tracks acres or shoreline miles of aquatic habitats protected or restored including: estuaries; floodplains; marine and freshwater shorelines; riparian areas; stream habitats; and associated wetlands.

6. U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Health

The U.S. and Mexico have a long-standing commitment to protect the environment and public health for communities in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region[141]. The bi-national agreement that guides efforts to improve environmental conditions in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region is the *Border 2020* framework[142]. Partnerships are critical to the success of efforts to improve the environment and public health in the U.S.-Mexico Border region. Since 1995, the NAFTA[143]-created institutions, the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADB), have worked closely with communities to develop and construct environmental infrastructure projects. BECC and NADB support efforts to evaluate, plan, and implement financially and operationally sustainable drinking water and wastewater projects.

U.S.-Mexico Border Activities for FY 2016-2017

Under the *Border 2020 Plan*, EPA expects to take the following key actions to improve water quality and protect public health.

Core Program Implementation: EPA will continue to implement core programs under the CWA and related authorities, ranging from discharge permit issuance, to watershed restoration, to nonpoint pollution control. Specific activities to be accomplished in FY 2016-2017 include:

- Complete infrastructure planning and design as part of BECC/NADB Board project certifications.
- Complete construction of Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) projects.
- Incorporate sustainable infrastructure elements into selected certified projects.
- Conduct energy efficiency and water conservation audits at selected border drinking water and wastewater utilities to improve sustainability of the infrastructure

Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Financing: In FY 2016, EPA plans to provide approximately $5 million for planning, design, and construction of drinking water and wastewater facilities.

Build Partnerships: EPA will continue to support the BECC and NADB and work collaboratively with Mexico's National Water Commission (CONAGUA) and other federal, state, and local partners in the implementation of the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program.

[141] Read more on the U.S.-Mexico Border Program at http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/ and http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/wastewater/mexican/index.cfm.
[142] Read more on Border 2020.
[143] North American Free Trade Agreement

U.S.-Mexico Border Program Measures

The FY 2016 targets will be achieved through the completion of prioritized BEIF drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

- MB-SP23 tracks loading of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) removed from the border area.
- MB-SP24.N11 tracks the annual number of additional homes provided with safe drinking water.
- MB-SP25.N11 tracks the annual number of additional homes provided with adequate sanitation.

7. Pacific Island Territories

The U.S. Pacific Island territories of Guam, American Samoa, and CNMI struggle to provide adequate drinking water and sanitation service. EPA is targeting the use of existing grants, enforcement, and technical assistance to improve drinking water and wastewater quality in the Pacific Islands. In pursuing these actions, EPA will continue to use available resources and to work with partners at both the federal and local levels to seek improvements. These efforts are intended to move the Pacific Island systems toward compliance with U.S. standards.[144]

Pacific Island Territories Activities for FY 2016-2017

- In American Samoa, EPA will work with the local utility to conduct a program review of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure spending and provide enhanced technical assistance. With EPA support, the utility will strive to eliminate boil water notices by developing new, clean drinking water sources, upgrading treatment, and decreasing distribution system leaks. Through FY 2016, American Samoa will receive additional focused support through the national *Making a Visible Difference in Communities* initiative.
- In CNMI and Guam, the local utilities will implement their master plans to make improvements to the island water and sewer systems, in compliance with federal court orders, and using EPA funding in CNMI, and a combination of EPA and local funding in Guam.
- In Guam, an EPA-managed contractor will work closely with the water utility to improve institutional capacity, and to implement strategic preventative maintenance through asset management in order to extend the life of infrastructure.

Pacific Island Territories Performance Measures

PI-SP26 tracks the percent of the population that has access to continuous safe drinking water.

8. The South Florida Ecosystem

EPA is working in partnership with numerous local, regional, state, and federal agencies and tribes to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's varied natural resources while providing for extensive agricultural operations and a continually expanding population. The EPA's South Florida Geographic Initiative (SFGI)[145] is designed to protect and restore communities and ecosystems affected by environmental problems. SFGI efforts include activities related to the CWA Section 404 wetlands protection program; the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)[146]; WQPP for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS); and the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI).

[144] Read more on EPA's work in the Pacific Islands.
[145] Read more on SFGI.
[146] Read more on CERP.

South Florida Activities for FY 2016-2017

Support Everglades Water Quality Protection and Restoration

- Continue to track implementation of the June 2012 EPA - Florida Water Quality (reduction of total phosphorus) Restoration Strategies Framework Agreement. This agreement requires Florida to commit an estimated $880 million to construct water quality improvement facilities in the Everglades with EPA oversight. EPA will be involved in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development and review, NPDES permitting, construction oversight, enforcement, and participation in the science committee.
- Restoration of the Everglades is the largest ongoing large-scale ecosystem restoration project in the world that is projected to cost $13.5 billion in 2012 dollars. EPA will continue to work closely with the Jacksonville District USACE and the State of Florida to facilitate expedited review of NEPA and regulatory permit actions associated with the ongoing implementation of CERP. Several large water storage impoundments will be under construction during the next few years. In addition, EPA will continue to work with partners to expedite the Central Everglades Pilot Project.
- Support the Everglades Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) to assess the health of the Everglades and the effectiveness of ongoing restoration and regulatory efforts. The Everglades EMAP initiated in 1993 by EPA is critical for understanding phosphorus, mercury, sulfur, and soil thickness conditions, including changes over time. Program data have been used by over 20 state and federal agencies, Indian tribes, agricultural interests, environmental groups, and the National Academy of Sciences. Extensive field sampling was conducted in FY 2013 and FY 2014 at about 120 locations. The project report for the 2014 sampling is due in FY 2016.
- Continue to work with the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes, State of Florida, the South Florida Water Management District and federal agencies to implement appropriate phosphorus control programs that will attain WQS throughout the Everglades. The Seminole and the Miccosukee Tribes both have federally approved WQS.

Implement FKNMS WQPP.[147] The FKNMS and Protection Act of 1990/1992 congressionally directed EPA and the State of Florida, in consultation with NOAA, to develop a WQPP to address water quality and protect corals, fish, shellfish and recreational opportunities within the Sanctuary. In FY 2016, EPA will continue to:

- Implement the WQPP for the FKNMS, including the comprehensive monitoring projects (coral reef, seagrass, and water quality), special studies, data management, and public education and outreach activities (see measures SFL-SP45, SFL-SP46, SFL-47a and SFL-47b).
- Support implementation of wastewater and storm water master plans for the Florida Keys to upgrade inadequate wastewater and storm water infrastructure by 2015 (see measure SFL-1).
- Assist with implementing the comprehensive plan for eliminating sewage discharges from boats and other vessels.

Support the Actions of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

In March 2000, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force[148] approved "The National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs" that identified reef monitoring, reduction of pollution, Marine Protected Areas development, and other activities to protect corals reefs. In FY 2016, EPA and states will:

- Continue support and funding for the FKNMS Coral Reef Environmental Monitoring Program.

[147] Read more on FKNMS.
[148] Read more on the Coral Reef Task Force.

- Support implementation of the SEFCRI program to address land based sources of pollution.

Other Priority Activities for FY 2016-2017

- Continue implementation of the Monroe County Keys-wide Canal Management Master Plan. Implementation of the plan will help to protect and restore water quality and habitat in the canals to improve oxygen condition. Monroe County is providing $5.1 million to demonstrate weed barrier, organic removal, culvert installation, pumping, and backfill technologies at 8 demonstration sites.
- Complete Mote Marine Laboratory special study "Assess the effects of mosquito control pesticides on non-targeted organisms (stony coral and spiny lobsters) in the FKNMS." Data will be used by resource management agencies to assess impacts of mosquito control pesticides on non-target organisms and water quality within the Sanctuary.
- Complete study to determine importance of sponge-dominated hard bottom habitat in maintaining good water quality within the Florida Keys and evaluate the large-scale extent of ecological services provided by fully functioning hard bottom communities.
- Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) has submitted an application to Nuclear Regulatory Commission for two new Westinghouse Advanced Passive Pressurized Water Reactors to be built in Homestead, FL, adjacent to the existing power plant. In FY 2016, Region 4 staff will participate in the EIS and CWA Section 404 review and the permitting process for this proposed $20 billion nuclear station, which sits on Biscayne Bay and is adjacent the Biscayne National Park.
- Continue implementation of the South Florida Wetlands Conservation Strategy; including protecting and restoring critical wetland habitats currently be subjected to tremendous growth and development pressures.
- Continue active review of large wetland permit applications in South Florida, and provide written comments to the USACE under CWA Section 404.

South Florida Performance Measures

- Measure SFL-SP45 tracks stony coral cover.
- Measure SFL-SP46 tracks the overall health and functionality of sea grass beds in the FKNMS.
- Measure SFL-47a tracks Chlorophyll a and light clarity levels.
- Measure SFL-47b tracks dissolved inorganic nitrogen and total phosphorus levels.
- Measure SFL-1 tracks wastewater and stormwater implementation activities in the Keys.
- Measure SFL-2 tracks the number of Everglades Stormwater Treatment Ares with the annual total phosphorus outflow less than or the same as the five-year annual average.

9. The Columbia River Basin

The Columbia River Basin[149] is one of the world's great river basins in terms of its land area and river volume, as well as its environmental and cultural significance. The river is economically vital to many Northwest industries, such as sport and commercial fishing, agriculture, hydropower, wind energy, recreation, and tourism. Tribal people have depended on the Basin for physical, spiritual, and cultural sustenance for centuries. Public and scientific concern about the health of the Basin ecosystem is increasing. Salmon runs have been reduced from a peak of almost 16 million fish annually to a fraction of their original returns. There is significant habitat and wetland loss throughout the Basin. There are several Superfund sites in the Basin (Portland Harbor, Hanford, Coeur d'Alene River Basin and Lake Roosevelt) and there are growing concerns about toxic contamination in fish, aquatic life, and wildlife.

[149] Read more on the Columbia River Basin.

Columbia River Basin Activities for FY 2016-2017

The Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group will continue to focus on the following priority areas:

- ***Sustainable Purchasing and Green Chemistry:*** Develop guidance for governmental agencies in the basin to establish and implement low toxicity purchasing guidelines (chaired by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality),
- ***Chemicals of Emerging Concern:*** Implement research to characterize the effects to aquatic biota from chemicals of emerging concern (chaired by USGS).
- ***Pesticide Stewardship Partnership:*** Expand the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership type programs to other areas in the Columbia River Basin (chaired by Salmon Safe).
- ***Stormwater:*** Expand stormwater technical assistance programs to small and medium businesses (chaired by Washington Department of Ecology).
- ***Resource Needs and Policy Reform:*** Educate Columbia Basin stakeholders on the need for sustainable funding to develop a coordinated toxics monitoring and reduction program and the need to support EPA's principles for chemical management reform (chaired by Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership)

Columbia River Basin Performance Measures

Working with partners, including the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and the States of Washington and Oregon, EPA tracks several program measures:

- Measure CR-SP53. Clean up acres of known highly contaminated sediments in the Portland Harbor and other sites in the Lower Columbia River; and
- Measure CR-SP54. Demonstrate a reduction in mean concentration of certain contaminants of concern found in water and fish tissue where baseline data is available.

10. The San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary

The San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary (Bay Delta)[150] is the largest estuary on the west coast of North America. In 2009, EPA joined with other federal agencies in redoubling our collective efforts toward restoring beneficial uses of the Bay Delta ecosystem and advancing the design of infrastructure needed to secure California's water supplies. In August 2012, EPA released the Bay Delta Action Plan[151] that identifies seven priority actions for Region 9 to take in collaboration with interagency partners and NGOs. Some of the most tangible improvements in water quality and ecosystem functions are achieved through the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund[152].

[150] Read more on the Bay Delta.
[151] Read more on the Bay Delta Action Plan.
[152] Read more on the Bay Area Water Projects.

San Francisco Bay Delta Activities for FY 2016-2017

- Advancing the seven point Bay Delta Action Plan, including contributing to the update of the State's Water Quality Control Plan for the Delta and lower San Joaquin River, establishing a Regional Monitoring Program for the Delta, implementing existing TMDLs across the Bay Delta watershed, drafting site-specific selenium criteria to protect aquatic and terrestrial species, and partnering with EPA ORD and USGS to complete field studies on potential treatment technologies for methylmercury in wetlands. EPA will collaborate with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) per the EPA's Climate Ready Estuaries Program[153], to identify habitats and infrastructure that are vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise, and formulate new policies for BCDS's Bay Plan to address these vulnerabilities.
- Supporting activities that predict, mitigate, and adapt to the effects of climate change on the Bay-Delta watershed consistent with the Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning[154] prepared by EPA in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources, USACE, and the Resources Legacy Fund.
- Advancing the ongoing implementation of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's CCMP[155] by reducing adverse effects of urban/suburban runoff on water quality – through watershed planning, implementation of TMDLs, and the use of LID and green infrastructure[156].
- Continuing to administer the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund[157].

[153] Read more.
[154] Read the Handbook.
[155] Read the CCMP.
[156] Read more on LID.
[157] Read more on Bay Area water projects.

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Goal 2 Protecting America's Waters

Objective 2.1 Protect Hunan Health

Subobjective 2.1.1 Water Safe to Drink

SDW-211: Percent of the population served by community water systems that receive drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards through approaches including effective treatment and source water protection.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-211	SG ARRA	92%	92%	91%	90%	88%	90%	91%	92%	89%	90%	92%	95%	92%
FY2015 COMMITMENT		92%	92%	91%	90%	87%	90%	92%	92%	89%	90%	92%	95%	91%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			92.5%	92.5%	90%	88%	87%	93%	97%	90%	94%	94%	96%	93%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			92.0%	90.0%	90%	80%	90%	92%	94%	85%	90%	92%	95%	91%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			92.0%	92.0%	93%	65%	96%	94%	98%	91%	96%	95%	97%	93%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			94.7%	94.7%	94%	90%	92%	96%	97%	92%	94%	94%	98%	98%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			93.2%	93.2%	91%	84%	89%	96%	96%	91%	92%	94%	97%	97%
FY 2005 BASELINE			89%	89%	92.5%	55.3%	93.2%	93%	94.1%	87.8%	91.2%	94.7%	94.6%	94.8%
FY 2013 UNIVERSE (in millions)			300.2	300.2	15.1	31.7	25.7	59.5	43.1	38.7	12.4	13.0	48.8	12.3

National Program Manager Comments: The universe represents the population served by community water systems. The National commitment for FY14 is higher than the regional aggregate commitment to be consistent with the FY14 budget target.Tribal is included in the

SDW-SP1.N11: Percent of community water systems that meet all applicable health-based standards through approaches that include effective treatment and source water protection.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-SP1.N11	SP BUD, SG	90%	90%	88%	85%	89%	91%	90%	90%	85%	82%	85%	88%	90%
FY2015 COMMITMENT		92%	90%	88%	85%	88%	91%	90%	90%	85%	82%	90%	88%	90%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			90.8%	90.8%	87%	89%	92%	95%	95%	86%	89%	89%	89%	92%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			90.0%	88.5%	85%	85%	91%	90%	93%	86%	85%	90%	88%	88%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			91.4%	91.4%	86%	89%	92%	95%	96%	87%	90%	90%	91%	93%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			91%	91%	90%	88%	92%	95%	95%	89%	88%	89%	89%	92%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			90.7%	90.7%	85%	87%	93%	94%	94%	90%	88%	90%	88%	91%
FY 2005 BASELINE			89%	89%	85.7%	86.4%	91.8%	91%	92%	86.2%	86.8%	90.3%	91.6%	87.3%
FY 2014 UNIVERSE			50,808	50,808	2,663	3,468	4,354	8,613	7,279	8,101	4,053	3,298	4,555	4,424

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 92%. New measure starting in FY08. Tribal systems are included in the national systems measure

SDW-SP2: Percent of "person months" (i.e. all persons served by community water systems times 12 months) during which community water systems provide drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-SP2	BUD KPI	95%	95%	94%	94%	92%	95%	95%	95%	94%	92%	92%	98%	95%
FY2015 COMMITMENT		95%	95%	94%	94%	92%	95%	95%	95%	94%	92%	95%	98%	93%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			96.7%	96.7%	96%	92%	95%	97%	99%	95%	97%	98%	99%	98%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			95.0%	94.6%	94%	93%	93%	95%	96%	94%	92%	95%	98%	93%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			96.9%	96.9%	98%	86%	98%	98%	99%	95%	98%	97%	98%	95%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			97.8%	97.8%	98%	95%	97%	98%	99%	97%	98%	98%	99%	99%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			97.4%	97.4%	97%	95%	96%	98%	98%	96%	97%	97%	99%	99%
FY 2005 BASELINE			97%	97%	96%	92%	99%	98%	96%	97%	98%	99%	97%	98%
FY 2013 UNIVERSE (in millions)			3,602.5	3,602.5	181.5	380.0	308.5	713.6	517.2	464.1	148.8	155.5	586.1	147.2

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National Program Manager Comments: Indicator measure in FY07.

SDW-SP3.N11: Percent of the population in Indian country served by community water systems that receive drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-SP3.N11	SP BUD KPI	87%	87%	77%	90%	91%	N/A	90%	87%	80%	54%	80%	70%	85%
FY2015 COMMITMENT		87%	87%	77%	90%	91%	NT	90%	87%	80%	54%	80%	70%	82%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			88.6%	88.6%	100%	91%	n/a	100%	97%	89%	54%	94%	83%	98%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			87.0%	78.0%	90%	65%	NT	90%	94%	74%	85%	80%	70%	80%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			77.0%	77.0%	100%	65%	n/a	100%	98%	77%	87%	69%	69%	83%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			84%	84%	100%	100%	n/a	100%	97%	92%	83%	86%	74%	90%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			81.2%	81.2%	100%	50%	n/a	97%	99%	87%	87%	86%	70%	87%
FY 2011 COMMITMENT			95%	79.6%	95%	50%	n/a	90%	95%	80%	80%	87%	70%	87%
FY 2005 BASELINE			86%	86%	100%	100%	n/a	100%	99.5%	90.4%	86.5%	82.6%	80.9%	88.1%
FY 2013 UNIVERSE			1,013,222	1,013,222	90,594	11,071	n/a	24,935	117,931	91,493	5,394	112,264	506,885	52,655

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 88%. The universe represents the population in Indian country served by community water systems.

SDW-20: Percent of 'person months' (i.e. all persons served by community water systems times 12 months) during which community water systems in Indian country provide drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-20			90%	86%	90%	98%	N/A	90%	90%	75%	95%	90%	85%	85%
FY2015 COMMITMENT			90%	86%	90%	98%	NT	90%	90%	75%	75%	90%	85%	85%
BASELINE			90.1%	90.1%	100.0%	91.7%	n/a	99.1%	99.8%	87.3%	87.0%	89.9%	84.7%	97.0%
UNIVERSE			12,158,664	12,158,664	1,087,128	132,852	n/a	299,220	1,415,172	1,097,916	64,728	1,347,168	6,082,620	631,860

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY15.

SDW-SP4a: Percent of community water systems where risk to public health is minimized through source water protection.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-SP4a	BUD OMB PA	LT	49.0%	44.2%	85%	85%	45%	59%	41%	40%	4%	32%	10%	50%
FY2015 COMMITMENT			49.0%	42.6%	84%	70%	45%	59%	41%	40%	4%	32%	10%	45%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			48.0%	48.0%	85.0%	86.0%	44.0%	59.0%	43.1%	46.8%	11.2%	42.8%	10.0%	66.0%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			45.0%	42.0%	84%	70%	42%	58%	41%	40%	8%	35%	10%	40%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			48.3%	48.3%	86%	86%	40%	57%	41%	45%	9%	43%	10%	66%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			43.3%	41.3%	84%	61%	35%	55%	41%	43%	8%	38%	10%	44%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			40.2%	40.2%	66%	61%	35%	52%	40%	40.9%	12%	45%	9%	42%
FY 2011 COMMITMENT			64.0%	36.4%	64%	61%	25%	52%	38%	40%	15%	45%	9%	40%
FY 2005 BASELINE			20%	20%	51%	30%	12%	21%	19%	19%	13%	20%	1%	28%
FY 2014 UNIVERSE			50,808	50,808	2,663	3,468	4,354	8,613	7,279	8,101	4,053	3,298	4,555	4,424

Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY08. Note: "Minimized risk" is achieved by the substantial implementation, as determined by the state, of actions in a source water protection strategy. The universe is the most recent SDWIS inventory of community water systems. The FY13 NWPG and its Appendix erroneously showed the incorrect commitment for Region 8.

SDW-SP4b: Percent of the population served by community water systems where risk to public health is minimized through source water protection.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-SP4b	SG		59.0%	54.6%	97%	87%	70%	60%	65%	57%	10%	32%	12%	65%
FY2015 COMMITMENT			59.0%	53.7%	97%	80%	70%	60%	65%	57%	10%	32%	12%	60%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			57.7%	57.7%	97.0%	86.0%	69.0%	60.0%	67.1%	63.1%	29.1%	41.6%	12.0%	80.0%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			57.0%	56.0%	97%	80%	67%	59%	68%	60%	20%	35%	12%	80%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			59.1%	59.1%	97%	86%	66%	58%	67%	66%	21%	38%	12%	80%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			55.9%	55.2%	97%	84%	63%	58%	68.7%	63%	20%	38.5%	12%	81%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			55.2%	55.2%	95.9%	80%	67%	55%	66%	62.9%	23%	40%	12%	84%
FY 2011 COMMITMENT			93.0%	52.3%	93%	80%	58%	55%	62%	62%	20%	40%	12%	82%
FY 2013 UNIVERSE (in millions)			300.2	300.2	15.1	31.7	25.7	59.5	43.1	38.7	12.4	13.0	48.8	12.3

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY08. Note: "Minimized risk" is achieved by the substantial implementation, as determined by the state, of actions in a source water protection strategy. The universe is the most recent SDWIS inventory of community water systems. The FY13 NWPG and its Appendix erroneously showed the incorrect commitment for Region 8.

SDW-18.N11: Number of American Indian and Alaska Native homes provided access to safe drinking water in coordination with other federal agencies.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-18.N11	SP BUD	LT	119,000											
			119,000											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			113,656											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			119,000											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			108,881											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			104,266											
FY 2012 COMMITMENT			110,000											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			97,311											
FY 2011 COMMITMENT			100,700											
FY 2009 BASELINE			80,900											
UNIVERSE			360,000											

National Program Manager Comments: New measure for FY11, to supplement SDW-SP5 in the NWPG and replace it in the Strategic Plan. In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 148,100.

SDW-01a: Percent of community water systems (CWSs) that have undergone a sanitary survey within the past three years (five years for outstanding performers or those ground water systems approved by the primacy agency to provide 4-log treatment of viruses).

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FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-01a	BUD SG	79%	79.0%	83.9%	89%	95%	93%	85%	79%	90%	87%	73%	70%	75%
FY2015 COMMITMENT		79%	83.9%	83.9%	90%	95%	93%	85%	79%	90%	87%	75%	70%	75%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			87.0%	87.0%	97.0%	93.6%	93.8%	85.3%	93.7%	100.0%	95.7%	96.0%	86.0%	81.3%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			83.0%	83.0%	70.0%	95.0%	93.0%	80.0%	75.0%	92.0%	87.0%	78.0%	70.0%	75.0%
FY 2013 Baseline			78.7%	78.7%	84.9%	86.9%	90.0%	86.4%	79.9%	80.0%	94.3%	81.2%	66.6%	32.0%
FY 2013 Universe			49,283	49,283	2,619	3,480	4,321	8,493	7,121	7,945	3,999	3,065	4,004	4,236

National Program Manager Comments: Universe updated in FY 2014 to reflect the updated universe (FY 2012) and measure text.

SDW-01b: Number of tribal community water systems (CWSs) that have undergone a sanitary survey within the past three years (five years for outstanding performers or those ground water systems approved to provide 4-log treatment of viruses).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-01b			850	605	2	2	N/A	14	60	20	8	105	319	75
FY2015 COMMITMENT			610	610	2	2	NT	14	60	25	8	105	319	75
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			633	633	3	2	NT	14	61	20	8	111	331	83
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			590	590	2	2	NT	14	56	9	8	105	319	75
FY 2013 Baseline			520	520	3	2	n/a	14	10	37	4	88	287	75
FY 2013 Universe			714	714	3	7	n/a	14	74	51	9	109	366	81

National Program Manager Comments: A sanitary survey is an on-site review of the water sources, facilities, equipment, operation, and maintenance of a public water system for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of the facilities for producing and distributing safe drinking water. Universe updated in FY 2014 to reflect the updated universe (FY 2012) and measure text.

SDW-04: Fund utilization rate [cumulative dollar amount of loan agreements divided by cumulative funds available for projects] for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-04	BUD ARRA	89%	89%	88%	90%	90%	92%	85%	88%	85%	83%	88%	90%	95%
FY2015 COMMITMENT		89%	89%	89%	90%	90%	89%	85%	88%	91%	83%	88%	90%	95%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			92.0%	92.0%	100%	90%	100%	86%	91%	80%	86%	89%	103%	110.0%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			89.0%	88.0%	90%	90%	89%	85%	94%	80%	80%	88%	87%	97%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			91.4%	91.4%	97.3%	93.9%	100.2%	85.2%	89.1%	83.0%	83.0%	88.0%	95.3%	99.1%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			89.7%	90.5%	95%	92%	96%	85%	88%	82%	86%	86%	92%	103%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			90%	90%	92%	94%	96%	88%	87.1%	87%	85%	89%	87%	101%
FY 2005 BASELINE			84.7%	84.7%	78.5%	93%	83.3%	88%	87%	64.5%	91%	84%	80%	94.3%
UNIVERSE (FY 2012, in millions)			$26,379.6	$26,379.6	$2,374.9	$4,643.6	$1,563.1	$2,938.5	$4,574.2	$2,776.8	$1,831.4	$1,841.9	$2,689.8	$1,151.5

National Program Manager Comments: Universe represents the funds available for projects for the DWSRF through 2007, in millions of dollars (i.e., the denominator of the measure).

SDW-05: Number of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) projects that have initiated operations. (cumulative)

FY 2015 National Water Program Final Performance Commitments

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FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-05	ARRA		9,000	8,362	1,180	521	740	885	1,750	460	782	925	519	600
FY2015 COMMITMENT			8,251	8,251	1,152	480	718	885	1,700	440	782	925	519	650
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			8,001	8,001	1,104	472	733	921	1,642	427	737	921	400	644
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			7,844	7,838	1,092	472	698	875	1,630	418	719	870	464	600
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			7,474	7,474	1,032	458	678	863	1,499	410	694	854	419	567
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			6,690	6,721	924	453	643	800	1,346	254	624	814	363	500
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			6,076	6,076	799	448	575	714	1,250	227	583	726	308	446
FY 2005 BASELINE			2,611	2,611	320	311	261	369	557	59	229	242	123	140

National Program Manager Comments: R9 corrected FY 2012 EOY is 289 (orignally entered at 363 in ACS).

SDW-07: Percent of Classes I, II and Class III salt solution mining wells that have lost mechanical integrity and are returned to compliance within 180 days thereby reducing the potential to endanger underground sources of drinking water.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-07	BUD SG	85%	85%	75%	NT	90%	75%	80%	67%	85%	75%	80%	50%	75%
FY2015 COMMITMENT		85%	85%	76%	NT	90%	75%	80%	67%	85%	75%	85%	50%	75%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			89%	89%	n/a	100%	91%	90%	93%	90%	86%	81.8%	80%	58%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			85%	73%	NT	90%	70%	75%	67%	85%	75%	80%	60%	75%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			89.0%	89.0%	n/a	100%	88%	85%	86%	94%	83%	86%	41%	86%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			85%	85%	n/a	90%	61%	92%	80%	90%	81%	90%	53%	67%

National Program Manager Comments: Combined the 3 classes of mechanical integrity measures into one measure SDW-07a. The denominator for the number of wells with mechanical integrity losses is very small. Typically, Class I, II and III wells are deep wells and there are many more Class II wells that lose mechanical integrity relative to Classes I and III wells (2,800 compared to 8 for Class I and 7 for Class III). The revised measure should improve the numbers in the denominator of the measure.

SDW-08: Number of Class V motor vehicle waste disposal wells (MVWDW) and large capacity cesspools (LCC) that are closed or permitted (cumulative).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-08	BUD	25,225	26,751	26,917	2,390	883	4,395	119	5,011	277	178	2,379	3,950	7,335
FY2015 COMMITMENT		25,225	26,751	26,751	2,380	883	4,375	119	4,915	277	178	2,379	3,925	7,320
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			26,560	26,560	2,376	883	4,341	117	4,832	277	178	2,365	3,895	7,296
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			26,266	26,266	2,361	878	4,330	113	4,701	275	176	2,371	3,800	7,261
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			26,027	26,027	2,349	868	4,305	112	4,601	275	176	2,359	3,730	7,252
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			25,225	25,225	2,314	730	4,215	109	4,317	272	175	2,331	3,560	7,202
FY 2012 BASELINE			25,225											

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National Program Manager Comments: Measure revised starting in FY12. The measure includes all the wells covered by the EPA 1999 Class V Rule reporting on closed or permitted MVWDW wells. In addition, it allows for reporting on additional types of high priority wells including, at minimum, Large Capacity Cess (LCC) Pools. Reporting in percentages will not provide good information on progress in closing or permitting the MVWD wells.

SDW-11: Percent of DWSRF projects awarded to small PWS serving <500, 501-3,300, and 3,301-10,000 consumers.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-11	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			70%	70%	64%	66%	78%	57%	71%	61%	83%	83%	66%	75%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			71%	71%	65%	66%	77%	58%	71%	60%	83%	83%	67%	76%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			71%	70%	65%	66%	77%	58%	72%	59%	83%	82%	66%	76%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			71%	71%	65%	68%	78%	58%	71%	58%	83%	82%	65%	77%
FY 2009 BASELINE			72%		72%	75%	70%	30%	72%	76%	80%	87%	81%	80%
UNIVERSE			698		138	44	56	43	126	33	70	87	26	75

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY11.

SDW-15: Number and percent of small CWS and NTNCWS (<500, 501-3,300, 3,301-10,000) with repeat health based Nitrate/Nitrite, Stage 1 D/DBP, SWTR and TCR violations.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-15	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			1,159	1,159	98	149	56	65	75	271	145	54	164	82
			1.8%	1.8%	2.2%	3.1%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%	3.0%	3.3%	1.4%	2.7%	1.5%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			1,263	1,263	120	151	74	120	75	325	111	59	132	96
			2.0%	2.0%	2.8%	3.2%	1.1%	1.3%	0.7%	3.6%	2.5%	1.6%	2.2%	1.8%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			1,230	1,260	85	158	98	130	83	271	143	54	148	90
			2%	1.9%	1.9%	3.0%	1.5%	1.3%	0.7%	3.0%	3.1%	1.5%	2.5%	1.7%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			1,337	1,337	112	184	109	127	85	243	172	71	133	101
			2.1%	2.1%	3.0%	4.0%	2.0%	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	4.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
FY 2009 BASELINE (CWS & NTNCWS <10,000 w/ repeat Health-Based Viols)			1,904		164	208	113	218	102	394	288	91	154	172
			3%		3.7%	4.0%	1.7%	2.2%	1.0%	4.3%	6.3%	2.5%	2.6%	3.2%
UNIVERSE (CWS & NTNCWS<10,000)			66,156		4,478	5,189	6,751	9,840	11,261	9,082	4,562	3,690	5,877	5,426

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY11.

SDW-17: Number and percent of schools and childcare centers that meet all health-based drinking water standards.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-17	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			6,783	6,783	975	669	1,144	574	1,777	291	184	217	564	388
			92.7%	92.7%	88.2%	96.3%	94.1%	94.6%	95.3%	87.4%	92.0%	90.0%	89.1%	91.5%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			7,068	7,068	998	664	1,153	599	1,815	315	196	231	686	411
			93.3%	93.3%	88.9%	95.5%	94.0%	94.2%	95.3%	91.3%	95.6%	90.6%	92.2%	93.2%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			6,991	6,991	995	680	1,164	623	1,858	327	189	229	519	407
			93%	91.2%	87%	92%	95%	86%	95.7%	95%	85%	96%	90%	93%

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FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			7,114	7,114	1,017	708	1,188	647	1,872	334	195	236	505	412
			92%	92%	89%	95%	92%	92%	94%	93%	89%	93%	89%	92%
FY 2009 BASELINE			7,260		1,057	705	1,179	688	1,933	329	197	224	523	425
			94%		92%	95%	96%	95%	95%	95%	89%	94%	90%	97%
UNIVERSE			7,664		1,146	740	1,228	724	2,002	345	222	239	578	440

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY11.

SDW-19a: Volume of CO2 sequestered through injection as defined by the UIC Final Rule.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-19a	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			50,752.67											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			47,781.14											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			40,380.12											

National Program Manager Comments: Measure in millions of gallons.

SDW-19b: Number of permit decisions during the reporting period that result in CO2 sequestered through injection as defined by the UIC Final Rule.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-19b	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			10											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			0											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			0											
FY 2012 BASELINE			1											

National Program Manager Comments:

SDW-21: Number of drinking water and wastewater utilities and local, state, and federal officials receiving training and technical assistance to enhance emergency preparedness and resiliency to reduce risk from all hazards including those attributed to climate change impacts.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-21			1,000											
FY2015 COMMITMENT			1,000											

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY15. The baseline and universe are under development.

Subobjective 2.1.2 Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat

FS-SP6.N11: Percent of women of childbearing age having mercury levels in blood above the level of concern.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
FS-SP6.N11	SP BUD	2.3%	2.3%											
FY2015 COMMITMENT		2.3%	4.9%											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			n/a											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			4.9%											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			2.3%											

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FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			2.3%												
FY 2012 COMMITMENT			4.9%												
FY 2011 COMMITMENT			4.9%												
FY 2005 BASELINE			5.7%												

National Program Manager Comments: Updated data are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approximately every two years. In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 2.1%.

FS-1a: Percent of river miles where fish tissue were assessed to support waterbody-specific or regional consumption advisories or a determination that no consumption advice is necessary. (Great Lakes measured separately; Alaska not included) (Report every two years)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
FS-1a	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			n/a											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			36%											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			n/a											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			36%											
FY 2005 BASELINE			24%											

National Program Manager Comments: The FY11 EOY result is based on data from 2009-2010.

FS-1b: Percent of lake acres where fish tissue were assessed to support waterbody-specific or regional consumption advisories or a determination that no consumption advice is necessary. (Great Lakes measured separately; Alaska not included) (Report every two years)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
FS-1b	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			n/a											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			42%											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			n/a											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			42%											
FY 2005 BASELINE			35% (14M)											
UNIVERSE			100% (40M)											

National Program Manager Comments: The FY11 EOY result is based on data from 2009-2010.

Subobjective 2.1.3 Water Safe for Swimming

SS-SP9.N11: Percent of days of the beach season that coastal and Great Lakes beaches monitored by state beach safety programs are open and safe for swimming.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SS-SP9.N11	SP SG		95.0%		98.0%	95.0%	95.0%	92.0%	90.0%	85.0%	NT	NT	88.0%	90.0%
FY2015 COMMITMENT			95.0%	90.4%	98.0%	95.0%	95.0%	92.0%	90.0%	80.0%	NT	NT	88.0%	85.0%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			95.4%	95.4%	87.0%	98.0%	98.27%	97.5%	97.0%	98.0%	n/a	n/a	92.8%	95.0%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			95.0%	91.6%	98.0%	95.0%	95.0%	92.0%	90.0%	80.0%	NT	NT	88.0%	95.0%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			96.0%	96.0%	98.0%	97.0%	98.1%	97.2%	94.0%	95.8%	n/a	n/a	93.1%	95.0%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			95.2%	95.1%	98.0%	97.0%	98.5%	98.3%	93.5%	90.0%	n/a	n/a	92.7%	93.0%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			95.7%	95.7%	97.7%	98.0%	97.3%	97.7%	92.0%	91.0%	n/a	n/a	93.0%	99.0%
FY 2005 BASELINE			96%	96%	98%	97.2%	98.5%	96.3%	95.5%	93%	n/a	n/a	95.3%	92.8%
FY 2010 UNIVERSE			752,683	752,683	86,226	90,834	17,861	184,609	50,064	28,146	n/a	n/a	282,149	12,794

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National Program Manager Comments: Universe changes annually. Universe equals the total number of beach season days associated with the swimming seasons of monitored beaches. In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 95%.

SS-1: Number and national percent, using a constant denominator, of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) permits with a schedule incorporated into an appropriate enforceable mechanism, including a permit or enforcement order, with specific dates and milestones, including a completion date consistent with Agency guidance, which requires: 1) Implementation of a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) which will result in compliance with the technology and water quality-based requirements of the Clean Water Act; or 2) implementation of any other acceptable CSO control measures consistent with the 1994 CSO Control Policy; or 3) completion of separation after the baseline date. (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SS-1			801 (93%)	801	76	84	232	24	342	NT	24	1	3	15
FY2015 COMMITMENT			789 (92%)	789	76	81	231	22	336	NT	24	1	3	15
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			775 (90%)	775	76	81	230	22	323	n/a	24	1	3	15
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			771 (89%)	771	76	75	230	18	329	NT	24	1	3	15
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			758 (88%)	758	76	74	228	18	319	n/a	24	1	3	15
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			748 (88%)	748	76	74	226	18	312	n/a	23	1	3	15
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			734 (86%)	734	76	72	224	18	305	n/a	20	1	3	15
FY 2008 BASELINE			568 (66%)	568 (66%)	75(91%)	51(48%)	175(74%)	9(38%)	232 (64%)	n/a	7(29%)	1(100%)	3(100%)	15(100%)
UNIVERSE			862	862	82	108	236	24	369	n/a	24	1	3	15

National Program Manager Comments: Measure revised for FY08. Beginning in FY08, OECA and OWM agreed on common language and data collection procedures to streamline this measure. While the definition is slightly different for OWM, the past data is still valid for comparison with future data. We have included a revised baseline to demonstrate the real progress for FY08. While national numbers are fairly stable, the Regional baselines did change.

SS-2: Percent of all Tier I (significant) public beaches that are monitored and managed under the BEACH Act program.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SS-2	SG		98%		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	NT	NT	90%	98%
FY2015 COMMITMENT			97%	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	NT	NT	90%	85%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			98%	98%	100%	100%	97%	100%	92.5%	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	95%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			95%	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%	82%	100%	NT	NT	90%	85%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			98%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	n/a	99.8%	85%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	100%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	100%
FY 2005 BASELINE			96.5%	96.5%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	92%	n/a	n/a	100%	80%
FY 2013 UNIVERSE			2,532	2,532	162	370	95	736	332	76	n/a	n/a	589	172

National Program Manager Comments: States may change their designation of beaches at any time. Therefore, these numbers may change from year to year. Universe equals the total number of Tier 1 beaches.

Objective 2.2 Protect and Restore Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems

Subobjective 2.2.1 Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis

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WQ-SP10.N11: Number of waterbodies identified in 2002 as not attaining water quality standards where standards are now fully attained. (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-SP10.N11	KPI, BUD SG, ARRA	4,166	4,166	3,949	164	186	614	640	782	260	477	382	170	274
FY 2015 COMMITMENT		4,016	3,979	3,903	164	186	612	625	769	255	469	379	170	274
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			3,866	3,866	164	184	604	615	769	250	469	375	167	269
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			3,779	3,779	161	184	610	554	756	248	456	376	160	274
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			3,679	3,679	156	182	594	544	736	243	443	371	157	253
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			3,527	3,527	144	176	583	516	736	206	434	371	109	252
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			3,119	3,119	117	127	557	504	646	190	353	270	105	250
FY 2002 UNIVERSE			39,503	39,503	6,710	1,805	8,998	5,274	4,550	1,407	2,036	1,274	1,041	6,408

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 4,430. This measure differs from previous Measure L, since WQ-SP10.N11 uses an updated 2002 baseline. Note: 2000-2002 results equal 1,980 waters – not included above. 2014 303(d) lists were due on 4/1. As of 4/15/2014, many have not arrived. We will continue to work with our stakeholders over the summer to negotiate and finalize FY15 commitments.

WQ-SP11: Remove the specific causes of waterbody impairment identified by states in 2002. (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-SP11	BUD	13,288	13,228	12,525	484	620	2,125	1,345	3,250	747	1,457	920	950	627
FY2015 COMMITMENT		12,788	12,514	12,454	483	612	2,115	1,343	3,234	732	1,441	917	950	627
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			12,288	12,288	481	593	2,083	1,323	3,234	717	1,441	913	902	601
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			12,134	12,129	481	593	2,050	1,255	3,300	708	1,417	798	900	627
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			11,754	11,754	472	588	1,996	1,235	3,170	703	1,363	793	892	542
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			11,134	11,134	434	569	1,903	1,160	3,170	604	1,327	793	653	521
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			9,527	9,527	369	456	1,814	1,110	2,973	595	550	541	600	519
UNIVERSE			69,677	69,677	8,826	2,567	13,958	9,374	10,155	3,005	4,391	3,502	2,742	11,157

National Program Manager Comments: 2014 303(d) lists were due on 4/1. As of 4/15/2014, many have not arrived. We will continue to work with our stakeholders over the summer to negotiate and finalize FY15 commitments.

WQ-SP12.N11 : Improve water quality conditions in impaired watersheds nationwide using the watershed approach. (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-SP12.N11	SP BUD	484	484	467	10	26	25	81	48	77	16	68	35	81
FY2015 COMMITMENT		446	446	443	10	26	24	76	45	72	14	63	34	79
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			411	411	9	26	23	69	40	67	11	58	31	77
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			408	408	10	26	22	68	40	61	13	58	33	77
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			376	376	9	25	21	62	35	58	11	49	31	75
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			332	332	8	24	20	56	30	49	11	39	26	69
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			271	271	6	23	18	48	23	38	7	31	28	49
UNIVERSE			4,767	4,767	246	300	300	2,000	378	213	169	684	27	450

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National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014 -2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 575.

WQ-SP13.N11: Ensure that the condition of the Nation's waters does not degrade (i.e., there is no statistically significant increase in the percent of waters rated "poor" and no statistically significant decrease in the waters rated "good").

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-SP13.N11	SP	LT	No WQ degradation in lakes											
FY2015 COMMITMENT			No WQ degradation in lakes											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			n/a											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			Deferred for FY 2014											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			21%good, 23% fair, 55% poor											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			n/a											
FY 2012 COMMITMENT			Maintain or improve stream conditions											
FY 2006 BASELINE			28% good; 25% fair; 42% poor											

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014 -2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is maintain or improve conditions. In FY15, EPA will be reporting on the Lakes Survey.

WQ-SP14a.N11: Improve water quality in Indian country at baseline monitoring stations in tribal waters (i.e., show improvement in one or more of seven key parameters: dissolved oxygen, pH, water temperature, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, pathogen indicators, and turbidity). (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-SP14a.N11	SP BUD	LT	20	20	1	N/A	N/A	0	3	0	1	1	11	3
FY2015 COMMITMENT		LT	23	23	1	NT	NT	NT	3	1	1	1	11	5
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			21	21	1	n/a	n/a	1	3	1	1	3	8	3
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			21	22	1	NT	NT	1	3	1	1	2	10	3
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			20	20	1	n/a	n/a	1	3	1	1	2	8	3
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			15	15	1	n/a	n/a	1	3	1	n/a	2	5	2
UNIVERSE			1,729	1,729	160	14	n/a	37	729	68	150	100	203	268
			185	183	14	n/a	n/a	0	44	1	4	10	43	67

National Program Manager Comments: Universe includes two numbers: 1,729 -- the total number of monitoring stations identified by tribes that are planned for sampling (for one or more of seven key parameters) at times during the FY12-15 period; 185 -- the number or monitoring stations (out of the 1,729) that are located on waters that have a potential for improvement in one or more of seven key parameters. In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 50 of the 185 monitoring locations to show improvement.

WQ-SP14b.N11: Identify monitoring stations on tribal lands that are showing no degradation in water quality (meaning the waters are meeting tribal water quality objectives). (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10

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WQ-SP14b.N11	SP I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			6	6	1	n/a	n/a	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			1	1	1	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			4	4	n/a	0	n/a	1	0	0	0	n/a	0	3
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5
UNIVERSE			1,729	1,729	160	14	n/a	37	729	68	150	100	203	268
			261	261	14	n/a	76	2	44	1	4	10	43	67

National Program Manager Comments:

WQ-24.N11: Number of American Indian and Alaska Native homes provided access to basic sanitation in coordination with other federal agencies (cumulative).

			261	261	14	n/a	76	2	44	1	4	10	43	67

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-24.N11	SP BUD	LT	82,500											
		LT	77,700											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			75,140											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			72,700											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			69,783											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			63,087											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			56,875											
FY 2009 BASELINE			43,600											
UNIVERSE			360,000											

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 91,900. Corresponds with SDW-18: Number of American Indian and Alaska Native homes provided access to safe drinking water in coordination with other federal agencies.

WQ-01a: Number of numeric water quality standards adopted for total nitrogen or total phosphorus for all waters within the State or Territory for each of the following waterbody types: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-01a	SG		59	50	3	8	5	6	6	N/A	0	NT	22	NT
FY2015 COMMITMENT			47	47	2	9	5	6	3	NT	NT	NT	22	NT
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			44	44	1	7	5	6	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	n/a
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			44	44	1	7	5	6	3	NT	NT	NT	22	NT
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			44	44	1	7	5	6	3	0	0	0	22	0
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			42	42	1	7	5	4	3	0	0	0	22	0
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			45	45	1	7	5	6	4	0	0	0	22	0
FY 2010 BASELINE			31	31	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	22	0
UNIVERSE			280	280	34	20	34	44	24	24	16	24	38	22

National Program Manager Comments: New measure in FY 11. The planning target is based on state-provided milestone information.

WQ-01d: Number of numeric water quality standards planned to be adopted within 3 years for total nitrogen and total phosphorus for all waters within the state or territory for each of the following waterbody types: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries, based on a full set of performance milestone information supplied annually by states and territories (cumulative, out of a universe of 280).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-01d	SG		16	13	1	2	2	0	2	0	2	4	0	0
BASELINE														

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UNIVERSE

National Program Manager Comments:

WQ-02: Number of tribes that have water quality standards approved by EPA. (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-02			44	41	N/A	1	NT	2	5	10	N/A	4	8	11
FY2015 COMMITMENT			41	41	NT	1	NT	2	5	10	NT	4	8	11
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			41	41	n/a	1	n/a	2	5	10	n/a	4	8	11
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			41	41	NT	1	NT	2	5	10	NT	4	8	11
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			40	40	n/a	1	n/a	2	5	10	n/a	4	8	10
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			39	39	n/a	1	n/a	2	5	10	n/a	3	8	10
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			38	38	n/a	1	n/a	2	5	10	n/a	2	8	10
FY 2010 COMMITMENT			38		n/a	1	n/a	2	4	10	n/a	3	8	10
FY 2005 BASELINE			26	26	0	0	n/a	2	2	9	0	2	3	8
FY 2013 UNIVERSE			60	60	n/a	1	n/a	2	5	11	n/a	6	21	14

National Program Manager Comments: Universe reflects all federally recognized Tribes who have applied for "treatment in the same manner as a state" (TAS) to administer the water quality standards program (as of September 2007).

WQ-03a: Number, and national percent, of states and territories that within the preceding three year period, submitted new or revised water quality criteria acceptable to EPA that reflect new scientific information from EPA or other resources not considered in the previous standards.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-03a	BUD OMB PA SG		41(73.2%)	38	6	3	5	7	4	2	1	3	5	2
FY2015 COMMITMENT		38	38	33	3	3	5	6	4	2	1	3	3	3
		67.9%	67.9%	58.9%										
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			29	29	2	0	5	6	4	3	2	2	3	2
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			37	34	2	3	5	6	4	4	3	2	2	3
			66.1%	60.7%										
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			32	32	1	1	6	4	5	4	2	4	2	3
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			39	39	2	3	6	5	4	5	3	5	3	3
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			39	39	2	3	5	5	6	4	3	5	4	2
FY 2005 BASELINE			37	37	4	1	4	7	4	4	2	4	4	3
UNIVERSE			56	56	6	4	6	8	6	5	4	6	7	4

National Program Manager Comments: FY05 baseline are end of year results from the WATA database.

WQ-03b: Number, and national percent of tribes that within the preceding three year period, submitted new or revised water quality criteria acceptable to EPA that reflect new scientific information from EPA or other resources not considered in the previous standards.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-03b			12	4	NT	1	NT	1	1	1	NT	NT	0	0
FY2015 COMMITMENT			7 (18.4%)	7(18.4%)	NT	1	NT	1	1	1	NT	NT	2	1
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			24%	9	n/a	1	n/a	2	2	0	n/a	1	3	0
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			9 (23.7%)	9	NT	1	NT	2	2	NT	NT	1	3	NT
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			9	9	n/a	1	n/a	1	3	n/a	n/a	1	3	0
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			14 (38%)	14	n/a	1	n/a	1	3	1	n/a	2	3	3
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			13	13	n/a	1	n/a	2	3	1	n/a	0	4	2
FY 2005 BASELINE			12 (40%)	12	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	5	0	2	0	3
FY 2013 UNIVERSE			38	38	0	1	n/a	2	5	10	0	3	8	9

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National Program Manager Comments: The universe for FY11 and FY12 percentages for WQ-3b is the number of authorized tribes that have at least initial EPA approved water quality standards as of September 2010.

WQ-04a: Percentage of submissions of new or revised water quality standards from states and territories that are approved by EPA.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-04a	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			89.6%	89.6%	75.0%	0.0%	98.7%	91.5%	100.0%	77.8%	100.0%	63.6%	100.0%	50.0%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			88.0%	79.2%	75%	88%	88%	87%	75%	75%	75%	79%	75.0%	75%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			59.5%	59.5%	43%	0%	n/a	53%	93%	100%	70%	87.5%	89%	0%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			88.9%	88.9%	100%	75%	97%	87.5%	96%	96.3%	50%	100%	86.4%	80%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			91%	91%	100%	100%	100%	75%	100%	76%	63.1%	91.5%	100%	100%

National Program Manager Comments: Based on submissions received in the 12 month period ending April 30 of the fiscal year. Partial approvals receive fractional credit. Universe is not applicable because it changes annually based on number of water quality standards submissions. Measure deleted from the FY 2015 budget.

WQ-06a: Number of tribes that currently receive funding under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act that have developed and begun implementing monitoring strategies that are appropriate to their water quality program consistent with EPA Guidance. (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-06a			230	230	6	1	N/A	2	34	30	6	21	92	38
FY2015 COMMITMENT			229	229	6	1	NT	2	34	30	6	21	91	38
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			228	228	6	1	n/a	2	34	30	6	21	90	38
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			226	226	6	1	NT	2	34	30	6	19	90	38
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			224	224	6	1	n/a	2	33	30	6	19	89	38
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			214	214	6	1	n/a	2	32	30	6	19	80	38
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			196	196	6	1	n/a	2	32	20	4	19	75	37
FY 2005 BASELINE			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNIVERSE			261	261	7	1	n/a	5	34	45	7	23	101	38

National Program Manager Comments: A cumulative measure that counts tribes that have developed, submitted to the region, and begun implementing water monitoring strategies that are consistent with the EPA 106 Tribal Guidance.

WQ-09a: Estimated annual reduction in million pounds of nitrogen from nonpoint sources to waterbodies (Section 319 funded projects only).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-09a	BUD	9.1	9.1											
FY2015 COMMITMENT		9.1	9.1											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			11.3											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			9.1											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			10.4											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			9.0											

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FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			12.8											
FY 2005 BASELINE			3.7											

National Program Manager Comments: FY05 baseline for a 6 month period only. End of year results are received mid-February of the following year.

WQ-09b: Estimated annual reduction in million pounds of phosphorus from nonpoint sources to waterbodies (Section 319 funded projects only).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-09b	BUD	4.5	4.5											
FY2015 COMMITMENT		4.5	4.5											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			2.7											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			4.5											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			3.5											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			4.4											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			4.8											
FY 2005 BASELINE			0.56											

National Program Manager Comments: FY05 baseline for a 6 month period only. End of year results are received mid-February of the following year.

WQ-09c: Estimated annual reduction in million tons of sediment from nonpoint sources to waterbodies (Section 319 funded projects only).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-09c	BUD	1.2	1.2											
FY2015 COMMITMENT		1.2	1.2											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			1.7											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			1.2											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			1.2											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			1.1											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			2.0											
FY 2005 BASELINE			1.68											

National Program Manager Comments: FY05 baseline for a 6 month period only. End of year results are received mid-February of the following year.

WQ-10: Number of waterbodies identified by states (in 1998/2000 or subsequent years) as being primarily nonpoint source (NPS)-impaired that are partially or fully restored. (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-10	BUD OMB PA SG	LT	644	612	34	22	73	100	51	86	65	40	22	119
FY2015 COMMITMENT		LT	600	594	34	21	70	95	47	86	65	37	20	119
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			560	560	33	20	67	89	42	81	61	33	17	117
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			562	562	33	21	66	85	42	86	61	33	20	115
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			504	504	31	18	62	82	37	58	57	30	17	112
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			433	433	27	17	54	71	32	39	43	24	16	110
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			358	358	24	15	49	57	27	26	21	20	14	105
FY 2005 BASELINE			15	15	1	0	2	5	3	0	4	0	0	0

Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

National Program Manager Comments: Regions report results. The universe is the estimated waterbodies impaired primarily by nonpoint sources from the 1998 (or 2000 if states did not have a 1998 list) 303(d) lists. Note that this universe shifts each time a new 303(d) list is developed, so this figure is only an estimate. Only waters on the Success Story website (epa.gov/owow/nps/Success319/) are counted.

WQ -11: Number, and national percent, of follow-up actions that are completed by assessed NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) programs. (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ -11	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			82%	404	50	26	37	38	58	17	43	62	22	51
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			74%	364	41	26	29	36	56	17	41	57	20	41
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			71%	344	40	25	27	32	55	17	37	57	20	34
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			60%	293	29	21	27	29	51	17	33	40	19	27
FY 2005 BASELINE			18%	54	6	5	4	9	16	2	6	3	1	2
UNIVERSE			100%	490	72	32	49	44	67	23	47	71	25	60

National Program Manager Comments: Regional annual commitments and completed NPDES Action Items are confirmed by the HQ Action Items database. Assessed programs include 45

WQ-12a: Percent of non-tribal facilities covered by NPDES permits that are considered current.
[Measure will still set targets and commitments and report results in both % and #.]

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-12a	KPI		90%	84%	75%	35%	90%	85%	87%	90%	80%	78%	78%	80%
				114,567	1,292	1,856	19,319	17,489	26,459	24,936	9,188	3,706	1,656	8,665
FY2015 COMMITMENT			85%	85%	77%	49%	90%	85%	86%	94%	80%	78%	78%	80%
			114,476	114,476	1,327	2,599	19,319	17,489	24,483	26,045	9,188	3,706	1,656	8,665
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			90%	121,225	74%	77%	94%	93%	89%	98%	85%	68%	81%	87%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			86%	86%	78%	85%	90%	85%	85%	94%	80%	78%	78%	78%
			105,544	105,544	1,363	4,281	19,197	16,774	17,111	25,780	9,694	4,001	1,693	5,650
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			89.7%	89.7%	77%	82%	93%	92%	89%	98%	86%	73%	68%	78%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			90.4%	90.4%	79%	86%	94%	93%	88%	98%	86%	73%	80%	79%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			89%	89%	81%	87.3%	92%	94%	86%	98%	82.4%	79%	81%	76%
FY 2005 BASELINE			87.8% (96,851)	87.8% (96,851)	64%	94%	86%	87%	87%	93%	82%	87%	91%	77%
UNIVERSE			136,378	136,378	1,723	5,304	21,466	20,575	30,413	27,707	11,485	4,751	2,123	10,831

National Program Manager Comments: Targets, commitments, and results will be reported in both percent and number. This measure includes facilities covered by all permits, including

WQ-12b: Percent of tribal facilities covered by NPDES permits that are considered current.
[Measure will still set targets and commitments and report results in both % and #.]

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-12b			90%	84%	100%	100%	N/A	100%	90%	85%	87%	88%	88%	60%
					370	2	2	n/a	11	41	9	16	196	46
FY2015 COMMITMENT			84%	84%	100%	100%	NT	100%	90%	85%	87%	88%	88%	60%
			370	370	2	2	NT	11	41	9	16	196	46	46
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			85%	375	100%	100%	n/a	100%	98%	100%	94%	91%	73%	61%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			85%	84%	100%	100%	NT	100%	91%	85%	78%	90%	88%	60%
			371	371	2	2	NT	11	42	10	18	194	46	46
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			83.4%	83.4%	100%	100%	n/a	100%	94%	100%	94%	84%	92%	62%

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FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			86.1%	86.1%	0%	100%	n/a	100%	94%	90%	56%	94%	94%	58%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			87%	87%	0%	100%	n/a	100%	96%	93%	73.3%	94%	90%	55%
FY 2011 COMMITMENT			78%	78%	0%	100%	n/a	100%	95%	90%	100%	90%	85%	50%
			345	345	0	2	n/a	11	42	10	18	201	44	39
FY 2005 BASELINE			80% (261)	80% (261)	0	2	n/a	16	37	8	1	140	41	16
UNIVERSE			442	442	2	2	n/a	11	46	11	18	223	52	77

National Program Manager Comments: Targets, commitments, and results will be reported in both percent and number. This measure includes facilities covered by all permits, including

WQ-13a: Number of MS-4s covered under either an individual or general permit.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-13a	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			7,851		528	1,314	1,096	782	1,972	595	210	274	848	232
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			7,774		528	1,284	1,116	696	1,956	658	215	251	840	230
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			6,888		520	1,279	1,119	693	1,687	659	209	251	244	227
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			6,952		520	1,262	991	744	1,813	674	208	251	262	227
FY 2007 BASELINE			6,632											

National Program Manager Comments: The Universe is n/a .The end of year results are used to develop the universe of facilities covered under a MS-4.

WQ-13b: Number of facilities covered under either an individual or general industrial storm water permit.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-13b	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			93,042		3,792	4,620	6,401	18,522	18,003	14,170	6,229	5,206	11,544	4,555
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			94,447		3,571	4,001	6,653	18,234	18,034	16,490	7,139	4,313	11,334	4,678
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			87,060		3,599	4,614	6,566	16,111	17,763	21,186	6,821	4,313	1,991	4,096
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			84,718		3,553	4,651	6,621	19,091	20,508	13,922	6,257	4,313	1,886	3,916
FY 2007 BASELINE			86,826											

National Program Manager Comments: The Universe is n/a .The end of year results are used to develop the universe of facilities covered under either an inidividual or general inudstrial

WQ-13c: Number of sites covered under either an individual or general construction storm water site permit.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-13c	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			164,494		3,775	12,205	25,603	49,802	8,899	19,467	12,951	12,958	13,105	5,729
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			158,525		3,592	12,239	30,681	48,054	9,407	9,001	13,003	16,000	11,759	4,789
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			166,031		3,405	10,454	29,648	45,453	8,251	26,021	10,133	16,000	12,269	4,397
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			168,744		9,127	9,955	27,974	50,835	8,172	11,643	13,931	16,019	14,512	6,576
FY 2007 BASELINE			242,801											

National Program Manager Comments: The Universe is n/a .The end of year results are used to develop the universe of facilities covered under either either an inidividual or general

WQ-13d: Number of facilities covered under either an individual or general CAFO permit.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10

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WQ-13d	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			6,946		9	241	894	881	1,956	588	968	706	172	531
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			6,684		9	550	686	1,042	1,894	589	514	673	173	554
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			7,581		7	563	457	1,042	1,824	741	1,521	673	190	563
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			7,994		7	566	444	863	2,234	794	1,521	680	198	687
FY 2005 BASELINE			8,623		0	624	175	2,131	1,488	1,391	1,239	448	296	831
UNIVERSE			19,653		33	632	770	3,621	3,204	4,190	3,777	841	1,670	915

National Program Manager Comments: FY05 CAFO data is not from ACS. Note: It is likely the regions overestimated the number of CAFOs covered by a general permit in 2005.

WQ-14a: Number, and national percent, of Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) that are discharging to POTWs with Pretreatment Programs that have control mechanisms in place that implement applicable pretreatment standards and requirements.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-14a	I		Indicator											
FY2015 COMMITMENT	SG		20,664	20,664	1,320	1,522	1,581	3,565	4,386	1,878	946	647	4,149	670
			98.8%	98.8%	98.4%	97.3%	98.0%	100.0%	100.0%	97.0%	98.0%	98.3%	98.5%	100.0%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			20,734	20,734	1,316	1,538	1,585	3,563	4,337	1,937	964	647	4,149	698
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			20,647	20,647	1,341	1,555	1,583	3,475	4,383	1,898	946	647	4,149	670
			98.2%	98.2%										
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			20,739	98.7%	1,366	1,532	1,588	3,544	4,359	1,937	946	647	4,149	671
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			20,733	98.2%	1,341	1,571	1,613	3,461	4,366	1,976	1,000	647	4,088	670
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			20,977	99.3%	1,301	1,617	1,662	3,467	4,524	1,972	983	647	4,137	667
FY 2007 BASELINE			22,013	96%	1,363	2,110	1,723	3,418	5,265	2,132	829	592	4,019	562
UNIVERSE			20,915	20,915	1,341	1,565	1,614	3,565	4,386	1,937	965	658	4,214	670

National Program Manager Comments: All universe numbers are approximate as they shift from year to year.

WQ-14b: Number, and national percent, of Categorical Industrial Users (CIUs) that are discharging to POTWs without Pretreatment Programs that have control mechanisms in place that implement applicable pretreatment standards and requirements.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-14b	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			95.8%	1,642	44	62	73	292	790	112	183	36	6	44
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			94%	1,650	44	59	69	279	818	112	183	36	6	44
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			94.1%	1,667	44	65	76	272	824	120	180	36	6	44
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			81%	1,306	45	64	67	267	463	124	191	36	6	43
FY 2007 BASELINE			94%	1,547	44	65	66	313	679	109	193	31	6	41
UNIVERSE			100%	1,714	45	72	75	275	822	112	217	42	6	48

National Program Manager Comments: All universe numbers are approximate as they shift from year to year.

WQ-17: Fund utilization rate [cumulative loan agreement dollars to the cumulative funds available for projects] for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-17	BUD ARRA	95.0%	95.0%		92.0%	90.0%	94.5%	94.5%	95.0%	94.0%	93.0%	94.0%	95.0%	98.0%
FY2015 COMMITMENT		94.5%	94.5%	94.0%	92.0%	90.0%	94.5%	94.5%	95.0%	94.0%	93.0%	94.0%	95.0%	98.0%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			98.0%	98.0%	104.0%	95.0%	95.0%	97.0%	98.0%	95.0%	94.0%	91.0%	107.0%	98.0%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			94.5%	93.4%	92.0%	90.0%	94.5%	90.0%	95.0%	95.0%	90.0%	94.0%	95.0%	98.0%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			97.0%	97.0%	106%	92%	94%	97%	97%	94%	96%	90%	107%	97%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			98%	98%	94%	93%	96%	94%	99%	94%	93%	88%	111%	104%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			98%	98%	104%	95%	95%	99%	97%	95%	98%	96%	107%	103%
FY 2005 BASELINE			94.7%	94.7%	110%	94%	89%	95%	98%	91%	88%	91%	93%	98%
UNIVERSE (in billions)			$97.5	$97.5	$9.2	$18.3	$8.4	$12.1	$20.9	$9.0	$5.5	$3.2	$7.9	$3.0

FY 2015 National Water Program Final Performance Commitments

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National Program Manager Comments: Universe represents the cumulaitve funds available for projects for the CWSRF, in billions of dollars (i.e., the denominator of the measure).

WQ-19a: Number of high priority state NPDES permits that are issued in the fiscal year.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-19a	BUD, SG	80%	442	442	14	20	82	20	66	22	125	47	17	29
FY2015 COMMITMENT		80%	488	488	22	23	82	62	66	22	125	47	17	22
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			516	516	19	19	57	67	69	23	175	41	16	30
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			486	486	19	19	69	65	60	20	158	36	11	29
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			404	55%	11	14	71	79	102	9	57	35	9	17
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			850	130%	15	33	141	126	196	91	138	52	12	46
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			943	943	27	41	157	158	161	82	160	66	26	65
FY 2015 UNIVERSE			618	618	33	28	108	78	83	27	134	57	20	50

National Program Manager Comments: Starting in FY13, results can no longer exceed 100% issuance due to a refinement of the measure definition, and the target was revised

WQ-19b: Number of high priority state and EPA (including tribal) NPDES permits that are issued in the fiscal year.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-19b	BUD	80%	488	488	29	30	82	20	66	23	130	47	19	42
FY2015 COMMITMENT		80%	526	526	34	31	82	62	66	23	130	47	19	32
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			556	556	34	27	57	67	69	25	175	42	17	43
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			532	532	31	25	69	65	60	21	163	41	15	42
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			449	55%	24	23	71	79	102	9	64	36	12	29
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			925	128%	34	52	142	126	196	97	138	55	15	70
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			1,005	1,005	50	54	158	158	161	86	161	68	31	78
FY 2011 COMMITMENT			763	763	29	37	169	80	93	59	121	69	20	86
FY 2015 UNIVERSE			674	674	57	37	108	78	83	28	140	57	22	64

National Program Manager Comments: Starting in FY13, results can no longer exceed 100% issuance due to a refinement of the measure definition, and the target was revised

WQ-23: Percent of serviceable rural Alaska homes with access to drinking water supply and wastewater disposal.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-23	BUD	93.0%	93.0%											
FY2015 COMMITMENT	BUD	92.5%	92.5%											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			94.4%											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			93.5%											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			90.5%											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			91%											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			92%											
FY 2010 BASELINE			91%											

National Program Manager Comments: The universe is not applicable since units are percent of serviceable homes.

WQ-25a: Number of urban water projects initiated addressing water quality issues in the community.

Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-25a	BUD	49	105											
FY2015 COMMITMENT	BUD	22	28											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			65											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			30											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			9											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			46											
BASELINE			46											

National Program Manager Comments: Of the targeted 30 projects initiated, 10 are expected to be funded in total as Urban Waters Small Grants, grants made directly to grant recipients

WQ-25b: Number of urban water projects completed addressing water quality issues in the community. (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-25b	BUD	78	78											
FY2015 COMMITMENT	BUD	61	61											
BASELINE			0											

National Program Manager Comments: Measure reestablished in the FY 2015 budget. Included in the FY 2015 target, addition to the UW Small Grants awarded by EPA, are grants

WQ-27: Extent of priority areas identified by each state that are addressed by EPA-approved TMDLs or alternative restoration approaches for impaired waters that will achieve water quality standards. These areas may also include protection approaches for unimpaired waters to maintain water quality standards.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-27	BUD	8%	8%		NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
FY2015 COMMITMENT	BUD	8%	8%		NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
BASELINE			TBD		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
UNIVERSE			TBD		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

National Program Manager Comments: Regional targets is delayed (marked as NT) until the draft commitments are due in July 2014. This is a new measure starting in FY 2015 replacing

WQ-28: State-wide extent of activities leading to completed TMDLs or alternative restoration approaches for impaired waters, or protection approaches for unimpaired waters.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-28	I		Indicator											
BASELINE			TBD											
UNIVERSE			TBD											

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY15.

WQ-29: Number of states protecting or improving water quality conditions, as demonstrated by state-scale statistical surveys:
• On average, water quality is improving or at least not degrading (there is no statistically significant decrease in mean water quality);
• The percentage of waters in good condition is increasing or remaining constant; and,
• The percentage of waters in poor condition is decreasing or remaining constant.

Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-29		I	Indicator											
BASELINE														
UNIVERSE														

National Program Manager Comments:

WQ-30: Number of WaterSense partners working to improve water use efficiency.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-30		I	Indicator											
BASELINE/ FY2014 Cumulative			1,582											
UNIVERSE			N/A											

National Program Manager Comments:

WQ-31: Number of water and wastewater utilities that use the EnergyStar Portfolio Manager to manage energy.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-31		I	Indicator											
BASELINE/ FY2014 Cumulative			2,177											
UNIVERSE			N/A											

National Program Manager Comments:

WQ-32: Number of water and wastewater utilities that have registered to use the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-32		I	Indicator											
BASELINE			1,782											
UNIVERSE			TBD											

National Program Manager Comments:

WQ-33: Number of CWSRFs/DWSRFs that used financial incentives to promote climate resilience projects in the last year.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-33		I	Indicator											
BASELINE														
UNIVERSE														

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National Program Manager Comments: A "climate resilience project" is an infrastructure project that is designed to improve/secure a utility or system's continuity of service ability to

Subobjective 2.2.2 Improve Coastal and Ocean Waters

CO-SP20.N11: Percent of active dredged material ocean dumping sites that will have achieved environmentally acceptable conditions (as reflected in each site's management plan and measured through on-site monitoring programs).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CO-SP20.N11	SP BUD	95%	95%		95%	100%	100%	82% (14/17)	NT	88%	NT	NT	100%	100%
FY2015 COMMITMENT		95%	95%	95%	100%	100%	100%	81%	NT	87%	n/a	n/a	100%	100%
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			95%	95%	100%	100%	100%	81%	NT	86%	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			95%	96%	100%	100%	100%	84%	NT	86%	n/a	n/a	100%	100%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			96%	96%	100%	100%	100%	84%	n/a	86%	n/a	n/a	100%	100%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			97%	97%	100%	100%	100%	90%	n/a	86%	n/a	n/a	100%	100%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			93%	93%	100%	100%	100%	74%	n/a	79%	n/a	n/a	100%	100%
FY 2005 BASELINE			94% (60)	60	5	3	2	17	n/a	15	n/a	n/a	11	7
2012 UNIVERSE			70	70	5	4	2	17	n/a	16	n/a	n/a	12	14

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 95%.

CO-02: Total coastal and non-coastal statutory square miles protected from vessel sewage by "no discharge zone(s)." (cumulative)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CO-02	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			64,535		3,948	6,608	65	3,085	45,701	2	0	254	4,872	0
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			63,773		3,779	6,015	65.17	3,084.77	45,701	2	0	254	4,872	0
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			58,929		3,779	6,015	65.17	3,084.77	45,701	2	0	254	28	0
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			54,494		3,019	2,340.33	65.17	3,084.77	45,701	2	0	254	28	0
FY 2009 BASELINE			52,607		2,511	1,271	65	2,775	45,701	2	0	254	28	0
UNIVERSE			163,129		6,453	5,995	7,882	24,128	55,419	9,905	568	1,749	9,883	41,145

National Program Manager Comments: As of FY10, the universe consists of the total area of water eligible to be designated as an NDZ under the current regulations (in statutory square

CO-04: Dollar value of "primary" leveraged resources (cash or in-kind) obtained by the NEP Directors and/or staff in millions of dollars rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CO-04	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			$577		$453	$5	$9	$24	n/a	$4	n/a	n/a	$14	$68
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			$822		$749	$5	$10	$16	n/a	$6	n/a	n/a	$13	$23
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			$323		$201	$10	$7	$27	n/a	$8	n/a	n/a	$17	$53
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			$662		$530	$29	$11	$31	n/a	$10	n/a	n/a	$7	$44
FY 2005 BASELINE			$158.8		$12.3	$46.9	$7.7	$19.1	n/a	$4.5	n/a	n/a	$51	$17.3
UNIVERSE			n/a											

National Program Manager Comments: (Dollars in millions). Note that "primary" leveraged dollars are those the National Estuary Program (NEP) played the central role in obtaining. An

CO-06: Number of active dredged material ocean dumping sites that are monitored in the reporting year.

FY 2015 National Water Program Final Performance Commitments

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FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CO-06	I		Indicator				1			1				
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			41		2	1	1	11	n/a	4	n/a	n/a	8	14
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			40		1	3	1	9	n/a	4	n/a	n/a	8	14
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			35		2	2	1	7	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	2	14
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			33		1	2	2	12	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	2	12
2012 UNIVERSE			66		5	4	2	16	n/a	13	n/a	n/a	12	14

National Program Manager Comments:

CO-432.N11: Working with partners, protect or restore additional acres of habitat within the study areas for the 28 estuaries that are part of the National Estuary Program (NEP).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CO-432.N11	SP BUD	100,000	100,000	41,340	2,500.0	1,250	2,400	25,000	NT	3,000		NT	2,000	5,190
FY2015 COMMITMENT		100,000	100,000	39,637	1,414.5	1,250	3,500	25,000	NT	3,000	NT	NT	500	4,972
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			93,557	93,557	5,497	4,121	2,469	56,886	n/a	6,632	n/a	n/a	6,026	11,926
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			100,000	38,649	2,894	1,250	3,500	25,000	NT	3,000	NT	NT	500	2,505
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			127,594	127,594	2,290.2	791.1	11,926.4	68,234.0	n/a	6,559.9	n/a	n/a	30,226.2	7,566.2
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			114,579	114,575	3,589.0	3,017.0	4,726.0	52,801.0	n/a	8,776.0	n/a	n/a	30,438.0	11,228.0
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			62,213	62,213	6,259.6	1,350.9	5,403.0	29,723.8	n/a	5,269.3	n/a	n/a	9,059.9	5,146.7
FY 2005 BASELINE			449,241	449,241	14,562	15,009	33,793	232,605	n/a	54,378	n/a	n/a	82,363	16,531

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 600,000. The FY15 national target is higher than the regional aggregates because the

Subobjective 2.2.3 Increase Wetlands

WT-SP22: In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, states, and tribes, achieve 'no net loss' of wetlands each year under the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulatory program. ("No net loss" of wetlands is based on requirements for mitigation in CWA 404 permits and not the actual mitigation attained.)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WT-SP22	BUD	No net loss	No net loss											
FY2015 COMMITMENT			No net loss											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			No net loss											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			No net loss											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			No net loss											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			No net loss											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			No net loss											

National Program Manager Comments: Data source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ORM2 Regulatory Program Database. Please note that there is a data lag with this measure. Reports

WT-01: Number of acres restored and improved, under the 5-Star, NEP, 319, and great waterbody programs (cumulative).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WT-01	BUD	240,000	240,000											
FY2015 COMMITMENT		230,000	230,000											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			221,000											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			220,000											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			207,000											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			180,000											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			154,000											

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FY 2006 BASELINE			58,777											

National Program Manager Comments: These acres may include those supported by Wetland 5 Star Restoration Grants, National Estuary Program, Section 319 grants, Brownfields grants,

WT-02a: Number of states/tribes that have substantially built or increased capacity in wetland regulation, monitoring and assessment, water quality standards, and/or restoration and protection. (Annual)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WT-02a	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			36		8	0	4	0	4	2	2	8	4	4
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			37		7	2	3	2	4	2	4	6	4	3
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			44		6	0	5	1	4	3	2	9	8	6
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			54		6	0	5	3	4	3	4	16	2	11
FY 2005 BASELINE			20		6	0	3	7	0	0	1	3	0	0
UNIVERSE			596		9	7	5	13	41	68	9	27	146	271

National Program Manager Comments: Intended to allow us to track work of all states/tribes (those just starting to build wetland programs and those that are improving well developed

WT-03: Percent of Clean Water Act Section 404 standard permits, upon which EPA coordinated with the permitting authority (i.e., Corps or State), where a final permit decision in the current fiscal year documents requirements for greater environmental protection* than originally proposed.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WT-03	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			77%		46%	33%	75%	81%	83%	87%	82%	50%	80%	55%
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			78%		87%	50%	47%	20%	100%	97%	88%	50%	71%	47%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			85%		87%	0%	100%	93%	89%	96%	78%	40%	100%	33%
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			88%		100%	0%	85%	93%	90%	75%	82%	91%	100%	57%

National Program Manager Comments: Tracking capabilities began in 1/2010. Tracking totals will appear in FY11. Reported on by Regions and HQ.

Subobjective 2.2.4 The Great Lakes

GL-SP31: Areas of Concern where all management actions necessary for delisting have been implemented (cumulative).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GL-SP31	SP BUD	9	9	9					9					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		8	8						8					
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			7						7					
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			8						8					
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			3						3					
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			2						2					
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			2						2					
FY 2014 BASELINE			7						7					
UNIVERSE			31						31					

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 12 AOCs. This measure identifies the cumulative target for taking all necessary

GL-05: Area of Concern Beneficial Use Impairments removed (cumulative).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10

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GL-05	BUD	65	65	65					65					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		60	60						60					
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			52						52					
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			60						60					
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			41						41					
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			33						33					
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			26						26					
FY 2014 BASELINE			52						52					
UNIVERSE			255						255					

National Program Manager Comments: Measure updated in FY 2015.

GL-07: Number GLRI-funded Great Lakes rapid responses or exercises conducted.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GL-07	BUD	8	8	8					8					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		8	8						8					
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			8						8					
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			8						8					
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			30						30					
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			23						23					
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			8						8					
FY 2014 BASELINE			0						0					

National Program Manager Comments: There were zero multi-agency rapid response plans established, mock exercises to practice responses carried out under those plans, and/or

GL-09: Number of aquatic/terrestrial acres controlled by GLRI-funded projects (cumulative).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GL-09	BUD	104,500	104,500	104,500					104,500					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		94,500	50,000						50,000					
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			84,500						84,500					
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			38,000						38,000					
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			35,924						35,924					
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			31,474						31,474					
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			13,045						13,045					
FY 2014 BASELINE			36,000						36,000					

National Program Manager Comments: Measure text revised in FY 2015 to clarify that the focus of the measure included aquatic and terrestrial acres. Results from this measure also

GL-17: Projected phosphorus reductions from GLRI-funded projects in targeted watersheds (cumulative, measured in pounds).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GL-17	BUD	310,000	310,000	310,000					310,000					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		130,000	130,000						130,000					
FY 2015 BASELINE			0						0					

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY 2015. Cumulative measure of average annual projected reduction, starting in FY 2015.

GL-18: Projected volume of untreated urban runoff captured or treated by GLRI-funded projects (cumulative, measured in millions of gallons).

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FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GL-18	BUD	70	70	70					70					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		30	30						30					
FY 2015 BASELINE			0						0					

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY 2015. Cumulative measure of average annual projected reduction, starting in FY 2015.

GL-19: Number of miles of Great Lakes tributaries reopened by GLRI-funded projects (cumulative).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GL-19	BUD	2,500	2,500	2,500					2,500					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		2,200	2,200						2,200					
FY 2013 BASELINE			1,900						1,900					

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY 2015.

GL-20: Number of miles of Great Lakes shoreline and riparian corridors protected, restored, and enhanced by GLRI-funded projects (cumulative).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GL-20	BUD	100	100	100					100					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		75	75						75					
FY 2015 BASELINE			0						0					

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY 2015.

GL-21: Number of acres of Great Lakes coastal wetlands protected, restored, and enhanced by GLRI-funded projects (cumulative).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GL-21	BUD	15,000	15,000	7,000					7,000					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		7,000	7,000						7,000					
FY 2015 BASELINE			0						0					
UNIVERSE			260,000						260,000					

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY 2015.

GL-22: Number of acres of other habitats in the Great Lakes basin protected, restored, and enhanced by GLRI-funded projects (cumulative).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GL-22	BUD	147,000	147,000	147,000					147,000					
FY2015 COMMITMENT		127,000	127,000						127,000					
FY 2015 BASELINE			117,000						117,000					

Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

UNIVERSE			1,290,000						1,290,000					

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY 2015.

Subobjective 2.2.5 The Chesapeake Bay

CB-05.N14: Percent attainment of water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/underwater grasses, and chlorophyll a in Chesapeake Bay and tidal tributaries.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CB-05.N14	SP		Long Term											
FY 2011 BASELINE			40%				40%							

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY15. In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 45%.

CB-SP35: Percent of goal achieved for implementing nitrogen pollution reduction actions to achieve the final TMDL allocations, as measured through the phase 5.3 watershed model.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CB-SP35	BUD OMB PA	45.0%	52.5%				52.5%							
FY2015 COMMITMENT		37.5%	37.5%				37.5%							
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			27.0%				27.0%							
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			30.0%				30.0%							
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			25.0%				25.0%							
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			21%				21%							
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			8%				8%							
FY 2010 BASELINE			0%				0%							

National Program Manager Comments: FY 2015 target is based on a straightline trajectory to achieve 60% by FY 2018.

CB-SP36: Percent of goal achieved for implementing phosphorus pollution reduction actions to achieve final TMDL allocations, as measured through the phase 5.3 watershed model.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CB-SP36	BUD OMB PA	45.0%	52.5%				52.5%							
FY2015 COMMITMENT		37.5%	37.5%				37.5%							
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			43.0%				43.0%							
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			30.0%				30.0%							
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			27.0%				27.0%							
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			19%				19%							
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			1%				1%							
FY 2010 BASELINE			0%				0%							

National Program Manager Comments: FY 2015 target is based on a straightline trajectory to achieve 60% by FY 2018.

CB-SP37: Percent of goal achieved for implementing sediment pollution reduction actions to achieve final TMDL allocations, as measured through the phase 5.3 watershed model.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CB-SP37	BUD OMB PA	45.0%	52.5%				52.5%							
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT		37.5%	37.5%				37.5%							

Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

FY 2014 COMMITMENT			30.0%				30.0%							
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			32.0%				32.0%							
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			30%				30%							
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			11%				11%							
FY 2010 BASELINE			0%				0%							

National Program Manager Comments: FY 2015 target is based on a straightline trajectory to achieve 60% by FY 2018.

Subobjective 2.2.6 The Gulf of Mexico

GM-SP39: Protect, enhance, or restore coastal and upland habitats within the Gulf of Mexico watershed.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GM-SP39	BUD	30,800	15											
FY2015 COMMITMENT		30,800	30,800											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			30,318.81											
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			30,800											
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			30,305.81											
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			30,796											
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			30,052											
FY 2005 BASELINE			16,000											
UNIVERSE			3,769,370											
National Program Manager Comments: Coastal habitat includes marshes, wetlands, tidal flats, oyster beds, seagrasses, mangroves, dunes and maritime forest ridge areas.														

GM-01: Improve and/or restore water and habitat quality to meet water quality standards in watersheds throughout the five Gulf States and the Mississippi River Basin.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GM-01	BUD	2	2											
UNIVERSE														

National Program Manager Comments:

GM-02: Promote and support environmental education and outreach to the inhabitants of the Gulf of Mexico watershed.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GM-02	SP		2,500											
UNIVERSE														

National Program Manager Comments:

GM-03: Support the assessment, development and implementation of programs, projects and tools which strengthen community resilience.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
GM-03	SP		5											
UNIVERSE														

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National Program Manager Comments:

Subobjective 2.2.7 Long Island Sound

LI-SP41: Percent of goal achieved in reducing trade-equalized (TE) point source nitrogen discharges to Long Island Sound from the 1999 baseline of 59,146 TE lbs/day.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
LI-SP41	BUD	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%		95.0%								
FY2015 COMMITMENT		91.5%	91.5%			91.5%								
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			94.00%			94.00%								
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			85.0%			85.0%								
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			88%			88%								
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			83%			83%								
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			69%			69%								
FY 2011 COMMITMENT			55%			55%								
FY 1999 BASELINE			59,146 TE lbs/day			59,146								

National Program Manager Comments: Measure tracked in Trade Equalized (TE) lbs/day. TE lbs/day are pounds of nitrogen adjusted by application of an equivalency factor assigned to

LI-SP42.N11: Reduce the size (square miles) of observed hypoxia (Dissolved Oxygen <3mg/l) in Long Island Sound.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
LI-SP42.N11	SP		Long Term	87 sq miles		87 sq miles								
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			87 sq miles			87 sq miles								
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			Long Term			LT								
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			80 sq miles			80 sq miles								
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			288.5 sq miles			288.5								
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			130 sq miles; 54 days			130; 54								
FY 2005 BASELINE			187 sq miles; 58.6 days			187; 58.6								
UNIVERSE			1,400 sq miles (total); 122 days actually monitored			1,400 sq miles (total); 122 days actually monitored								

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is to reduce the maximum area of hypoxia by 15%. New measure starting in FY08. Due

LI-SP43: Restore, protect or enhance acres of coastal habitat from the 2010 baseline of 2,975 acres.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
LI-SP43	BUD	43	43	43.0		43.0								
FY2015 COMMITMENT		135	135.0			135.0								
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			410			410								
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			410			410								
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			336			336								
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			537			537								
FY 2008 BASELINE			1,199 restored & protected			1,199								

National Program Manager Comments: Measure revised in FY12 to measure actual acres to be restored instead of percent of goal achieved. EPA will establish annual targets with

FY 2015 National Water Program Final Performance Commitments

Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

LI-SP44: Reopen miles of river and stream corridors to diadromous fish passage from the 2010 baseline of 177 river miles by removal of dams and barriers or by installation of bypass structures.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
LI-SP44	BUD	88	88	88.0		88.0								
FY2015 COMMITMENT		30	30.0			30.0								
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			21.6			21.6								
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			1.5			1.5								
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			56			56								
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			72.3			72.3								
FY 2008 BASELINE			124			124								

National Program Manager Comments: Measure revised in FY12 to measure actual miles to be reopened instead of percent of goal achieved. EPA will establish annual targets with

Subobjective 2.2.8 The Puget Sound Basin

PS-SP49.N11: Improve water quality and enable the lifting of harvest restrictions in acres of shellfish bed growing areas impacted by degraded or declining water quality. (cumulative starting in FY 06)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
PS-SP49.N11	SP BUD	5,340	5,340	5,340										5,340
FY2015 COMMITMENT		4,700	4,700											4,700
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			3,249											3,249
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			4,000											4,000
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			3,203											3,203
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			2,489											2,489
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			1,525											1,525
FY 2007 BASELINE			322											322
UNIVERSE			30,000											30,000

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 6,000 acres. New measures starting in FY08. Baseline is the end-of-year data for

PS-SP51: Restore acres of tidally- and seasonally-influenced estuarine wetlands. (cumulative starting in FY 06)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
PS-SP51	BUD	45,500	45,500	45,500										45,500
FY2015 COMMITMENT		43,006	43,006											43,006
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			41,006											41,006
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			35,818											35,818
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			30,128											30,128
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			23,818											23,818
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			14,629											14,629
FY 2007 BASELINE			4,152											4,152
UNIVERSE			75,000											75,000

National Program Manager Comments: New measures starting in FY08. Baseline is the end-of-year data for FY07.

Subobjective 2.2.9 U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Health

MB-SP23: Loading of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) removed (cumulative million pounds/year) from the U.S.-Mexico Border area since 2003.

Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
MB-SP23	BUD OMB PA	170.3	150	150.0						122.1			27.9	
FY2015 COMMITMENT		141.1	141.1	141.1						113.2			27.9	
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			131.0	131.0						103.2			27.8	
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			137.3	137.3						109.5			27.8	
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			128.4	128.4						101.5			26.9	
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			119.0	119.0						97.1			21.9	
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			108.6	108.6						87.0			21.6	
FY 2003 BASELINE			0	0						0			0	

National Program Manager Comments: Measure first reported in FY10. FY10's target and result represent annual progress only. Starting in FY11, the program will report cumulative

MB-SP24.N11: Number of additional homes provided safe drinking water in the U.S.-Mexico border area that lacked access to safe drinking water in 2003.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
MB-SP24.N11	SP BUD OMB PA	500	500	500						500			NT	
FY2015 COMMITMENT		600	600	600						600			NT	
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			1,468	1,468						1,468			n/a	
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			1,700	1,700						1,700			NT	
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			3,400	3,400						3,400			0	
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			5,185	5,185						5,185			0	
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			2,604	2,604						2,604			0	
FY 2003 UNIVERSE			98,515											

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 75% of homes. Measure is regionally reported starting in FY09. FY03 Baseline: zero

MB-SP25.N11: Number of additional homes provided adequate wastewater sanitation in the U.S.-Mexico border area that lacked access to wastewater sanitation in 2003.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
MB-SP25.N11	SP BUD OMB PA	53,000	45,000	45,720						45,000			720	
FY2015 COMMITMENT		40,750	40,750	40,750						40,000			750	
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			12,756	12,756						7,445			5,311	
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			39,500	39,500						35,000			4,500	
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			25,695	25,695						8,522			17,173	
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			31,092	31,092						30,355			737	
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			259,371	259,371						239,871			19,500	
FY 2003 UNIVERSE			690,723											

National Program Manager Comments: In the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan, the 2018 target is 90% of homes. Measure is regionally reported starting in FY09. FY03 Baseline: zero

Subobjective 2.2.10 The Pacific Island Territories

PI-SP26: Percent of population in the U.S. Pacific Island Territories served by community water systems that has access to continuous drinking water meeting all applicable health-based drinking water standards, measured on a four quarter rolling average basis.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
PI-SP26	BUD	80%	85%	85%									85%	
FY2015 COMMITMENT		80%	85%										85%	
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			97.7%										97.7%	
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			85%										85%	

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FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			81%										81%	
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			80%										80%	
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			87%										87%	
FY 2005 BASELINE			95% AS, 10% CNMI, 80% GU										95%; 10%: 80%	

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY08. AS: American Samoa, CNMI: Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, GU: Guam.

Subobjective 2.2.11 The South Florida Ecosystem

SFL-SP45: Achieve 'no net loss' of stony coral cover (mean percent stony coral cover) in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) and in the coastal waters of Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties, Florida, working with all stakeholders (federal, state, regional, tribal, and local).

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SFL-SP45	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			No Net Loss					No Net Loss						
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			0.00%					6.86%						
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			No Net Loss					No Net Loss						
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			Loss					Loss						
FY 2005 BASELINE			6.8% in FKNMS; 5.9% in SE Florida					6.8% FKNMS; 5.9% SE FL						

National Program Manager Comments: New measures starting in FY08 and changed to Indicator in FY11. Strategic Plan baseline of 6.7% was revised to 6.8%. The Coral Reef

SFL-SP46: Annually maintain the overall health and functionality of sea grass beds in the FKNMS as measured by the long-term sea grass monitoring project that addresses composition and abundance, productivity, and nutrient availability.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SFL-SP46	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			Maintained					Maintained						
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			Maintained					Maintained						
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			Not maintained					Not maintained						
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			Maintained					Maintained						
FY 2005 BASELINE			EI = 8.3; SCI=0.48					EI = 8.3; SCI=0.48						

National Program Manager Comments: New measures starting in FY08 and changed to Indicator in FY11. EI = Elemental Indicator; SCI = Species Composition Index.

SFL-SP47a: At least seventy five percent of the monitored stations in the near shore and coastal waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary will maintain Chlorophyll a (CHLA) levels at less than or equal to 0.35 ug l-1 and light clarity (Kd)) levels at less than or equal to 0.20 m-1.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SFL-SP47a	BUD	75%	75%	75%				75%						
FY2015 COMMITMENT		75%	75%					75%						
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			86%; 87.2%					86%; 87.2%						
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			75%					75%						
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			84.5%; 80.4%					84.5%; 80.4%						
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			70.9%; 72.5%					70.9%; 72.5%						
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			75%; 85.4%					75%; 85.4%						
FY 1995-2005 BASELINE			≤0.35ug/L (75.7%); ≤0.20m^{-1} (74.6%)					75.7%; 74.6%						
UNIVERSE			154					154						

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY11. Results reported as CHLA %; Kd %.

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Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

SFL-SP47b: At least seventy five percent of the monitored stations in the near shore and coastal waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary will maintain dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) levels at less than or equal to 0.75 uM and total phosphorus (TP) levels at less than or equal to .25 uM .

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SFL-SP47b	BUD	75%	75%	75%				75%						
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			72.6%; 87.6%					72.6%; 87.6%						
FY 2014 COMMITMENT			75%					75%						
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			60.0%; 82.3%					60.0%; 82.3%						
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			81%; 89.5%					81%; 89.5%						
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			84.3%; 73.6%					84.3%; 73.6%						
FY 1995-2005 BASELINE			≤0.75 uM (76.3%); ≤0.25uM (80.9%)					76.3%; 80.9%						
UNIVERSE			154					154						

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY11. Results reported as DIN %; TP %.

SFL-1: Increase percentage of sewage treatment facilities and onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems receiving advanced wastewater treatment or best available technology as recorded by EDU. in Florida Keys two percent (1500 EDUs) annually.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SFL-1	I		Indicator											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			4.2% (55,675)					4.2% (55,675)						
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			5% (52,209)					5% (52,209)						
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			47,505					47,505						
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			42,000					42,000						
FY 2009 BASELINE			32,000					32,000						
UNIVERSE			75,000					75,000						

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY11.

SFL-2: The number of Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) with the annual total phosphorus (TP) outflow less than or the same as the five-year annual average TP outflow, working towards the long-term goal of meeting the 10 parts per billion annual geometric mean.

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SFL-2	BUD	3	3	3				3						
FY2015 COMMITMENT		3	3					3						
BASELINE			*					*						
UNIVERSE			5					5						

National Program Manager Comments: New measure starting in FY15. *The 5-year baseline takes into account variability due to climatic conditions including extremely wet or dry years

Subobjective 2.2.12 The Columbia River Basin

CR-SP53: Clean up acres of known contaminated sediments. (cumulative starting in FY 06)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CR-SP53			88	88										88
FY2015 COMMITMENT			86											
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			82											82

Italicized ACS code denotes a change in measure text and/or in reporting. Measure categories include: OMB PA (OMB Program Assessment); BUD (Budget Measure); SG (State Grant Measure); KPI (Key Performance Indicator); ARRA (Recovery Act Measure); LT (Long Term Budget Measure), and I (Indicator Measure). FY 2015 Budget Target is from 8-year performance measure table in the FY 2016 OMB Submission. SP (Strategic Plan) targets are from the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan. "n/a" is "not available" and/or "not applicable". NT (no target) are measures with no target/commitment (or target/commitment at 0).

FY 2014 COMMITMENT			86											86
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			79											79
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			79											79
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			63											63
UNIVERSE			400											400
National Program Manager Comments: The FY 2013 commitment of 80 acres was met. However, a 2007 Corps of Engineers, clean-up reported as one acre in 2007, had a 2012 sampling showing that the clean-up failed. Subtracting the one acre brought the net total to 79 acres for FY 2013.														

CR-SP54: Demonstrate a reduction in mean concentration of certain contaminants of concern found in water and fish tissue. (cumulative starting in FY 06)

FY 2016 Measure Text	Measure Category	FY 2016 Budget Target	FY 2016 Commitment	Regional Aggregates	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
CR-SP54	I		Indicator											0
FY 2014 END OF YEAR RESULT			See comments											See below
FY 2013 END OF YEAR RESULT			99.2%											99.2%
FY 2012 END OF YEAR RESULT			See comments											See below
FY 2011 END OF YEAR RESULT			92%											92%
FY 2011 COMMITMENT			10%											10%
FY 2006 BASELINE			5 sites											5 sites

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES BETWEEN FY 2014-2015 AND FY 2016-2017

Office of Water

Change from FY 2015 Addendums and FY 2014 NPM Guidances		Reason for Change	Location of New/Modified Information
General	Introduction was edited to reflect OW's current priorities and information was added to describe the early input process from states and tribes. In addition, a paragraph was added on E-enterprise.	The updated language takes into account input and necessary updates for FY 2016-2017.	**Pages 3-5**
National Areas of Focus	The Protecting Populations at Risk Area of Focus was updated to include a new activity in the Environmental Justice (EJ) section on taking EJ into consideration when EPA issues permits under the NPDES and UIC programs.	As part of the Agency's EJ in permitting pilot, EPA will attempt to test, evaluate, and refine draft tools to enhance consideration of EJ.	**Page 6**
	The Providing Safe and Sustainable Water Resources and Infrastructure Area of Focus was updated to include support for the Build America Initiative and implementation of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).	The activities were highlighted to enhance the Agency's focus on supporting sustainable water infrastructure.	**Page 11**
	A new topic was included under the Assuring High Quality and Accessible Water Information Area of Focus on the Drinking Water Mapping Application for Protecting Source Water (DWMAPS).	Recent emergencies and large scale-contamination events highlighted the need to improve awareness of risks to drinking water.	**Page 16**
	E-enterprise projects were updated and added.	The updated language takes into account input and necessary updates for FY 2016-2017	**Page 17-18**
Program-Specific Guidance	EPA added and updated a number of activities to the Climate Change section in the Cross-Cutting Themes section.	In 2016-2017, the Agency is building on climate policy initiatives that were developed in FY 2014 and FY 2015.	**Pages 23-25**

Change from FY 2015 Addendums and FY 2014 NPM Guidances		Reason for Change	Location of New/Modified Information
	The Water Safe to Drink section of the Guidance includes two new statements on the Agency's intent to develop a final rule in 2017 to support the collection of drinking water contaminant occurrence data under the next cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4), and propose a rule in 2016 that makes conforming changes to existing regulations on the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act (RLDWA)	Proposed UCMR 4 rule was published in 2015.	**Page 28**
	The guidance includes an extensive discussion on the goals, activities, and benefits of the CWA 303(d) and TMDL Program Vision. This includes a new approach to tracking water quality progress using the National Hydrography Dataset Plus (NHD*Plus*) to describe where states have developed TMDLs, alternative restoration and protection approaches.	The 303(d) Program Vision reflects the successful collaboration among States and EPA, which began in August 2011.	**Pages 45-46**
	EPA is developing a planned rulemaking in 2015 to provide opportunities for tribes to more fully engage in the CWA Impaired Water Listing and TMDL Program.	Existing regulations under CWA Section 518 do not explicitly address how tribes obtain Treatment in the Same Manner as a State (TAS) for the 303(d) Program.	**Page 46**
	Text is added to the NPDES Permit section on EPA's intent to conduct a strategic planning effort aimed at meeting 21st century water quality challenges for the permitting program.	The purpose of the effort is to strengthen partnerships and clarify roles between headquarters, EPA regions, and states, as well as between the WQS, TMDL, and NPDES programs.	**Page 47**
	New paragraph added on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program's efforts in 2016-2017 to promote the implementation of the CWSRF Water Resources Reform and Development Act	A key provision of WRRDA requires certain CWSRF assistance recipients to evaluate the cost and effectiveness of key components for carrying out the proposed project or activity and maximize the potential for efficient water	**Page 52**

Change from FY 2015 Addendums and FY 2014 NPM Guidances		Reason for Change	Location of New/Modified Information
	(WRRDA - 2014) amendments.	use, reuse, recapture, and conservation,.	
	New paragraph added on new approach to track water quality progress using the National Hydrography Dataset Plus (NHD*Plus*) to calculate watershed areas where water quality standards are being attained, and implementation of protection activities are occurring.	This approach will consistently measure progress at the local scale, while allowing for tighter integration with data and assessments at the state and national scale.	**Pages 53-54**
	Changes to Coastal and Ocean Water Activities for FY 2016-2017 include a new title and reporting cycle for the National Coastal Condition Report, new statements on ocean and coastal acidification, pollution from vessels, and ocean debris. Agency is also seeking comment on existing suite of measures that track ocean protection and restoration progress.	Changes added to update Agency's activities for protection oceans and coastal waters.	**Pages 55-56**
	Under the Increase Wetlands section, the agency is seeking comment on a suite of exiting measures that track wetlands protection and restoration progress.	Existing measures may not fully capture the progress and achievements being made.	**Page 60**
	Update in activities to the section on protecting the Great Lakes including, increasing knowledge about contaminants in Great Lakes fish and wildlife, preventing new invasive species, reducing nutrient loads, protecting habitats to sustain populations of native species, ensuring climate resilience of GLRI-funded projects, and educating the next generation on the Great Lakes ecosystem.	Guidance is updated to reflect the FY2015-FY2019 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan.	**Pages 60-62**

Change from FY 2015 Addendums and FY 2014 NPM Guidances		Reason for Change	Location of New/Modified Information
	Section on the Chesapeake Bay has been updated to include the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.	Agreement was signed by EPA and its Chesapeake Bay partners on June 14, 2014.	**Pages 62-63**
	EPA added new updates to the section on the Gulf of Mexico including addressing nutrient loadings that contribute to hypoxic conditions, enhancing community resilience to storm risk and sea-level rise, and environmental education	Updated activities need to reflect changes in performance measures.	**Pages 65-66**
	EPA made updates to the section on protecting the Puget Sound that include issues to be addressed under the Puget Sound Action Agenda.	The 2014/2015 Puget Sound Action Agenda was adopted on May 30, 2014 and serves as the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) approved under the National Estuary Program.	**Pages 67-68**
Annual Commitment Measures	Measure modified: **WQ-1a**. Number of numeric water quality standards adopted for total nitrogen or total phosphorus for all waters within the State or Territory for each of the following waterbody types: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries. Measure added: **WQ-1d**: Number of numeric water quality standards planned to be adopted within 3 years for total nitrogen and total phosphorus for all waters within the state or territory for each of the following waterbody types: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries, based on a full set of performance milestone information supplied annually by states and territories (cumulative, out of a universe of 280).	This measure was modified to encourage states to adopt numeric nitrogen and phosphorus criteria. While WQ-1a and WQ-1d are closely related, WQ-1a counts number of numeric WQS actually adopted while WQ-1d counts planned criteria.	Appendix A

Change from FY 2015 Addendums and FY 2014 NPM Guidances		Reason for Change	Location of New/Modified Information
	Measure deleted: **WQ-26.** Number of states and territories implementing nutrient reduction strategies by (1) setting priorities on a watershed or state-wide basis, (2) establishing nutrient reduction targets, and (3) continuing to make progress (and provide performance milestone information to EPA) on adoption of numeric nutrient criteria for at least one class of waters by no later than 2016. (cumulative)	EPA deleted measure WQ-26. As EPA continues to place a high priority on states adopting numeric WQS for total nitrogen and total phosphorus that apply to all waters, the component of WQ-26 that tracked NNC progress will now be tracked under water quality criteria measure WQ-01(d). EPA continues to encourage states to set priorities on a watershed or statewide basis, establish nutrient reduction targets, reduce point and nonpoint source nutrient loads, inform the public, provide accountability, and adopt numeric nutrient criteria (NNC).	Appendix A
	Measure deleted: **WQ-6b.** Number of tribes that are providing water quality data in a format accessible for storage in EPA's data system. (cumulative)	EPA deleted this measure because the Agency believes that it is of limited use in providing a clear picture of the current status of tribes uploading data. EPA believe it can get better information from annually querying STORET.	Appendix A
	Measure modified: **WQ-14a.** Number, and national percent, of Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) that are discharging to POTWs with Pretreatment Programs that have control mechanisms in place that implement applicable pretreatment standards and requirements.	EPA is proposing to modify this measure from a target to an indicator measure. A change to Indicator status would allow for reporting of end of year numbers that could be used for tracking purposes, without having to commit to a number that is out of the control of the permitting authority that may only reflect a snapshot at any given time.	Appendix A
	Measure deleted: **WQ-22a.** Number of regions that have completed the development of a Healthy Watersheds Initiative (HWI) Strategy and have reached an agreement with at least one state to implement its portion of the region's HWI Strategy.	EPA proposes deleting this measure since many Regions have completed the development of a Healthy Watershed Initiative strategy. As the Healthy Watershed Initiative progresses EPA will consider adopting a different, more targeted measure.	Appendix A

Change from FY 2015 Addendums and FY 2014 NPM Guidances		Reason for Change	Location of New/Modified Information
	Measure added: **WQ-29**. Number of states protecting or improving water quality conditions, as demonstrated by state-scale statistical surveys: • On average, water quality is improving or at least not degrading (there is no statistically significant decrease in mean water quality); • The percentage of waters in good condition is increasing or remaining constant; and, • The percentage of waters in poor condition is decreasing or remaining constant.	States have been working on state-wide statistical surveys either independently or in conjunction with national surveys. This measure will use the state survey data to establish a baseline for state water quality and then track the number of states demonstrating incremental improvements in water quality.	Appendix A
	Measure added: **WQ-30**. Number of WaterSense partners working to improve water use efficiency.	EPA is proposing program measures related to progress of water programs in adapting to changing climate. Added measure will be an indicator.	Appendix A
	Measure added: **WQ-31**. Number of water and wastewater utilities that use the EnergyStar Portfolio Manager to manage energy.	EPA is proposing program measures related to progress of water programs in adapting to changing climate. Added measure will be an indicator.	Appendix A
	Measure added: **WQ-32**. Number of water and wastewater utilities that have registered to use the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT).	EPA is proposing program measures related to progress of water programs in adapting to changing climate. Added measure will be an indicator	Appendix A
	Measure added: **WQ-33**. Number of CWSRFs/DWSRFs that used financial incentives to promote climate resilience projects in the last year.	EPA is proposing program measures related to progress of water programs in adapting to changing climate. Added measure will be an indicator.	Appendix A
	Measure deleted: **GM-SP-38**. Restore water and habitat quality to meet water quality standards in impaired segments in 13 priority areas. (cumulative starting in FY 07)	Measure replaced by GM-01	Appendix A

Change from FY 2015 Addendums and FY 2014 NPM Guidances		Reason for Change	Location of New/Modified Information
	Measure added. **GM-01**. Improve and/or restore water and habitat quality to meet water quality standards in watersheds throughout the five Gulf States and the Mississippi River Basin.	The replacement performance measure language better reflects how the Gulf of Mexico Program Office implements projects and programs which improve water and habitat quality throughout the Gulf of Mexico watershed (and this includes the entire Mississippi River watershed.)	Appendix A
	Measure modified: **GM-SP39**. Protect, enhance, or restore coastal and upland habitats within the Gulf of Mexico watershed.	The performance measure is very similar to what previously existed. However, the words are rearranged because competitively funding projects and programs which "protect and/or enhance" habitats is more feasible than funding projects which "restore" habitats.	Appendix A
	Measure deleted: **GM-SP40.N11**. Reduce releases of nutrients throughout the Mississippi River Basin to reduce the size of the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico, as measured by the 5-year running average of the size of the zone.	Based on a recent OIG report that found that the hypoxia measure did not realistically reflect what the Gulf of Mexico Program Office was set up to achieve, EPA has proposed to delete the measure.	Appendix A
	Measure added: **GM-02**. Promote and support environmental education and outreach to the inhabitants of the Gulf of Mexico watershed.	Environmental education is a key strategic objective for the Gulf program. EPA proposes to add this measure to track progress in this area.	Appendix A
	Measure added: **GM-03**. Support the assessment, development and implementation of programs, projects and tools which strengthen community resilience.	This is a new performance measure; however, it is not a new activity. The Gulf of Mexico Program Office is very active with respect to coastal resilience awareness and has competitively funded numerous projects which have strengthened coastal and nearshore communities around the Gulf region.	Appendix A

Change from FY 2015 Addendums and FY 2014 NPM Guidances		Reason for Change	Location of New/Modified Information
	Measure modified: **PS-SP51**. Protect or restore acres or shoreline miles of aquatic habitats including: estuaries, floodplains, marine and freshwater shorelines, riparian areas, stream habitats and associated wetlands. (cumulative starting in FY06)	The revision to this measure language will ensure compatibility (in terms of scope and categorical definition) with the Puget Sound programs' contribution to National Estuary Program (NEP) measure CO- 4.3.2. N11. This revision does not change previous year's results. It also does not change how the measure is calculated.	Appendix A
Contact Information	Contacts by subobjective	Adding a list of contacts by subobjective	Appendix B

KEY CONTACTS APPENDIX

Contact Name	Subject Area	Phone	Email
Sandy Evalenko	Children's Health	(202)564-0264	evaleko.sandy@epa.gov
Alice Walker	Environmental Justice	(202)529-7534	walker.alice@epa.gov
Felicia Wright	Tribes	(202)566-1186	wright.felicia@epa.gov
Jeff Peterson	Climate Change	(202)564-3745	perterson.jeff@epa.gov
Jeff Lape	Innovative Technology	(202)566-0480	lape.jeff@epa.gov
Tracy Miller	Grants Management	(202)564-0783	miller.tracey@epa.gov
Eric Bissonette Travis Cummings	Water Safe to Drink	(202)564-2147 (202)564-9592	Bissonette.eric@epa.gov cummings.travis@epa.gov
John Wathen	Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat	(202)566-0367	wathen.john@epa.gov
Jackie Clark	Water Safe for Swimming	(202)564-6582	clark.jackie@epa.gov
Kristie Moore Jackie Clark	Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis	(202)566-1616 (202)564-6582	moore.kristie@epa.gov clark.jackie@epa.gov
Bernice Smith	Improve Coastal and Ocean Waters	(202) 566-1244	smith.bernicel@epa.gov
Mindy Eisenberg	Increase Wetlands	(202) 566-1209	eisenberg.mindy@epa.gov
Mike Russ	Great Lakes	(312) 886-4013	russ.michael@epa.gov
Jennie Gundersen	Chesapeake Bay	(410) 267-5711	gundersen.jennifer@epa.gov
Lael Butler	Gulf of Mexico	(228) 688-1576	butler.lael@epa.gov
Joseph Salata	Long Island Sound	(203) 977-1541	salata.joseph@epa.gov
Chris Castner	The Puget Sound	(206) 553-6517	castner.chris@epa.gov
Robin Danesi	U.S.-Mexico Border	(202) 564-1846	danesi.robin@epa.gov
John McCarroll	Pacific Island Territories	(415) 972-3774	mccarroll.john@epa.gov
Steve Blackburn	South Florida Ecosystem	(404) 562-9397	blackburn.steven@epa.gov
MaryLou Soscia	Columbia River Basin	(503) 326-5873	soscia.marylou@epa.gov
Paul Amato	San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary	(415)972-3847	amato.paul@epa.gov

Appendix D – Additional Guidance for CWA Section 106 State, Interstate, and Tribal Grant Recipients

This appendix, along with the specific text found in Section III.C.1.a, provide guidance for state, interstate, and tribal grant recipients when implementing water pollution control programs under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Together, Section III.C.1, and Appendix D make up the CWA Section 106 grant guidance.

FY 2016 Nutrient Management Activities: In FY 2016, EPA requested additional funds to states and tribes to support their nutrient reduction efforts consistent with EPA Office of Water guidance issued in March 2011[1]. These Section 106 nutrient reduction activities will work in conjunction with those being carried out by states and tribes using Section 319 and U.S. Department of Agriculture funding and focus on key principles that have guided the agency technical assistance and collaboration with the states. EPA will work with states and tribes as they develop work plans to ensure these additional funds are used for tasks consistent with the Framework and support the implementation of nutrient reduction activities.

Base Program Measures: CWA Section 106 funding supports many of the strategic targets and goals outlined in the *National Water Program Guidance*. These measures include:

WQ-SP10.N11	WQ-SP13	WQ-3a	WQ-12a	
WQ-SP11	WQ-1a	WQ-27	WQ-13a, b, c, d	WQ-19a
WQ-SP12.N11	WQ-26	WQ-10	WQ-14a	SS-1

Measures specific to tribal programs are found in Section III.A.1. of this *National Water Program Guidance*.

Guidance for Core Programs: Guidance for core programs funded through grants for water pollution control programs under CWA Section 106 is provided in specific text in Section III.C.1., Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis.

Other programs in the NWPG that can utilize CWA Section 106 Funds: State, interstate, and tribal agencies can use CWA Section 106 grants to carry out a wide range of water quality planning and management activities. Agencies have the flexibility to allocate funds toward priority activities. Other activities that may be funded with CWA Section 106 funds include:

[1] The eight key principles are identified in the March 16, 2011, memorandum "Working in Partnership with States to Address Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution through the Use of a Framework for State Nutrient Reductions (Framework)"

Appendix D – Additional Guidance for CWA Section 106 State, Interstate, and Tribal Grant Recipients

Source Water (Surface Water and Ground Water): EPA regions, states, and tribes are reminded that CWA Section 106 grant funds are an essential funding source for source water protection activities. The Agency recommends that states and tribes continue to direct a portion of their CWA Section 106 funding for source water protection and wellhead protection actions that protect both ground water and surface water used for drinking water. EPA regions, states, and tribes that administer EPA-approved WQS programs should ensure that there are protective water quality standards in place, and being attained, for each waterbody being used as a public water supply. Also, EPA encourages states and tribes to allocate a reasonable share of water quality monitoring resources to assess attainment of the public water supply use, and consider using water quality or compliance monitoring data collected by public water systems in assessing water quality and determining impairment. EPA regions, states, and tribes should consider placing a high priority on (a) waterbodies where state, tribal, or local source water assessments have identified highly threatening sources of contamination that are subject to CWA and (b) the development and implementation of TMDLs to address impairments of the public water supply use. In particular, EPA regions and states should consider the hydrologic relationship between point source dischargers and drinking water intakes in setting permit requirements and inspection and enforcement priorities. EPA also encourages state programs to consider using their allocation to leverage the resources of Source Water Collaborative members and allies, found on: http://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/. In addition, EPA encourages states and tribes to integrate source water into updates of watershed assessments and plans, including incorporating ground water and the ground water / surface water interchange, and in the course of doing so consider the effects of climate change on fresh water resources. See Section II.B. for additional discussion on the Source Water and Ground Water. Tribes should refer to the *Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act*, in particular the Understanding Source Water Protection and Conducting a Source Water Assessment sections.

Non-point Source: States, territories, and tribes may use CWA Section 106 funds to develop watershed-based plans and to conduct monitoring on a watershed basis. States' and where appropriate, tribes' integrated monitoring designs should use a combination of statistical surveys and targeted monitoring to cost-effectively evaluate the health of watersheds and the effectiveness of protection and restoration actions, such as nonpoint source implementation projects. In addition, EPA encourages, consistent with the scope of CWA Section 106, broader efforts to protect and maintain healthy watersheds, so that costly implementation measures are not required to restore water quality and aquatic habitat.

Protecting Wetlands: Some states and tribes have utilized CWA Section 106 funds for program implementation, including wetlands monitoring and protection projects.

Appendix D – Additional Guidance for CWA Section 106 State, Interstate, and Tribal Grant Recipients

Other Guidance: Guidance for the Tribal Program, the Monitoring Initiative, and Enforcement is provided separately and can be found at:

- Tribal water pollution control programs. See http://epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/106tgg07.htm.
- State and interstate use of Monitoring Initiative funds. See http://epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/106-guidelines-monitor.htm.
- Associated Program Support Costs. Generally, the associated program support costs authority is used to support activities that promote the common goals of the requesting state(s) and tribe(s) and/or promote administrative efficiency and cost savings to the recipients. For EPA to use Section 106 resources as associated program support, the activity must: (a) be the inherent responsibility of a state, tribal, territory, or interstate water pollution control agency and (b) be of primary benefit to these agencies and not EPA. EPA must get the prior approval of these agencies before such funding can be reserved for associated program support activities. Associated program support can be provided by EPA through a grant, contract, or interagency agreement. See http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/cwf/upload/Section-106-APSC-Guidance-Final.pdf.
- Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) National Program Manager Guidance. In October 2009, EPA issued the Clean Water Act Action Plan ("the Action Plan"). The Action Plan identifies changes that are designed to revamp the NPDES permitting, compliance and enforcement program to better address today's serious water quality problems. For the enforcement program, the Action Plan provides new approaches to identify and prioritize the most serious violations for enforcement response to protect water quality and human health. The Office of Water continues to work with the OECA, EPA regions, and states to implement the Action Plan. For more information on Clean Water Act enforcement and compliance activities, please see the current OECA National Program Manager Guidance at http://www2.epa.gov/planandbudget/national-program-manager-guidances.

United States
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

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