THE U.S. EPA's OVERVIEW TO THE FY 2017 EXCEPTIONS-BASED ADDENDUMS TO THE FY 2016-2017 NATIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER (NPM) GUIDANCES

February 19, 2016 Draft

I.   PURPOSE

This overview summarizes key changes in EPA's *FY 2017 Exceptions-Based Addendums* to the two-year FY 2016-2017 National Program Manager (NPM) Guidances issued in April 2015. Based on the criteria below, the *FY 2017 Addendums* address and incorporate significant changes that are important for EPA, states, and tribes and that were identified after the release of the *FY 2016-2017 NPM Guidance*.

II.   EXCEPTIONS-BASED CHANGES FOR FY 2017

The NPMs propose 36 exceptions-based changes in the *FY 2017 Addendums* (see table 1, below), which adhere to the following criteria.[*]

- New initiatives or actions from the Administrator/Administration/Congress/courts (e.g., statutory changes, regulatory changes, policy changes, Presidential Executive Orders, legal decisions).

- Significant budgetary changes from FY 2016 that impact programs (e.g., program elimination, addition, or restructuring).

- Unanticipated events that significantly impact a NPM's program strategies/activities (e.g., emergency response to natural or man-made disasters).

- Activities that must be initiated in FY 2017. All other activities should be deferred to the FY 2018-2019 NPM Guidance.

These criteria were developed jointly by EPA and states through the NPM Guidance/National Environmental Partnership Performance System (NEPPS) Workgroup. The criteria are intended to set a high threshold for exceptions-based changes to preserve the integrity of the new two-year NPM Guidances.

Examples of exceptions-based changes in the draft FY 2017 Addendums include: 1) release of the NPDES Electronic Reporting rule, 2) release of the Clean Power Plan, 3) additional emphasis on coordinating work at Superfund mining sites, particularly those with potential hydraulic hazards, and 4) identification of OECA's FY 2017-2019 National Enforcement Initiatives.

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[*]The criteria are also described in the Technical Guidance for the FY 2017 Exceptions-Based Addendums.

Table 1

NPM[†]	No. of Exceptions-Based Changes	Issue Areas with Exceptions-Based Change[‡]
Office of Air and Radiation (OAR)	7	• National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQs) • Regional Haze • Air Toxics Program Implementation • Allowance Trading and Other Stationary Source Programs • Clean Power Plan • Reducing Radon Risk • Effective Use and Distribution of State and Tribal Assistance Grants
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)	2	• Chemical Risk Review and Reduction • Toxic Release Inventory
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)	4	• OECA's High Priority Work Areas • National Areas of Focus - Announcement of FY 2017-2019 National Enforcement Initiatives (NEIs) • Revisions to NEI – Reducing Pollution from Mineral Processing Operations • Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Compliance Assurance and Enforcement
Office of Environmental Information (OEI)	3	• Continued Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) Implementation • Information Security • Toxics Release Inventory
Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)[§]	11	• Advancing Superfund Remedial Cleanups • Chemical Risk Management • Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grants (2) • Superfund Federal Facilities Response (4) • Emergency Response and Prevention • Brownfields and Land Revitalization (2)
Office of Water (OW)	9	• Lead and Copper Rule • Harmful Algal Blooms • FY 2016-17 Agency Priority Goal • EPA Partnerships • Surface Water Tool box • Science Advisory Board Recommendations • Water Quality Standards • Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting • Wetlands
TOTAL	**36**	

[†]FY 2016-2017 NPM Guidances for OCIR/NEPPS and OITA remain unchanged. Therefore, these offices have not submitted addendums.

[‡] ( ) indicates number of changes if there are multiple changes within an individual area.

[§] In 2015, the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) was reorganized and renamed the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM).

III.   FIRST-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION OF FY 2016-2017 NPM GUIDANCES

FY 2016 is the first year of implementing the two-year NPM Guidance cycle. The two-year NPM Guidance process was developed by the NPM Guidance/NEPPS Workgroup to strengthen earlier joint engagement and flexibilities in protecting human health and the environment. Specifically, the NPM Guidances help advance EPA's five strategic goals and four cross-agency strategies in the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan (see Table 2).

Table 2: EPA's FY 2014 – 2018 EPA Strategic Plan	
Strategic Goals	**Cross-Agency Strategies**
1. Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality 2. Protecting America's Waters 3. Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development 4. Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution 5. Protecting Human Health and the Environment by Enforcing Laws and Assuring Compliance	1. Working Toward a Sustainable Future 2. Working to Make a Visible Difference in Communities 3. Launching a New Era of State, Tribal, Local, and International Partnerships 4. Embracing EPA as a High-Performing Organization

The work initiated in FY 2016 is critical to sustaining momentum in accomplishing mission results under the strategic goals and for institutionalizing best practices in the way we work, as described by the cross-agency strategies.

For example, EPA is coordinating and leveraging program resources, tools, and expertise across NPM offices and regions to more effectively engage and support overburdened and disadvantaged populations through the Making a Visible Difference in Communities Cross-Agency Strategy and the agency-wide Community Resource Network. NPMs will advance the strategy by working with the regions and key stakeholders to identify work that can be coordinated with other EPA media and federal program resources to address broader environmental and/or health challenges identified by focus communities or the Community Resource Network. Also, NPMs will collaborate to conduct coordinated actions in overburdened communities to address issues that cut across NPMs' areas of responsibility. NPMs will encourage cross-program collaboration within the implementing programs in the regions, and will work with the regions to promote and expand identified best management practices and flexible, cross-program support. The successful application of the Making a Visible Difference place-based initiative will serve as a model to promote the Agency's efforts to more effectively apply and leverage resources across all communities in the future.