



# NATIONAL WATER PROGRAM GUIDANCE

2018-2019

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Introduction ..... 1

Program Specific Guidance ..... 1

SAFE DRINKING WATER ..... 2

1. Development/Revision of Drinking Water Standards/Regulations..... 2
2. Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)..... 3
3. Lead in Drinking Water ..... 4
4. Implementation of Drinking Water Standards/Regulations/ Health Advisories and Technical Assistance ..... 4
5. Capacity Development for Drinking Water Systems ..... 6
6. Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)/ Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Health Advisory..... 8
7. Public Water System Supervision Grant Guidance..... 8
8. Safe Drinking Water Information System..... 9
9. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund..... 10
10. Source Water Protection ..... 12
11. Underground Injection Control (Including UIC Grant Guidance) ..... 13

SAFE SWIMMING ..... 15

1. Human Health Recreational Criteria and/or Swimming Advisories for Cyanotoxins, Microcystins and Cylindrospermopsin..... 15
2. Overflows from Combined Sewer Systems (CSSs) and Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSSs) ..... 15

WATER QUALITY..... 17

1. Clean Water SRF (CWSRF) Guidance ..... 17
2. Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program..... 18
3. Section 106 Grant Guidance to States, Interstate Agencies, and Tribes: General Information..... 19
4. Nutrient Reduction Partnership ..... 20
5. Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment ..... 21
6. TMDLs and Other Plans to Restore and Protect Water Quality ..... 23
7. Protecting Healthy and High Quality Waters ..... 24
8. Gulf of Mexico Restoration..... 25
9. Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution ..... 25
10. Urban Waters Program..... 26
11. Technology and Innovation for Water Infrastructure and Clean and Safer Water ..... 26
12. Water Quality Standards Program ..... 27
13. Recommended Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Lakes and Reservoirs of the Continental United States ..... 29

14. NPDES Program ..... 29

    Permit and Program Quality Reviews (PQRs) ..... 30

    High Priority Permits ..... 30

    Stormwater and Green Infrastructure (GI) ..... 31

    Integrating Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Plans ..... 32

    Sanitary Sewer Overflows and Bypasses ..... 32

    Nutrients ..... 33

    Watershed Permits/Water Quality Trading ..... 33

    Animal Agriculture ..... 34

    Vessels ..... 34

    Pretreatment ..... 35

WETLANDS ..... 36

    1. State and Tribal Partnerships ..... 37

    2. Wetlands Restored and Enhanced Through Partnerships ..... 38

Appendix A – Performance Measures ..... 39

    New Measures ..... 39

    Revised Measures ..... 41

    FY 2017 Measures Continued in FY 2018 ..... 42

    Measures Associated with Eliminated Work ..... 47

    Discontinued Measures ..... 53

Appendix B – Key Contacts ..... 54

Appendix C- Additional Guidance for CWA Section 106 State, Interstate, and Tribal Grant Recipients .... 55

## Introduction

The FY 2018-2019 National Water Program Guidance describes how the EPA, states, territories, and tribal governments will work together to protect and improve the quality of the Nation's waters both at the tap and in the environment.

While much progress has been made over the last two decades, challenges remain to protecting America's waters. Aging infrastructure, lead and emerging contaminants in drinking water, and nutrient pollution leading to harmful algal blooms which impact drinking water sources, recreation and tourism, are some of the priority issues needing the most attention. In FY 2018-2019, the National Water Program will focus its resources on supporting the modernization of outdated water infrastructure; creating incentives for new water technologies and innovation; and funding the core requirements of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act while providing states and tribes with flexibility to best address their particular priorities.

The EPA's funding of specific regional efforts such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Chesapeake Bay, and other geographic programs will be discontinued. EPA will follow the direction of Congress on priorities associated with these programs.

A number of other programs, as well as functions that can be addressed by other programs or that are state and local responsibilities, are being discontinued or scaled back. The following programs will be eliminated or scaled back: Beach grants; Non-point source grants (Sec. 319); National Estuary Program/Coastal Waterways; Marine Pollution; and infrastructure assistance to Alaska Native Villages and the Mexico Border.

We may discontinue collection and reporting of performance data for these eliminated programs and will not set national targets or commitments for them.

As sovereign entities and environmental co-regulators, Indian tribes play a major role in protecting vital water resources. 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. The National Water Program will continue to emphasize improving relationships with tribes through partnerships, outreach, and consultation. To promote information exchange and technical assistance among tribes and to identify and analyze high-priority water topics from a tribal perspective, EPA will continue to support the [National Tribal Water Council](#), which serves as a national forum for tribal water managers to interact with each other, with tribes, and directly with the Agency. EPA will evaluate progress using a set of National Water Programs measures directly supporting tribes.

## Program Specific Guidance

The following sections of the Guidance discuss in more detail the National Water Program. For each component of the National Water Program, the Guidance includes a brief overview followed by a listing where available, of EPA activities, expected state, local and tribal activities, and performance measures.

# SAFE DRINKING WATER

The protection of the Nation’s public health through safe drinking water has been a shared responsibility of EPA, states, and tribes for more than 35 years. The fundamental public health protection mission of the [national drinking water program](#)<sup>1</sup> is to ensure that Public Water Systems (PWS) reliably deliver drinking water that is safe, meeting national primary drinking water standards, to their customers. As of 2017, 50,366 Community Water Systems (CWSs) 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 actions and standards for drinking water quality to limit human exposure to contaminants of concern is the cornerstone of the program.

## 1. Development/Revision of Drinking Water Standards/Regulations

The [Safe Drinking Water Act \(SDWA\)](#)<sup>2</sup> requires the Agency to develop or revise drinking water standards to protect public health of the nation’s drinking water consumers. As such, SDWA and accompanying regulations establish Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), treatment techniques, and monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure that water provided to customers is safe for human consumption. The statutorily driven process is cyclical in nature beginning with the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL)/Unregulated Contaminated Monitoring Rule (UCMR), followed by Regulatory determinations, standard proposal and six-year rule review.

The Agency will continue to work with states and tribes to address the development or revision of drinking water standards to protect human health in FY 2018-2019.

### EPA Activities

1. Examine information on contaminants in CCL 4 to determine whether existing data support Regulatory Determinations to regulate or not regulate specific contaminants in the list.
2. Compile, organize, and evaluate information on potential chemical, radiological, and microbiological contaminants with the greatest potential for human health concerns. In FY2020, EPA will publish a draft of CCL 5.

<sup>1</sup> Read more on the national drinking water program at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/>.

<sup>2</sup> Read more about SDWA at: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa>.

3. Analyze scientific and technical information for contaminants identified in the third Six-Year Review of existing regulations.
4. Initiate the compilation and evaluation of new information on health effects, occurrence, treatment technologies, and other information for regulated contaminants in preparation for the completion of the fourth Six Year Review of existing regulations in FY2023.
5. Inform development of the proposed [Perchlorate Regulation based on the best available peer reviewed science including Biologically Based Dose Response \(BBDR\) models<sup>3</sup> and epidemiological studies.](#)

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

### Expected State, Local and Community Activities

1. Engage with EPA, drinking water industry representatives, academics, environmental groups, experts, and other stakeholders to gain information on distribution system issues, especially prevention of disinfection byproduct formation and the reduction in human health risks that could result from exposure to fewer disinfection byproducts.
2. Collaborate with EPA, scientists, and the public to undertake the highest priority research and information collection activities to better understand water quality issues while fostering the development of new drinking water technologies to address health risks posed by contaminants.
3. Actively engage to obtain input in the development of the proposed perchlorate regulation.

## 2. Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)

### EPA Activities

1. Collect, compile, review, and analyze data on the frequency and level of occurrence of 30 unregulated contaminants in public drinking water systems through direct implementation of [UCMR 4](#).<sup>4</sup> Key activities for EPA include management of all aspects of small-system monitoring, approval and oversight of supporting laboratories, troubleshooting and providing technical assistance, and reviewing and validating data.
2. Continue to develop, refine, validate, and approve chemical, radiological, and microbiological analytical methods to monitor unregulated and regulated contaminants for use in the UCMR 5 program and compliance monitoring, respectively.
3. Provide technical assistance to states, tribes, and communities on emerging contaminants.

<sup>3</sup> Read more about proposed Perchlorate regulation at <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/perchlorate-drinking-water>.

<sup>4</sup> Read more about UCMR 4 at <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

### 3. Lead in Drinking Water

#### EPA Activities

1. Promulgate a rule that makes conforming changes to existing regulations based on the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act (RLDWA<sup>5</sup>) of 2011 and the Community Fire Safety Act of 2013, and that affects the use and introduction into commerce of lead pipes, plumbing fittings or fixtures, and solder and flux.
2. Complete the review of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) in accordance with the EPA's Final Plan for Periodic Retrospective Review of Existing Regulations. The final revisions should be promulgated within 18 months of publication of the proposal.
3. Clarify LCR requirements to ensure proper sampling locations and techniques, and to increase technical training to state and water utility staff.
4. Provide trainings and up-to-date information to assist schools and childcare facilities in their efforts to reduce lead in drinking water, based on [EPA'S 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools](#)<sup>6</sup>.
5. Continue to assist primacy agencies and public water system in efforts to enhance the implementation of the LCR and the [Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment \(OCCT\) requirements](#)<sup>7</sup>. OCCT Evaluation Technical Recommendations are designed to help Primacy Agencies and Public Water Systems assist effective implementation of corrosion control treatment and maximize public health protection.

#### Expected State, Tribal, Local and Community Activities

1. Actively engage to obtain input in the development of revisions to the LCR and on proposed regulations SDWA 1417 "lead free".
2. Work 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.
3. Participate in various types of trainings that provide compliance assistance tools.

### 4. Implementation of Drinking Water Standards/Regulations/Health Advisories and Technical Assistance

#### EPA Activities

1. Continue oversight of state primacy agencies through the process of annual reviews conducted by EPA regions as well as triennial program reviews, triennial file reviews, appropriate verifications of state implementation data and state laboratory oversight and certification programs.
2. Review and approve state primary packages.

<sup>5</sup> Learn more about the RLDWA at <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/use-lead-free-pipes-fittings-fixtures-solder-and-flux-drinking-water>.

<sup>6</sup> Learn about EPA's 3Ts at: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit\\_leadschools\\_guide\\_3ts\\_leadschools.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschools.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Read more about OCCT requirements at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/optimal-corrosion-control-treatment-evaluation-technical-recommendations>.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

3. Provide technical assistance and training<sup>8</sup> to states, tribes, and EPA direct implementation programs.
4. Directly implement SDWA programs for tribal systems.
5. Lead the [Area-Wide Optimization Program \(AWOP\)](#)<sup>9</sup> activities.
6. Oversee and support the conduct of [sanitary surveys](#)<sup>10</sup>.
7. Coordinate and train with federal and state emergency response and drinking water programs to ensure states, tribes, and public water supply systems are prepared for emergencies, and will continue to meet health-based standards during any disaster.
8. Continue to implement the [Aircraft Drinking Water Rule](#)<sup>11</sup> by developing policy and implementation guidelines, providing national training on the rule and the Aircraft Reporting and Compliance System (ARCS) data system, managing and maintaining ARCS, and providing technical assistance to air carriers, collaborating with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Administration Toxic Substances and Disease Registration (ATSDR) and the Canadian Government.

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

### Expected State, Tribal, Local and Community Activities

1. Provide technical assistance to water systems to address their implementation challenges, particularly with the Lead and Copper Rule, Revised Total Coliform Rule, Ground Water Rule<sup>12</sup> and the [Stage 2 Disinfection/Disinfection By-Products Rule](#)<sup>13</sup>.
2. Conduct required number and type of sanitary surveys according to the schedules set forth in the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and in the Ground Water Rule. Reconcile with primacy agencies and water systems to quickly resolve significant deficiencies identified during sanitary surveys.
3. Provide timely, accurate, and complete inventory, violations, and enforcement data to the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS).
4. Disseminate user-friendly materials developed by EPA and provide training and outreach to ensure that drinking water systems understand their responsibilities to comply with the [Revised Total Coliform Rule \(RTCR\)](#).<sup>14</sup>
5. Incorporate required EPA standards and established methods for drinking water samples.
6. Honor requirements for public notification related to delivering safe drinking water to consumers.
7. Work in partnership with EPA to ensure that violations occurring at schools and child care centers are addressed quickly.
8. Continue collaborative efforts to assist in the state adaptation on the [Compliance Monitoring Data Portal web application](#)<sup>15</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Read more about EPA's training on the National Primary Drinking Water Rules at <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/water-topics>.

<sup>9</sup> Read more about the AWOP at <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/optimization-program-drinking-water-systems>.

<sup>10</sup> Read more about sanitary surveys at <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/water-topics>.

<sup>11</sup> Read more on the Aircraft Drinking Water Rule at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/aircraft-drinking-water-rule>.

<sup>12</sup> Read more on the Groundwater Rule (GWR) at <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/ground-water-rule>.

<sup>13</sup> Read more about the Stage 2 DBP rule at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/stage-1-and-stage-2-disinfectants-and-disinfection-byproducts-rules>.

<sup>14</sup> Read more on the Revised Total coliform Rule at <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/revised-total-coliform-rule-and-total-coliform-rule>.

<sup>15</sup> Read more about the Compliance Monitoring Data Portal web application at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/compliance-monitoring-data-portal>.

9. Collaborate with the regions, states and water sector stakeholders to host training that characterize challenges and promote best practices of implementing technical, managerial and financial activities in the field. These include monthly webinars that target challenges that public water systems and states face regarding rule implementation and showcase how some have addressed these challenges.
10. Co-Host with ORD monthly webinar trainings that provide the latest technologies and implementation strategies to help small systems comply with drinking water regulations.
11. Participate fully in responding to the drinking water needs survey.

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

## Measures

- SDW-01a: Percent of CWS's that have undergone a sanitary survey within the past three years (or 5 years as approved by the Primacy Agency).
- SDWA-01b: Number of tribal CWS's that have undergone a sanitary survey within the past three years (or 5 years as approved by the Primacy Agency).
- SDW-15: Small system noncompliance and their capacity to quickly return to compliance with health-based standards.
- SDW-17: Number and percent of schools and childcare centers that meet all health-based drinking water standards.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## 5. Capacity Development for Drinking Water Systems

Many small PWSs<sup>16</sup> face challenges in reliably providing safe drinking water and meeting the requirements of SDWA. EPA continues to work on capacity development 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.<sup>17</sup> The process includes the

<sup>16</sup> [Read more on Small Systems.](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Read more on Capacity Development.](#)

implementation of system-wide planning practices such as asset management, water conservation and efficiency, energy efficiency, rate setting and effective pricing practices.<sup>18</sup>

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

Expected State, Tribal, Local and Community Activities

1. Utilize tools, approaches, best practices, and innovations to promote sustainable practices, including [asset management](#)<sup>19</sup> and [energy and water efficiency](#)<sup>20</sup> in drinking water systems.
2. Promote water efficiency and strategies to reduce water loss, particularly from a resource management and economic perspective.
3. Assist [non-CWSs, including campgrounds, restaurants, and hospitals, in reliably providing safe drinking water](#).<sup>21</sup>
4. Work with utilities and other partners (e.g., Department of Veterans Affairs) to support workforce recruitment and retention to develop a well-trained, knowledgeable workforce to ensure safe drinking water and wastewater management.
5. Coordinate with other funding agencies (e.g., USDA Rural Development) to build small system capacity and resiliency.
6. Work with stakeholders to identify and promote various forms of voluntary water system partnerships, including regionalization and shared treatment, that can provide opportunities for water systems to collaborate on compliance solutions, 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.

**COORDINATE WITH ENFORCEMENT**

**EPA Activities**

EPA regional offices and OW will continue to work with OECA to ensure that PWS's with compliance issues are addressed through the most effective means, including targeted funding, compliance assistance and enforcement.

**Expected State, Local, and Community Activities**

States with direct implementation for PWS's 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.

<sup>18</sup> [Read more on water infrastructure sustainability.](#)

<sup>19</sup> Read more on Asset Management at: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/asset-management-water-and-wastewater-utilities>.

<sup>20</sup> Read more on water and energy efficiency at: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/water-and-energy-efficiency-utilities-and-home>.

<sup>21</sup> Read more about Non-Community Water Systems at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/information-about-public-water-systems>.

## 6. Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)/ Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Health Advisory

In May 2016, EPA established [health advisories for PFOA and PFOS](#)<sup>22</sup> to provide drinking water system operators, and state, tribal and local officials who have the primary responsibility for overseeing these systems, with information on the health risks of these chemicals, so they can take the appropriate actions to protect their residents. EPA established the health advisory levels at 70 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS, respectively. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS should be compared with the 70 parts per trillion health advisory level.

### EPA Activities

1. Support states and public water systems as they determine the appropriate steps to reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.
2. Continue to evaluate new data as science on health effects of these chemicals evolves.

### State, Tribal, Local and Community Activities

1. Make decisions on a local level to protect residents from PFOA and PFOS exposure based on these non-regulatory health advisories.
2. Promptly notify the state drinking water safety agency and their consumers with information about known levels of PFOA and PFOS greater than 70 parts per trillion in their drinking water, based on sampling results.

## 7. Public Water System Supervision Grant Guidance

The Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) program provides grants to states and tribes with primary enforcement authority (primacy) to implement and enforce the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations that are currently in compliance remain in compliance; and that those which are not currently in compliance achieve compliance. PWSS also ensures that all PWS's prepare to comply with new drinking water regulations. that are currently in compliance remain in compliance; and that those which are not currently in compliance achieve compliance. PWSS also ensures that all PWS's prepare to comply with new drinking water regulations. that are currently in compliance remain in compliance; and that those which are not currently in compliance achieve compliance. PWSS also ensures that all PWS's prepare to comply with new drinking water regulations.

### EPA Activities

1. Develop state-by-state allotments and the total amount available to each region for its tribal support, pursuant to the annual appropriation. The PWSS grant allotments are based on factors such as population, geographic area, and PWS's inventory.

<sup>22</sup> Read more about health advisories for PFOA and PFOS at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

2. Facilitate adherence to the [Guidance and Tentative Grant Allotments to Support Public Water System Supervision \(PWSS\) Programs on Tribal Lands](#)<sup>23</sup>, by EPA regions that receive tribal PWSS funding to support the Tribal Drinking Water Program.
3. Review state and tribal PWSS grant work plans, issue grants, and oversee performance of programmatic commitments.

### Expected State, Tribal, Local and Community, as well as EPA Primary Enforcement Regions Activities

1. Work with PWSs within their jurisdiction to achieve and maintain compliance with the drinking water rules including:
  - a. Microbial and Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rules including the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR), the Ground Water Rule, the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, and the Long-term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.
  - b. Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act implementation;
  - c. Addressing arsenic and nitrate non-compliance.
2. Ensure that a proportion of each PWSS grant is devoted to making certain that data are effectively managed and that required data are submitted to EPA. Specifically, that:
  - a. Water system compliance determinations are consistent with federal and state regulations;
  - b. Corrective actions associated with data file reviews are implemented; and
  - c. PWSS grantees submit to EPA the required inventory, compliance, and enforcement data.
3. Ensure timely, accurate and complete submission of primacy program revisions for the purpose of adopting new or revised federal regulations.

## 8. Safe Drinking Water Information System

[SDWIS](#)<sup>24</sup> serves as the primary source of national information on system compliance with all health-based regulatory requirements of SDWA and is used by primacy agencies to assist in their management of the PWSS program.

### EPA Activities

1. Continue development of SDWIS Primacy Agency (Prime) software to replace the existing [SDWIS State software](#)<sup>25</sup> and the SDWIS Fed Operational Data Store.
2. Continue enhancing States' and EPA's abilities to ensure water systems are providing safe drinking water by developing tools and processes to assist states in transitioning to SDWIS Prime, which will increase capabilities for states and EPA to manage the drinking water program and inform the public.
3. Continue to expand utilization of the [Compliance Monitoring Data Portal](#)<sup>26</sup> to facilitate the electronic sharing of data between public water systems, laboratories, primacy agencies and the public.

<sup>23</sup> Read more at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/fy2008-tent-tribal-pwss-prog-memo-guidance.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Read more on SDWIS at <https://www3.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.html>

<sup>25</sup> Read more on SDWIS State at <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/drinking-water-tools>

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

### Expected State, Local and Community Activities

1. Participate in EPA-led development sessions to complete SDWIS Prime, migrate data from SDWIS State and state-developed data systems to SDWIS Prime, and reconfigure state developed applications to interact with SDWIS Prime instead of with SDWIS State.
2. 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. States can apply for Exchange Network grants and can utilize PWSS grant funds and Drinking Water SRFs (DWSRF) for eligible state activities related to SDWIS Prime and the Compliance Monitoring Data Portal.

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

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; and
- System level capacity development actions.

## 9. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

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.

### EPA Activities

1. Distribute the State & Tribal DWSRF grant allotments based on the Drinking Water Needs Survey<sup>27</sup>. [State-by-state allotments, territorial funds, and the total amount available to each region for tribes](#)<sup>28</sup> are available online.
2. Perform annual on-site DWSRF reviews of state programs as baseline monitoring for the DWSRF program, including project file reviews and transaction testing.

### Expected State, Local and Community Activities

1. EPA and the states should increase the speed with which all SRF funds move from EPA through states to projects; ensuring that the highest priority projects are ready to proceed to funding, and that funds are fully utilized within state DWSRF programs, ensuring the financial integrity of the program through strong auditing, consistent with overarching federal law and guidance; and enhancing coordination between the DWSRF and PWSS programs.

<sup>26</sup> Read more on the Compliance Monitoring Data Portal at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/compliance-monitoring-data-portal>

<sup>27</sup> Read more about the Drinking Water Needs Survey at: <https://www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf/what-drinking-water-infrastructure-needs-survey-and-assessment>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf>

2. Apply for their capitalization grant in the first year of availability to facilitate earlier use of funds for project financing.
3. Report fund utilization for projects (see Measure SDW-04 below) and the number of projects that have initiated operations (see Measure SDW-05 below).
4. Submit an annual Intended Use Plan (IUP) that details how the state will use DWSRF program funds, including new capitalization grants, as well as other grant funds, repayments, and other funding sources. A Project Priority List is a required element of the IUP and presents all the capital projects awaiting DWSRF assistance in priority funding order.
5. Use the program's model [IUP](#)<sup>29</sup> that identifies required elements to prepare the state grant application.

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

## DWSRF GRANT GUIDANCE

EPA's drinking water program emphasizes several national SRF priorities including:

- Increasing the speed with which appropriated funds move to projects;
- Ensuring that the highest priority projects are ready to proceed to funding;
- Ensuring full fund utilization within state DWSRF programs,
- Ensuring the financial integrity of the program through strong auditing, consistent with overarching federal law and guidance; and
- Enhancing coordination between the DWSRF and PWSS programs.

In addition, 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.

6. Include a "Fundable List" showing the specific projects that the state actually anticipates being ready to proceed to receiving assistance in the year ahead.
7. Submit set-aside work plans that detail how set-aside funds will be used.
8. Submit, biennially, a report that explains how DWSRF funds were actually used
9. Submit annual data on program performance. Financial auditing is required to the extent laid out in the Single Audit Act.
10. Give adequate consideration to funding preliminary design for projects to be ready for construction financing.
11. Continue implementation of the [SRF Sustainability Policy](#)<sup>30</sup> 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.<sup>31</sup>
12. Coordinate across drinking water programs, including the PWSS, source water protection, capacity development, and operator certification, in order to identify

<sup>29</sup> Read more on intended use plans at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2000-08-07/html/00-19783.htm>.

<sup>30</sup> Read more on the SRF Sustainability Policy at <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure>

<sup>31</sup> 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>.

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.

13. 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.
14. Participate in the webinar series that discusses how primacy agencies are utilizing the flexibilities of the DWSRF set-asides to build the technical, managerial and financial of public water systems.
15. Identify and implement financial incentives that encourage States to assist projects that improve the resilience and preparedness of safe drinking water infrastructure.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

## Measures

- SDW-4: Fund utilization rate [cumulative dollar amount of loan agreements divided by cumulative funds available for projects] for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).
- SDW-5: Number of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) projects that have initiated operations. (cumulative)
- SDW-11: Percent of DWSRF projects awarded to small PWS serving <500, 501-3,300, and 3,301-10,000 consumers

## 10. Source Water Protection

EPA's [source water protection program](#)<sup>32</sup> aims to prevent contamination of source waters and reduce existing levels of contamination, leading to reduced risks to public health, and potential drinking water treatment cost savings while being mindful of all parties' rights in the process. Source water quality and long-term availability are integral to drinking water protection.

### EPA Activities

1. 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.
2. Work with states and other stakeholders to promote actions outlined in the state-EPA CWA and SDWA toolkit, *Opportunities to Protect Drinking Water Sources and Advance Watershed Goals through the CWA*<sup>33</sup>.
3. 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.
4. Work with partners in the [Source Water Collaborative](#)<sup>34</sup> to implement its *Call to Action – A Recommitment to Assessing and Protecting Sources of Drinking Water*.

<sup>32</sup> Read more on EPA's source water protection program at: <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>.

<sup>33</sup> Read the full document at: [http://www.gwpc.org/sites/default/files/CWA-SDWA\\_11\\_10.pdf](http://www.gwpc.org/sites/default/files/CWA-SDWA_11_10.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> Read more on the Source Water Collaborative at <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/source-water-collaborative>.

See activities listed to help control [nonpoint source \(NPS\) pollution](#) which also protect source water.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

### Expected State, Tribal, Local and Community Activities

1. Continue implementation of strategies to help local communities use the information obtained from previously completed source water assessments for all PWSs.
2. Provide resources to help fund local protection activities, such as wellhead protection programs for ground water and watershed management programs for surface water.
3. Work with businesses, industry and citizens to take actions to protect drinking water sources, including:
  - a. Reducing use of harmful contaminants;
  - b. Ensuring wastes do not discharge into ground water or surface water;
  - c. Reducing use of pesticides around the home; and
  - d. Ensuring that septic systems are properly maintained.

### Measures

- SP-4a: Percent of community water systems where risk to public health is minimized through source water protection.
- SP-4b: Percent of population served by community water systems where risk to public health is minimized through source water protection.

## 11. Underground Injection Control (Including UIC Grant Guidance)

The [UIC Program](#)<sup>35</sup> protects underground sources of drinking water (USDWs). EPA works with states and tribes, and directly implements the program in non-primacy states to regulate and monitor the injection of fluids, both hazardous and non-hazardous, into wells, to prevent contamination. Each year, grant funds are distributed by the national UIC Program to help UIC programs enforce the minimum federal UIC requirements.

### EPA Activities

1. Work toward regional consistency in EPA review of state UIC primacy programs.
2. Work towards a consistent and predictable process for the review of aquifer exemption requests under SDWA.
3. Ensure that hydraulic fracturing using diesel fuels are authorized under the applicable UIC program.
4. In cooperation with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under the Multi-Year Research Plan for the Multiagency Collaboration on Unconventional Oil and Gas Research, develop injection-induced seismicity training modules for UIC regulators.
5. Complete guidance for implementing the UIC Class VI Rule for Geologic Sequestration.
6. Disperse the grant funds amongst eligible recipients. 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

<sup>35</sup> Read more on the UIC Program at: <https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-grants>.

“population, geographic area, extent of underground injection practices, and other relevant factors.”

7. Continue to update the Aquifer Exemption data map.
8. Provide technical assistance to the application of grant resources.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

### Expected State, Tribal, Local and Community Activities

1. States and tribes with primacy should continue to protect public health by enforcing minimum requirements to ensure that:
  - a. All injection is authorized under either general rules or specific permits;
  - b. Injection well owners and operators do not site, construct, operate, maintain, convert, plug, abandon, or conduct any other injection activity that endangers USDW;
  - c. Injected fluids stay within the well and the intended injection zone; and
  - d. 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.
2. Ensure that grant resources focus on preserving and building up the gains of the previous years' efforts.
3. Assist owners and operators of UIC facilities in meeting the above objectives and require grantees to adopt a variety of approaches and to coordinate efforts with other groundwater protection programs.
4. Complete timely submission of primacy program revisions for the purpose of adopting new or revised federal regulations;
5. Maintain program capacity to implement UIC program requirements for all classes of wells;
6. Submit well-specific data for well classes I – V to the UIC National Database. (DTI)
7. For state programs seeking primacy for the Class VI well program, develop complete primacy applications for the Class VI well program. EPA will continue to work with permit applicants where EPA has primacy. EPA will work to transition any issued Class VI permits over to the state once primacy has been granted.
8. Ensure that Class I, II and III (salt solution) wells that lose mechanical integrity are returned to compliance; and
9. Address high priority Class V wells.

### Measures

- SDW-7: 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.
- SDW-8: Number of Class V motor vehicle waste disposal wells (MVWDW) and Large Capacity Cesspools (LCC) that are closed or permitted (cumulative).

# SAFE SWIMMING

## 1. Human Health Recreational Criteria and/or Swimming Advisories for Cyanotoxins, Microcystins and Cylindrospermopsin

The EPA plans to issue national recommended recreational ambient water quality criteria and/or swimming advisories for cyanotoxins, microcystins, and cylindrospermopsin. Cyanotoxins are of special concern because of their potential to produce adverse impacts on drinking and recreational waters. These [national recreational water quality criteria](#)<sup>36</sup> and/or swimming advisories are the recommended concentrations of microcystins and cylindrospermopsin in recreational waters that protect human health while swimming or participating in other activities on the water.

### EPA Activities

1. Publish final version of recreational water quality criteria document and/or swimming advisories.
2. Collaborate in the interagency working group on the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA 1998).

### State, Tribal, Local and Community Activities

1. States and tribes can plan to adopt these criteria or scientifically defensible alternatives into their water quality standards (WQS) and submit them to EPA for approval.
2. States and tribes have the option of using the values in their swimming advisories without needing to adopt them as WQS or receive EPA approval for their use.

## 2. Overflows from Combined Sewer Systems (CSSs) and Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSSs)

The EPA, with state and tribal partners, will continue efforts to reduce people's risk of illness from exposure to microbial pathogens caused by overflows from CSS's and SSS's when swimming in [recreational waters](#)<sup>37</sup>. For more information, visit [EPA's beaches webpage](#)<sup>38</sup>.

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<sup>36</sup> Read more about recreational water quality criteria at: <https://www.epa.gov/wqc/microbial-pathogenrecreational-water-quality-criteria>.

<sup>37</sup> Read more at <https://www.epa.gov/beaches>

<sup>38</sup> For more information on protecting recreational waters, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/beaches>.

## EPA Activities

1. Continue to work with state programs to fully implement the 1994 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy and reduce pollution from CSOs that are not in compliance with the CWA and CSO Policy.
2. Continue to work with states to resolve long-standing issues associated with sanitary sewer overflows and bypasses at treatment plants.
3. Continue working with Great Lakes States and other stakeholders to finalize CSO public notification requirements for the Great Lakes basin as authorized by [Section 425 of the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#).<sup>39</sup>

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

## State, Tribal, Local and Community Activities

1. Reduce densities of pathogen indicators in recreational waters through the NPDES permit program, CSO long-term control plans, and other CWA authorities. [See Section 106 Program Grant Guidance for more.]
2. Adopt updated recreational criteria, monitor beaches, notify the public of unsafe conditions.

## Measures

- 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:
  - 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
  - Implementation of any other acceptable CSO control measures consistent with the 1994 CSO Control Policy; or
  - Completion of separation after the baseline date. (Cumulative) (SMW)

<sup>39</sup> For more information on the Sec. 425 of the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act visit: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/section\\_425\\_508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/section_425_508.pdf).

# WATER QUALITY

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

- Effectively implement and oversee core water programs
- Use an integrated watershed approach to achieve water quality standards where practicable<sup>40</sup>
- Support states and tribes in water restoration goals and strategies
- Support states and tribes in water protection goals and strategies

## 1. Clean Water SRF (CWSRF) Guidance

State, tribal and local water managers should focus on financing water infrastructure improvements through expanded use of the several types of assistance available to the CWSRF programs and through increased use of the program's broadened eligibilities under the Water Resource Reform and Development Act. Nationally, EPA will continue to strengthen oversight of the program through effective implementation of its federal requirements.

### EPA Activities

1. The responsibilities of the Regions under the CWSRF program include:
  - a. Review of their states' intended use plans and the applications for capitalization grants and the award of all funds in the first year of funds availability;
  - b. Annual review of state CWSRF programs, including the review of state annual reports, transaction testing, and the preparation of program evaluation reports in a timely manner;
  - c. Periodic review of the National Information Management System (NIMS) and Clean Water Benefits Reporting (CBR) System data to assess state programs and to identify and act upon any issues that affect a state's financial or environmental performance, including providing appropriate program support and guidance; and
  - d. Assistance with implementation of the Performance and Innovation in the SRF Creating Environmental Success (PISCES) awards program.

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<sup>40</sup> For more information on the Watershed Approach, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/watershed-approach>

2. The responsibilities of Headquarters under the CWSRF program include:
  - a. Oversight of regional and state implementation of the program, including conducting regional management assistance reviews and training sessions, participating in annual reviews of state programs, and the development of guidance.
  - b. Monitoring and analytical activities, including the development and analysis of financial and environmental trends, analyses of issues and options, and the analysis of key performance metrics and indicators.
  - c. Maximizing program results by working with State CWSRFs to grow the assistance provided through effective and targeted outreach and expanding state use of program eligibilities. To include the development of program materials such as the annual report, newsletters, fact sheets, activity reports and webinars.
  - d. Implementing the PISCES awards program.
  - e. Revising the Davis Bacon and the Cross Cutter Handbooks and update the SRF Funds Management Handbook.
  - f. Responding to OIG audits.
  - g. Responding to any major issues and analytical requests.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

### Expected State, Local, and Community Activities

1. Develop intended use plans and applications for their capitalization grants.
2. Rate and rank eligible projects, prepare intended use plans, and apply for their capitalization grants in the first year of funds availability.
3. Be timely and expeditious in their commitment of available funds (see “Measures” below).
4. Enter into assistance agreements with recipients, conduct inspections of projects and ensure compliance with program requirements.
5. Prepare and submit their annual reports, including sources and uses of funds.
6. Input financial and project data to the NIMs and CBR data bases.
7. Submit annual financial audits of their programs.

### Measures

- WQ-17: Cumulative dollar amount of executed loan agreements relative to the cumulative dollar amount of funds available for loans. It is one indicator of how quickly funds are made available to finance CWSRF eligible projects.

## 2. Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program

In 2017 EPA will approve its first loan guarantees under the WIFIA program. This program will accelerate investment in our nation’s water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. WIFIA credit assistance is available to state infrastructure financing authorities for a group of projects and individual project sponsors, which may include: a corporation; a partnership; a joint venture; a trust; or a federal, state, local, or tribal government (or consortium of tribal governments). In the case of projects carried out by private entities, such projects are to be publicly sponsored. Some of the projects that WIFIA enables EPA to provide assistance for include:

- drinking water treatment and distribution projects

- wastewater conveyance and treatment projects
- enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities
- desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling projects
- drought prevention, reduction, or mitigation projects

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

WIFIA works separately from, but may coordinate with, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs to provide subsidized financing for large dollar-value projects. By combining the benefits of the WIFIA and SRF programs, more communities can benefit from innovative loans and financing.

### EPA Activities

1. Conduct detailed financial and engineering reviews of the projects selected to receive funding in response to the program's first Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in January 2017.
2. Negotiate the terms and conditions for the projects and anticipates approval and execution of the loan agreements by the Administrator. EPA also anticipates
3. Issue second and third NOFAs in FY 2018-2019.
4. Continue to coordinate, as required by statute and regulations, with the appropriate SRF programs when it receives SRF-eligible WIFIA letters of interest and applications.
5. The WIFIA Program will coordinate with the appropriate EPA Regions when planning communication about selected projects.

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

This *National Water Program Guidance* for FY 2018 and FY 2019 includes guidance for state, interstate and eligible tribes that receive Section 106 grants for Water Pollution Control Programs.

Together, this section, the Expected State, Tribal, Local, and Community Activities sections for Water Quality Standards, the Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment section, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System section, and Appendix D make up the Section 106 Grant Guidance.

This grant guidance covers only the core water pollution control activities; water quality standards, water quality monitoring, impaired waters listing and total maximum daily loads development, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting and enforcement and compliance. EPA continues to provide separate guidance for the following water pollution control activities:

- [Tribal water pollution control programs](#).<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Tribes with EPA-approved WQS should also see the Section 106 guidance on WQS for states, interstate agencies, and authorized tribes below. Read more on Section 106 tribal water pollution control programs at: <https://www.epa.gov/water-pollution-control-section-106-grants/final-guidance-awards-grants-indian-tribes-under-section>.

- [State and Interstate use of Monitoring Initiative funds.](#)<sup>42</sup>
- [Water pollution enforcement activities.](#)<sup>43</sup>

## 4. Nutrient Reduction Partnership

Partnerships and collaboration play a vital role in reducing nutrient pollution threats to water quality and public health addressing both nonpoint and point sources.<sup>44</sup>

While nutrient pollution affects waters in virtually all parts of the country, a particularly large-scale challenge is the one posted by the massive hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico, where oxygen levels are too low to support aquatic life. The EPA is co-chair of the [Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force](#)<sup>45</sup> (HTF), working collaboratively and in partnership with 12 Mississippi River basin states, other federal agencies and the National Tribal Water Council to support states as they implement [state-driven solutions](#)<sup>46</sup> to this shared environmental problem.

### EPA Activities

1. Continue to collaborate and partner with states and other federal agencies and stakeholders to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loadings to our nation's waters.
2. Continue to support states, territories and tribes through grants and technical assistance programs.
3. Provide technical assistance through [EPA's Nutrient Scientific Technical Exchange Partnership and Support Program \(N-STEPS\)](#)<sup>47</sup> for the development of numeric criteria for nutrient pollution for nitrogen and phosphorus, including development of numeric translators that can be used in the near term to implement state narrative nutrient criteria.
4. Provide technical support to states, focused on priority actions to reduce threats to public health from nitrates in sources of drinking water and from nitrogen and phosphorus pollution contributing to HABs.
5. Work with states to include high-priority actions that each state intends to take to reduce nutrient pollution in Performance Partnership Agreements and Grants and/or Section 106 workplans and then work together to assess progress and continue to hold ourselves accountable for achieving results.
6. Continue to co-chair and support the HTF, working collaboratively with partners, stakeholders, and supporting states to reduce excess nutrient loads to the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico towards the interim goal of a 20% reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus loading by 2025 and a 45% reduction in loadings by 2035.
7. Coordinate with the working group drafting the implementation procedures for the Cyanotoxin Ambient Water Quality Criteria and/or Swimming Advisories for

<sup>42</sup> Read more on state and interstate use of Monitoring Initiative funds at: <https://www.epa.gov/water-pollution-control-section-106-grants>.

<sup>43</sup> Read more on water pollution enforcement activities in OEC's NPM guidance at: <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/national-program-manager-guidances>.

<sup>44</sup> For more information on nutrient pollution, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution>.

<sup>45</sup> For more information on the Hypoxia Task Force, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf>.

<sup>46</sup> For more information on goals for states in HTF's 2008 Action Plan, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf/hypoxia-task-force-2008-action-plan-and-related-documents>.

<sup>47</sup> For more information on N-STEPS, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/n-steps>.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

Recreational Waters and address thermal and nutrient impacts on HAB formation and their impact on designated uses.

### Expected State, Tribal, Local, and Community Activities

Work with EPA to include high priority nutrient reduction actions in Performance Partnership Agreements/Grants and/or Section 106 workplans. State priority actions may include preparing some of the following:

1. Monitoring requirements for phosphorus or nitrogen in NPDES permits;
2. Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs) for phosphorus and/or nitrogen in NPDES permits;
3. Nutrient TMDLs or TMDL alternatives;
4. Nutrient Best Management Practices (BMPs);
5. Enhanced nutrient provisions in MS4 and other state or federal stormwater permits;
6. Development of nutrient watershed management plans;
7. Numeric criteria for nitrogen and phosphorus to protect all designated uses (drinking source water, recreational and aquatic life);
8. Translation of narrative nutrient criteria for reasonable potential determinations and setting WQBELs when there are no applicable numeric nutrient criteria;
9. Nine element NPS management plans for nutrients.

In addition states may:

1. Develop and/or increase implementation of assessment methods for nutrients in CWA Section 303(d) list actions;
2. Build state and tribal capacity to monitor nutrients, response variable, and biological community data, e.g., total nitrogen, total phosphorus, sestonic and benthic chlorophyll-a, macroinvertebrate and algal/diatom community, cyanotoxins, at detection levels and macroinvertebrate subsampling to support both CWA Section 303(d) assessment and Section 304(c) criteria development; and
3. Report annually on progress addressing high priority actions listed in Performance Partnership Agreements/Grants and/or Section 106 workplans, including progress in implementing high priority actions reference in state Nutrient Reduction Strategies.

### Measures

- New Indicator Measure: Number of States that included specific high priority nutrient reduction actions in their PPA/PPG and/or Section 106 grant workplans for FY 2018.

## 5. Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

States, interstate agencies and eligible tribes will continue to conduct monitoring and assessment actions to support sound decision making across CWA programs. The EPA will continue to support efforts 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 all scales.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER QUALITY

WETLANDS

## EPA Activities

1. Collaborate with states and tribes to implement National Aquatic Resource Surveys to assess the quality of the nation's coastal waters, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, and wetlands using a statistical survey design.<sup>48</sup>
  - a. Complete the field sampling for the National Rivers and Streams Survey 2018/19.
  - b. Complete analysis and reporting results from National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA) 2015 in FY 2018 and National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA) 2016 in FY 2019.
2. Support the Water Quality Framework (WQF) to better integrate the EPA's data and information systems to more effectively support water quality decision makers and better inform the public.<sup>49</sup>
  - a. The EPA will support states, tribes and other organizations using Water Quality Exchange (WQX) and WQX Web to submit data to the [Storage and Retrieval \(STORET\) Data Warehouse](#)<sup>50</sup> and [Water Quality Portal](#)<sup>51</sup> through technical assistance and Exchange Network grants.
  - b. The EPA will support state transition to and implementation of the new Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load Tracking and Implementation System ([ATTAINS](#))<sup>52</sup> data flow for submission of 2018 Integrated Reporting under CWA Sections 303(d) and 305(b) through technical assistance and Exchange Network Grants.
3. Collaborate with states and tribes, and others as appropriate to develop and implement a monitoring plan for waters impacted by the Gold King Mine release.

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

## Expected State, Tribal, Local, and Community Activities (Section 106 Grant Guidance)

1. States will maintain monitoring programs with the 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.<sup>53</sup>
2. States, territories, and interstate commissions should continue to use a combination of Section 106 monitoring funds, base 106 funds, and other resources available to implement and enhance their monitoring activities, and meet the objectives of the Elements Guidance.
3. States will transmit their water quality data to EPA using the WQX framework to satisfy the general obligation to report water quality data annually.

<sup>48</sup> For more information on NARS visit: <https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys>.

<sup>49</sup> Read more on WQF: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-framework>.

<sup>50</sup> To access the Storage and Retrieval Data Warehouse, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/storage-and-retrieval-and-water-quality-exchange>.

<sup>51</sup> To access the Water Quality Portal, visit: <https://www.waterqualitydata.us/>.

<sup>52</sup> To learn more or to access the ATTAINS system, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/assessment-and-total-maximum-daily-load-tracking-and-implementation-system-attains>.

<sup>53</sup> EPA issued the 2003, "Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program" (Elements Guidance) as a recommended set of basic components of a state water monitoring program to aid in improving monitoring and assessment programs.

4. States will submit their 2018 Integrated Report using the new ATTAINS system as the system of record for 303(d) lists of impaired waters needing TMDLs to achieve water quality standards.

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

## Measures

- WQ-SP10.N11: Waterbodies now attaining water quality standards.
- WQ-SP11: The causes of waterbody impairments being remediated.
- WQ-SP12.N11: Improvement of waterbody conditions using the watershed approach.
- WQ-SP13a.N11: The condition of the nation's waters.
- WQ-SP14a.N11: Improvements in water quality in Indian country.
- WQ-SP14b.N11: The protection and maintenance of water quality at identified monitoring stations on tribal lands.
- WQ-6a: Tribes that receive Section 106 funding that developed and begun implementing monitoring strategies.
- WQ-29: State water quality condition as demonstrated by state-scale statistical surveys.

In Fiscal Year 2019, EPA, in collaboration with stakeholders, is poised to roll out a new performance measure, *“Progress on Meeting Water Quality Standards in Waters Targeted for Local Action”* to replace the WQ-SP10.N11 and WQ-SP11 performance measures, and will suspend reporting on the WQ-SP12.N11 performance measure until methods for measuring or communicating incremental water quality improvements are developed. The new performance measure will document progress using the Integrated Report data that states submit to EPA under Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305(b) in ATTAINS as the data source to automate the calculation of this measure and to make these data available to the public in the modernized ATTAINS database. Key aspects include: track all water quality attainment reasons, use catchment area and percentage to report, and adopt a new baseline to track waters over the period of the next Strategic Plan (FY 2018 to FY 2022).

## 6. TMDLs and Other Plans to Restore and Protect Water Quality

Building on the experience gained over the past two decades in assessing and reporting on water quality and in developing tens of thousands of TMDLs, the EPA and states are implementing a [new 303\(d\) Program Vision](#)<sup>54</sup> that encourages states to identify priority waters and to develop tailored strategies to carry out their CWA 303(d) program responsibilities in the context of their water quality goals. With this new vision, the EPA and states will continue to work with other partners and stakeholders to develop and implement activities and watershed plans to restore identified waters. In 2016, the EPA finalized a rule establishing procedures for tribes to be authorized to implement 303(d) program responsibilities in a manner similar to states.

<sup>54</sup> Read more at <https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/impaired-waters-and-tmdls-new-vision-cwa-303d-program-updated-framework-implementing-cwa-303d>

## EPA Activities

1. Work with states and authorized tribes to identify priority waters and to develop tailored strategies to implement their [CWA 303\(d\) program responsibilities](#) in the context of their water quality goals;<sup>55</sup>
2. Support states and authorized tribes in their efforts to identify impaired waters across the United States and to develop and implement TMDLs and alternative restoration approaches to restore those waters, and protection approaches for healthy waters, through tool development and technical assistance; and
3. Continue partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Forest Service and others that are uniquely positioned to improve water quality through development and implementation of TMDLs and alternative restoration and protection approaches.

SAFE DRINKING  
WATER

SAFE SWIMMING

WATER  
QUALITY

WETLANDS

## Expected State, Tribal, Local, and Community Activities

1. The EPA will work with states and authorized tribes to ensure timely submittal of Integrated Reports and EPA review and approval or disapproval of CWA 303(d) lists. (Also see the water quality monitoring and assessment section about the Water Quality Framework).
2. States and authorized tribes will develop TMDLs and alternative restoration approaches where appropriate to restore water quality in impaired waters, and protection plans for healthy waters. Where water pollution grants are used to support TMDL development, the EPA encourages states to consider factors needed for effective TMDL implementation.
3. The EPA will work with tribes interested in obtaining Treatment of Indian Tribes in a Similar Manner as States (TAS) to successfully implement the 303(d) Program.

## Measures

- WQ-27: Percent of areas associated with state-identified priority waters that are addressed by an EPA approved TMDL or accepted plan or approach designed to achieve or maintain water quality standards.
- WQ-28: Percent of areas associated with impaired waters and state-identified healthy waters that are addressed by an EPA approved TMDL or accepted plan or approach designed to achieve or maintain water quality standards.

## 7. Protecting Healthy and High Quality Waters<sup>56</sup>

Historically CWA programs have focused on restoring impaired waters; the healthy watersheds program helps put focus on maintaining and protecting healthy waters. Current activities in support of state and Tribal partners involve assessing watershed health and vulnerability, analyzing effective protection policies and approaches, and promoting protection in high quality watersheds.

<sup>55</sup> Read more about CWA 303(d) at <https://www.epa.gov/regulatory-information-topic/regulatory-information-topic-water#impaired>

<sup>56</sup> For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/hwp>.

## EPA Activities

1. Support states and tribes in their efforts to identify, protect and maintain healthy watersheds across the United States, through tool development and technical assistance;
2. Integrate protection of healthy watersheds into EPA CWA programs;
3. Increase awareness of the value of protecting healthy watersheds and improve understanding of the range of management actions needed to avoid adverse impacts.

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## State and Tribal Activities

1. Interested states and tribes will identify and assess their healthy unimpaired waters and enact approaches and actions to protect them.

## 8. Gulf of Mexico Restoration

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) mobile drilling unit exploded, caught fire, and eventually sank in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in a massive release of oil and other substances from BP's Macondo well. Approximately 3.19 million barrels (134 million gallons) of oil were released into the ocean (U.S. v. BP et al. 2015), by far the largest offshore oil spill in the history of the United States.

### EPA Activities

The EPA and the other co-Trustees (NOAA, DOI, USDA and the 5 Gulf states) comprise the Deepwater Horizon Trustee Council that studied the effects of the oil spill and continues to restore the Gulf of Mexico. The Trustees reached a settlement with BP in April 2016 to resolve BP's liability for natural resource injuries from the spill. Under this settlement, BP will pay up to \$8.8 billion to restore natural resources injured by the spill.

1. Provide programmatic and technical support for [Trustee Implementation Groups \(TIGs\)](#)<sup>57</sup> and participates with federal and state partners in long-term restoration planning and implementation activities in the Gulf of Mexico including: restoring water quality; reducing nutrient loadings; and restoring wetlands, coastal and nearshore habitats.

## 9. Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution

Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution is responsible for a variety of water quality problems nationwide; of waterbodies that have been assessed and a source of impairment identified, more than 80% are polluted by [nonpoint sources](#)<sup>58</sup>. While EPA has no direct regulatory authority over the discharge of non-point sources, the agency does work with our state and local partners to minimize their impact. (See also this guidance's section on the Nutrient Pollution Partnership).

<sup>57</sup> Read more about TIGs at <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/co-trustees>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/nps>

## EPA Activities

1. Provide program oversight and assistance to the EPA regions and states, territories and tribes to ensure sound financial management and compliance with grant policies;
2. Where possible, leverage resources and coordinate programs;
3. Support water quality monitoring to track progress in restoring waters identified by states on Section 303(d) impaired waters lists.

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## Expected State, Tribal, Local, and Community Activities

1. State and territorial programs should comply with grant policies for existing grants.
2. States should enter project information in the [Grants Reporting and Tracking System](#)<sup>59</sup> (GRTS), used to track the federal investment and environmental results.

## 10. Urban Waters Program

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership has 19 designated community locations that reconnect urban communities with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve our nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits.

### EPA Activities

1. Support local Urban Water Federal Partnerships at [locations throughout the country](#)<sup>60</sup>. The partnership will continue to align and leverage federal resources and other partners to meet local needs more effectively and to advance shared multi-agency priorities.
2. Work with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to encourage broad participation among the Urban Waters Federal Partnership members and private partners in the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant program;
3. Implement the Urban Waters Federal Partnership affiliate process for interested urban locations who want to become part of the Partnership structure;
  - a. Provide tools and guidance designed to help local partnerships be successful and transfer lessons learned such as technical expertise and funding and technical resources available;
  - b. Support webinars led by Network members to discuss questions and learn about resources.
  - c. Provide one-on-one support to UWLN members working to resolve organizational or project challenges.

## 11. Technology and Innovation for Water Infrastructure and Clean and Safer Water

A major transformation is underway throughout the water sector being driven by new technology and innovation. Early adopters are transforming wastewater treatment plants into resource recovery facilities that generate energy, recover nutrients and other byproducts, and produce clean water for reuse. New sensor technologies are being

<sup>59</sup> <https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/grts/f?p=109:5000>

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/19-designated-urban-waters-locations>

developed to better identify leaks and to operate our water and wastewater systems. The National Water Program has leveraged its unique position in the water sector by providing expertise, financing, support and visibility to use new technology and innovation to improve the U.S. water infrastructure, create jobs and economic growth, and achieve clearer and safer water. We will continue to engage and to partner with states and the water sector to support development and deployment of water technology and innovation.

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### EPA Activities

1. Work with partners to understand the spectrum of drivers and barriers to new technology and innovation in the water sector
2. Use EPA's tools, programs, financing efforts, and regulations to stimulate and support innovation and new technology
3. Showcase examples of new technology and innovation and the corresponding value proposition
4. Support regional efforts to embrace and support projects that advance economic and environmental goals through advances in technology and innovation
5. Support the development of third party independent evaluation of water technologies that provides performance information

## 12. Water Quality Standards Program

EPA will continue to work with state and tribal partners to ensure that each U.S. waterbody has a clear, [comprehensive suite of standards](#)<sup>61</sup> consistent with the Clean Water Act. Standards serve the dual purposes of establishing the water quality goals for a specific water body and serve as the regulatory basis for establishing any needed water-quality-based treatment controls. [EPA's detailed priorities for this program are on the EPA's website.](#)<sup>62</sup>

### EPA Activities

1. Continue to develop new and updated [national recommended water quality criteria](#)<sup>63</sup> pursuant to Clean Water Act section 304(a);
2. Continue to work with states and authorized tribes to provide technical assistance to facilitate their adoption of new and updated water quality criteria;
3. Work with tribes to facilitate increased tribal participation in the water quality standards program, and continue to develop [tools](#)<sup>64</sup> to help tribes simplify their work. Consult with tribes to assist in EPA's oversight of water quality standards for waters where [tribal treaty rights](#)<sup>65</sup> apply;
4. Continue to identify opportunities to improve consultation approaches under Endangered Species Act section 7 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service ("the Services") to adequately consider the protection of listed species in water quality standards approval actions;

<sup>61</sup> For more information on the Water Quality Standards Program, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/standards-water-body-health>.

<sup>62</sup> Read EPA's detailed priorities for the Water Quality Standards Program at <https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/priorities-water-quality-criteria-and-standards-programs-fy-2017-2018>.

<sup>63</sup> To learn more about EPA's water quality criteria, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/wqc>.

<sup>64</sup> <https://epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-tools-tribes>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/tribal-treaty-rights>

6. Continue to update guidance and training materials to reflect EPA's 2015 revisions to the Water Quality Standards Regulation (40 CFR part 131); and
7. Finalize other scientific and technical guidance, technical reports and implementation tools.

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### State and Tribal Activities (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)

1. Enhance the quality and timeliness of the triennial standards reviews required by the Act. To facilitate timely EPA review of standards submissions, EPA recommends that states and tribes reach early agreement with EPA on triennial review priorities and schedules, and coordinate with EPA at critical points.
2. Adopt new or revised water quality criteria where appropriate to reflect the latest scientific information, including EPA's recent recommendations for certain pollutants affecting human health, for protecting recreational uses, and for ammonia, cadmium, selenium, and copper affecting freshwater aquatic life;
3. Adopt numeric water quality criteria for nitrogen and phosphorus to help address nutrient pollution affecting human health and aquatic ecosystems;<sup>66</sup>
4. Take actions needed to comply with the CWA and the 2015 revisions to the Water Quality Standards Regulation. These include:
  - a. Where a triennial review does not result in adoption of new or revised water quality criteria for which EPA has published new or updated CWA Section 304(a) criteria recommendations, a state or tribe must explain this decision when reporting the results of the triennial review to EPA.
  - b. Where necessary, update implementation methods for the state or tribe's antidegradation policy and make them available to the public.
  - c. Follow requirements when removing or revising designated uses, when issuing water quality standards variances, or when authorizing issuance of compliance schedules.
  - d. Conducting one or more public hearings consistent with 40 CFR 25.5 when conducting a triennial review or adopting any new or revised water quality standards.
5. Engage early with EPA and the Services when developing new and revised water quality standards to ensure consideration of endangered and threatened species when developing water quality standards, per EPA's recommendation.

### Measures

- WQ-01a: Number of numeric water quality standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus that states or territories have adopted to date for all lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries. (Total possible is 280.)
- WQ-01d: Number of numeric water quality standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus that states or territories plan to adopt within 3 years for all lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries, based on annual state and territorial milestones.
- WQ-02: Number of many tribes for which EPA has EPA-approved water quality standards to date.

<sup>66</sup> Visit EPA's nutrient criteria webpage for more information: <https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/state-progress-toward-developing-numeric-nutrient-water-quality-criteria>.

- WQ-03a: Number of states and territories that have updated their water quality criteria within the preceding three-year period to reflect new scientific information.
- WQ-03b: Number of authorized tribes who have updated their water quality criteria within the preceding three-year period to reflect new scientific information.
- WQ-04a: (Indicator measure) percent of new or revised water quality standards adopted by states and territories approved by EPA this year.

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### 13. Recommended Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Lakes and Reservoirs of the Continental United States

Toxins from harmful algal blooms (HABs) are increasingly contaminating surface waters. EPA plans to propose new recommended criteria for total nitrogen and total phosphorus for lakes and reservoirs of the continental United States to protect three designated uses: aquatic life; recreation; and drinking source water.

#### EPA Activities

1. Revisiting 2000-2001 nutrient criteria for lakes and evaluating the use of stressor-response analyses with recent data from EPA's National Lakes Assessment to develop recommended criteria that will be protective of aquatic life, recreation, and drinking water designated uses.
2. Publish a draft in FY 2018 and subsequently finalize within a year.
3. Provide methods in the supporting technical document that describe how locally collected data can be used in conjunction with these national models to refine criteria for specific lakes and reservoirs.

#### State, Tribal, Local and Community Activities

1. States and Tribes can plan to adopt these criteria or scientifically defensible alternatives into their water quality standards and submit them to EPA for approval.

### 14. NPDES Program

The NPDES Program<sup>67</sup> requires point source dischargers to be permitted and requires pretreatment programs to control certain discharges to the Nation's publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). Forty-six authorized state NPDES authorities issue approximately 90% of the NPDES permits. 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. EPA strives to issue timely, high quality permits for the four states (Idaho, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico); all tribes except in Maine; and all territories except the Virgin Islands, where EPA is the permitting authority. In addition, the NPDES Program has been working closely with OECA to implement the [CWA Action Plan](#)<sup>68</sup>. EPA and states are working to ensure permits issued conform to the 2015 NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule, a key piece of the CWA Action Plan. Some key NPDES program efforts include the following:

<sup>67</sup> Read more on the NPDES Program at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes>.

<sup>68</sup> Read more on the CWA Action Plan at <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/clean-water-act-cwa-action-plan>.

## Permit and Program Quality Reviews (PQRs) <sup>69</sup>

OW manages the PQR process to assess the health and integrity of the NPDES program in authorized states and territories as well as states, territories and tribal lands where EPA is the permitting authority. EPA maintains a commitment and tracking system to ensure that NPDES Action Items identified in these assessments are implemented. In FY 2017, EPA will revise the current PQR process to incorporate efficiencies identified through the first round of PQRs, as well as revised national focus areas for the reviews conducted during the next five-year cycle starting in FY 2018.

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### *EPA Activities*

1. Before the start of FY 2018, EPA will develop and post revised PQR materials on EPA's website.
2. In FY 2018 and FY 2019, EPA will continue conducting PQRs. EPA expects to conduct 10-12 reviews per fiscal year.
3. EPA will maintain its commitment and tracking system to reflect implementation of action items identified in PQRs.
4. EPA will support permit writers by improving data and information related to streamflow trends to support more accurate estimates of low flow conditions in permits.

### *Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. 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.
2. Collaborate with EPA to optimally balance competing priorities, schedules for action items based on the significance of the action, and program revisions.

### *Measure*

- WQ-11: The cumulative number, and national percent, of follow-up actions that are completed by assessed NPDES programs.

## High Priority Permits

The scope of the NPDES permitted universe has grown and diversified significantly over the last 25 years without comparable increases in resources to the regulators. States and the EPA regions should prioritize permits that will achieve the greatest results for public health and water quality protection. The Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) will continue to work with EPA regions and states to set targets for priority permits.

### *EPA Activities*

1. Work with states 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.

<sup>69</sup> Read more on PQRs at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-program-management-and-oversight#pqr>.

*Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. Emphasize implementing criteria to ensure that priority permits selected are those offering the greatest benefit to improve water quality.

*Measures*

- WQ-12a: The percent of non-tribal facilities covered by NPDES permits that are considered current (i.e., not backlogged).
- WQ-12b: The percent of tribal facilities covered by NPDES permits that are considered current (i.e., not backlogged).
- WQ-19a: The number of high priority state-issued permits finalized during the fiscal year.
- WQ-19b: The number of high priority EPA- and state-issued permits finalized during the fiscal year.

Stormwater and Green Infrastructure (GI)<sup>70</sup>

The EPA continues to implement strategies to provide incentives, technical assistance, and tools to communities to encourage states to implement strong stormwater programs; leverage existing requirements to strengthen municipal stormwater permits; and promote GI as an integral part of stormwater management programs. The EPA will continue work to advance the broader use of GI and support the use of CWA Section 106 funds to provide programmatic support for GI efforts to promote prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

In 2018, the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (NRC) will initiate a study to make recommendations exploring several aspects of the EPA's stormwater industrial permit program that will be specifically relevant to the future issuance of EPA's Multi-Sector General Permit for industrial stormwater discharges.

In February 2017, the EPA's Construction General Permit (CGP) for construction stormwater activities became effective. This permit includes erosion and sediment controls, pollution prevention measures, and other requirements to minimize the discharge of pollutants.

*EPA Activities*

1. 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 GI.
2. EPA will continue to provide technical assistance to community partners, deliver webinars, and prepare decision tools to encourage the use of GI in permitting and enforcement activities.
3. EPA will continue to provide assistance to communities to identify and evaluate green stormwater and community design options and associated benefits.
4. EPA will continue its work with its federal and external partners through its Green Infrastructure Program to identify inter-agency and multi-stakeholder models for local success.

<sup>70</sup> Read more on green infrastructure at <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure>.

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5. EPA will continue developing opportunities for raising awareness of the CWSRF as a viable funding source for GI projects.
6. EPA will continue to develop and promote the Stormwater Calculator as a tool to help local planners estimate existing patterns of runoff and streamflow and anticipate changes in runoff.

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#### *Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. States are expected to ensure that stormwater permits are reissued on a timely basis and to strengthen the provisions of MS4 permits as they are reissued to include clear and enforceable requirements.
2. States should consider incorporating GI into all stormwater permits.

#### *Measures*

- WQ-13a: The number of MS4s covered under either individual or general permits (SMW).
- WQ-13b: The number of facilities covered under either individual or general industrial stormwater permits.
- WQ-13c: The number of sites covered under either individual or general construction stormwater permits.

### Integrating Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Plans

EPA is committed to promoting the integration of wastewater and stormwater planning approaches to help communities prioritize infrastructure investments that will result in the best water quality outcomes at the least cost. EPA will assist states and local governments to develop prioritized critical pathways that will effectively achieve the water quality objectives of the CWA. These pathways are intended to help reduce inefficiencies and unnecessary costs that may arise due to compliance with wastewater and stormwater requirements that were not concurrently developed. It is anticipated that integration will decrease capital investments and long-term operation and maintenance costs. This approach also can lead to the use of more sustainable and comprehensive solutions, such as GI, that improve water quality as well as support other quality of life attributes that enhance the vitality of communities.

#### *EPA Activities*

1. 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.
2. EPA will continue to provide technical assistance to communities to develop components of integrated plans to support CWA permit conditions.

#### *Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. States should support permittees interested in developing integrated plans.

### 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 treatment plants, including a focus on resolving issues related to blending wet weather flows.

*EPA Activities*

1. EPA will continue 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.

*Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. States should ensure that reissued permits for POTWs conform to the 2015 NPDES electronic reporting regulation.

## Nutrients

EPA will continue to work with state and tribal partners through training and tracking of nutrient permit data to ensure effluent limits and monitoring for nutrient pollution, as well as other requirements (e.g. BMPs, water quality trading, nutrient management plans, etc.) are included in permits where necessary to protect state WQS.

*EPA Activities*

1. EPA will support authorized state programs, as resources are available, to ensure effective permitting of nutrient pollution to protect state WQS
2. EPA will continue to provide technical support and information to authorized States and permitted facilities about the following key areas:
  - a. Financing for nutrient related projects
  - b. Nutrient Removal Technology
3. Starting in FY 2017 and continuing in FY 2018 and FY 2019, EPA will post data online showing nutrient limits and monitoring requirements in all NPDES permits
4. Training to address nutrients
  - a. Starting in FY 2017, EPA will offer an online version of its in-person Permit Writers' Specialty Workshop for Nutrients in order to provide easy access to permit writers across the nation to information on how to implement nutrient criteria in NPDES permits.
  - b. EPA will also continue in-person trainings when possible.

*Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. States are expected to ensure that permits include nutrient monitoring requirements and limits where appropriate.

*Measures*

- WQ-20a: the number and percent of major wastewater treatment plants with nutrient limits in their NPDES permit.
- WQ-20b: the number and percent of major wastewater treatment plans with nutrient monitoring requirements in the NPDES permit.

## Watershed Permits/Water Quality Trading

EPA will continue to coordinate with EPA regional offices, states, USDA, and other federal agencies to implement watershed programs and water quality trading, which can improve the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the NPDES program.

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*EPA Activities*

1. EPA will support authorized state programs, as resources are available, develop innovative approaches to addressing nutrient pollution (e.g. Watershed-based permitting, Adaptive Management approaches, GI, etc.).
2. EPA will continue to work with states to refine and implement state-developed nutrient trading programs to aid in identifying cost-effective solutions for a point source to meet its nutrient WQBEL.

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*Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. States are encouraged to seek opportunities to incorporate efficiency tools, such as trading and linking development of WQS, TMDLs, and permits.

**Animal Agriculture**

EPA continues to support state Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) NPDES programs as well as continue collaboration with USDA and the animal agriculture industry to improve manure management.

*EPA Activities*

1. EPA will continue to encourage the development of affordable technologies that recycle nutrients from livestock manure through the Nutrient Recycling Challenge.
2. EPA will continue to collaborate with the animal agriculture industry through the Animal Agriculture Discussion Group and other initiatives.
3. EPA will continue to develop and maintain a compendium of case studies on effective state manure management programs.

*Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. States should continue to implement the CAFO rule through permitting and work closely with their inspection and enforcement programs to ensure full implementation of NPDES CAFO regulations.

**Measures**

- WQ-13d: The number of CAFOs covered by NPDES permits.

**Vessels**

In December 2013, EPA issued the second Vessel General Permit (VGP) which provides coverage for commercial vessels in U.S. waters. This permit contains, among other things, numeric ballast water discharge limits for most vessels, which will reduce the risk that the introduction of invasive species to U.S. waters pose, as well as more stringent effluent limits for oil-to-sea interfaces and exhaust gas scrubber wash water. These provisions will help prevent adverse environmental impacts of chronic discharge of oils and grease into U.S. waters.

*EPA Activities*

1. EPA will work to reissue the VGP in 2018.

*Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. States and Tribes should review the proposed VGP when published to be prepared to provide CWA section 401 certifications or waivers, and for states that it applies to, Coastal Zone Management Act concurrences. States and Tribes can also provide

comments on the proposed permit during the public comment period if they so desire.

### Pretreatment<sup>71</sup>

In preparation of their reporting requirement per the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule, EPA and states will continue to 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, and of categorical industrial users in non-approved pretreatment POTWs that have control mechanisms in place to implement applicable pretreatment requirements. In FY 2017, EPA issued a memorandum describing recommendations to program staff in NPDES and National Pretreatment Programs for addressing toxic and hazardous chemical discharges from industry to POTWs.

#### *EPA Activities*

1. EPA will host a series of trainings and webinars directed at both NPDES permit writers and pretreatment coordinators to discuss new tools and methods for identifying and addressing toxic and hazardous chemical discharges to POTWs.

#### *Activities by States and Authorized Tribes (Section 106 Program Grant Guidance)*

1. State NPDES permit writers should have knowledge of the pretreatment program in order to establish appropriate discharge limits in POTW permits.

#### *Measures*

- WQ-14a: The number and national percent of Significant Industrial Users that are discharging to POTWs with Pretreatment Programs in place.
- WQ-14b: The number of Categorical Industrial Users that are discharging to POTWs without Pretreatment Programs in place.

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<sup>71</sup> Read more on the Pretreatment Program here <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/clean-water-act-cwa-action-plan>

# WETLANDS

EPA works in partnership with The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) other federal agencies, states, tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations and communities to implement the CWA Section 404 program, assess the evolving science and to support activities for addressing wetland losses and further restoration goals.

## EPA Activities

1. Conduct site visits and attend critical meetings as able to assist the USACE in making timely CWA Section 404 permit decisions that avoid and minimize adverse human health or environmental impacts.
2. Assist in the development of technical tools, including ecosystem assessment methodologies and compensatory mitigation site performance standards and monitoring protocols, to aid in efficient and effective permitting program implementation.
3. Coordinate with USACE to resolve enforcement cases.
4. Participate with USACE in joint project and compensatory mitigation site inspections, and Interagency Review Team activities.
5. Ensure geographic jurisdictional determinations are consistent with applicable law and science.
6. Effectively oversee states that assume the [CWA Section 404 permitting program](#).<sup>72</sup>
7. Review the 2015 Clean Water Rule as directed in the President's Executive Order<sup>73</sup> and publish for notice and comment a proposed rule rescinding or revising the rule, as appropriate and consistent with law. The EPA and USACE are engaging in a two-step rulemaking process to first replace the 2015 rule with the regulatory approach in place prior to its promulgation and then as a separate second rulemaking effort will be the substantively informed and legally grounded revision to the definition of "waters of the U.S." It is hoped that this rulemaking will be completed by the end of 2017.
8. 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.

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<sup>72</sup> For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/section-404-permit-program>.

<sup>73</sup> Presidential Executive Order on Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the "Waters of the United States" Rule available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/28/presidential-executive-order-restoring-rule-law-federalism-and-economic>

9. Participate with other nations to support the effective international regulation of ocean dumping through the London Convention and Protocol.

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### Expected State, Tribal, Local, and Community Activities

1. Interact with the EPA as states and tribes explore assumption of the [CWA Section 404 permitting program](#) from the USACE (WT-04).<sup>74</sup>
2. Assist the EPA in its review of 404 permits by sharing their CWA Section 401 certifications on USACE permits.

### Measures

- WT-SP22: The overall net loss of wetlands resulting from regulatory actions
- WT-03: The effectiveness of the EPA's environmental review of the CWA Section 404 permits.

## 1. State and Tribal Partnerships

The EPA will continue to partner with states and tribes to build and enhance their wetland and coastal programs. States and tribes may utilize section 106 grant funds consistent with grant guidance in appendix D for these activities.

### EPA Activities

1. Provide targeted support to states, tribes, and local governments to build their wetland programs through [Wetland Program Develop Grants \(WPDG\)](#)<sup>75</sup> and new tribal set-aside grant.
2. Review and implement recommendations from the Assumable Waters Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) subcommittee, and advise states and tribes on matters related to state or tribal assumption of the CWA 404 permit program.
3. Deliver training and technical assistance to states and tribes related to water quality standards, CWA 401 certification.
4. Continue to work with states and tribes to build their capability to monitor wetland condition as defined through biological metrics and assessments.
5. Promote technical capacity to conduct state-scale studies of wetland condition apart from or in conjunction with EPA's [NWCA](#).<sup>76</sup>

### Expected State, Tribal, Local, and Community Activities

1. Build and collaborate with other programs and partners on wetland and coastal protection and restoration programs.
2. Develop tailored technical products for a state or tribe, such as wetland rapid assessment methods and wetland mapping products, and share with other states and tribes.
3. Administer dredge and fill permit programs under state or tribal authority and/or through USACE state or regional general permits.
4. Where there is state interest, establish "no discharge zones" (NDZ) to control vessel sewage under the CWA.

<sup>74</sup> For more information on state assumption visit: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/state-or-tribal-assumption-section-404-permit-program>.

<sup>75</sup> For more information on WPDGs visit: <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants>.

<sup>76</sup> NWCA available at: <https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys/nwca>.

## Measure

- WT-04: Number of actions completed by states, tribes, and territories to build programs in regulatory, monitoring and assessment, water quality standards, and restoration and protection.

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## 2. Wetlands Restored and Enhanced Through Partnerships

EPA partners with other federal agencies, local governments, communities and the private sector, in addition to states and tribes, to leverage authorities and resources to protect and restore wetlands and other water resources.

### EPA Activities

1. Support federal efforts and responsibilities to protect and restore coastal waters and wetlands, such as the Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup and the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.
2. Contribute to international commitments and efforts to protect and restore wetlands, such as the Ramsar Convention and the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC).
3. Work across federal agencies to build resilient communities and develop green or natural infrastructure and nature-based engineering solutions to achieve community benefits.

### Expected State, Tribal, Local, and Community Activities

1. Leverage various CWA programs and state and Tribal authorities to solve water quality issues through the protection and restoration of wetlands and other aquatic resources.
2. Implement natural infrastructure or nature-based engineering solutions as appropriate to address water quality and flooding challenges.
3. Partner with the federal government and private sector to implement public-private solutions.

# Appendix A – Performance Measures

## New Measures

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
SDW-22	<p><b>Measure:</b> Number of American Indian and Alaska Native homes provided access to safe drinking water in coordination with other federal agencies.</p> <p><b>Rationale for creating measure:</b> This measure was previously SDW-18.N11. Working with the Indian Health Service, EPA has updated methodology because the previously used measure only counted homes proposed through the Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS), which was based on proposed projects, not specifically based on individual homes. The updated measure provides a more accurate capture of projects that provide access to drinking water.</p>	Cumulative	Numeric	Y	148,100
WT-04	<p><b>Measure:</b> Number of Actions completed by states, tribes, and territories to build programs in four areas of wetland management: regulatory, monitoring and assessment, water quality standards, and restoration and protection.</p> <p><b>Deleting and Replacing Measure:</b> The EPA believes the existing measure (WT-02a) doesn't fully capture the progress and achievements being made by states, tribes, and territories as a result of EPA's technical and financial assistance. This new indicator measure focuses on outputs that demonstrate progress in developing wetland programs, steering, away from the current more input/activity-based measure. For a given state, tribe, or territory there are 52 potential actions under this scheme. Due to the large number of tribes, Regions will add tribes to the measure when Tribes engage EPA wetland program development. Actions are defined in the Program Building Activities Menu - <a href="https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/2009_03_10_wetlands_initiative_cef_full.pdf">https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/2009_03_10_wetlands_initiative_cef_full.pdf</a> ).</p>	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-34	<p><b>Measure:</b> Number of States that included specific high priority nutrient reduction actions in their PPA/PPG and/or Section 106 grant workplans for FY18.</p> <p><b>Rationale for creating measure:</b> The EPA is proposing adding a new measure to document strong, incremental progress towards reducing one of the most widespread and challenging water quality problems.</p>	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator

New Measures

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
WQ-35 (FY 2019)	<p><b>Measure:</b> Progress on Meeting Water Quality Standards in Waters Targeted for Local Action</p> <p><b>Rationale for revising measure:</b> Delete existing measures and replace with proposed measure in FY2019. Although significant progress has been made in the development of plans to restore and protect water quality in the Nation’s waters, identifying where these plans have led to improvements in water quality is not easy. The current process to report and track this information is not only burdensome for EPA and states, but also unclear and inconsistent in communicating which waters are restored and the activities that led to this success. To address these problems, the EPA will transition to using the ATTAINS database as the system of record, and use NHDPlus catchments to automate the calculation of and report out on replacement measures. This new approach will provide greater accountability and transparency while supporting more flexibility in how the EPA and states achieve the Clean Water Act goal to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.</p>	Cumulative	Numeric	N	--

Revised Measures

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
WQ-06a (FY 2019)	<p><b>Current:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Rationale for revising measure:</b> The measure continues to be reported at a high percentage of the tribes which are eligible. We believe we can label this measure as a success and explore other opportunities to measuring tribal water program output measures. We're having discussions with the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) about possibly revising this measure in FY 2019.</p>	Cumulative	Numeric	N	251
WQ-27	<p><b>Current:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Revised:</b> Percent of areas associated with state-identified priority waters that are addressed by an EPA approved TMDL or accepted plan or approach designed to achieve or maintain water quality standards.</p> <p><b>Rationale for revising measure:</b> This revision is just a change in measure language. The way the metric is actually calculated and measured does not change at all.</p>	Annual	Percent	Y	35%
WQ-28	<p><b>Current:</b> State-wide extent of activities leading to completed TMDLs or alternative restoration approaches for impaired waters, or protection approaches for unimpaired waters.</p> <p><b>Revised:</b> Percent of areas associated with impaired waters and state-identified healthy waters that are addressed by an EPA approved TMDL or accepted plan or approach designed to achieve or maintain water quality standards.</p> <p><b>Rationale for revising measure:</b> This revision is just a change in measure language. The way the metric is actually calculated and measured does not change at all.</p>	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator

FY 2017 Measures Continued in FY 2018

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
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).	Annual	Percent	Y	82%
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).	Annual	Numeric	N	660
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).	Annual	Percent	Y	89%
SDW-05	Number of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) projects that have initiated operations.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	9,200
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.	Annual	Percent	Y	74%
SDW-08	Number of Class V motor vehicle waste disposal wells (MVWDW) and large capacity cesspools (LCC) that are closed or permitted	Cumulative	Numeric	Y	28,590
SDW-11	Percent of DWSRF projects awarded to small PWS serving <500, 501-3,300, and 3,301-10,000 consumers.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
SDW-17	Number and percent of schools and childcare centers that meet all health-based drinking water standards.	Annual	Numeric/ Percent	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Percent	N	90%

FY 2017 Measures Continued in FY 2018

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
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.	Annual	Percent	Y	92%
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.	Annual	Percent	Y	87%
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.	Annual	Percent	Y	95%
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.	Annual	Percent	Y	87%
SDW-SP4a	Percent of community water systems where risk to public health is minimized through source water protection.	Annual	Percent	N	49%
SDW-SP4b	Percent of the population served by community water systems where risk to public health is minimized through source water protection.	Annual	Percent	N	59%
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	Numeric/ Percent	N	Indicator
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.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	48

FY 2017 Measures Continued in FY 2018

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
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	Numeric	N	14
WQ-02	Number of tribes that have water quality standards approved by EPA.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	50
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 sources not considered in the previous standards.	Annual	Numeric/ Percent	Y	70%
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 sources not considered in the previous standards.	Annual	Numeric/ Percent	N	15
WQ-04a	Percentage of submissions of new or revised water quality standards from states and territories that are approved by EPA.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
WQ-11	Number, and national percent, of follow-up actions that are completed by assessed NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) programs.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-12a	Percent of non-tribal facilities covered by NPDES permits that are considered current.	Annual	Percent	N	83%
WQ-12b	Percent of tribal facilities covered by NPDES permits that are considered current.	Annual	Percent	N	84%
WQ-13a	Number of MS-4s covered under either an individual or general permit.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-13b	Number of facilities covered under either an individual or general industrial storm water permit.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-13c	Number of sites covered under either an individual or general construction storm water site permit.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-13d	Number of facilities covered under either an individual or general CAFO permit.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator

FY 2017 Measures Continued in FY 2018

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
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.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-17	Fund utilization rate [Cumulative loan agreement dollars to the Cumulative funds available for projects] for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).	Annual	Percent	Y	95%
WQ-19a	Number of high priority state NPDES permits that are issued in the fiscal year.	Annual	Numeric	Y	80%
WQ-19b	Number of high priority state and EPA (including tribal) NPDES permits that are issued in the fiscal year.	Annual	Numeric	Y	80%
WQ-20a	Number and percent of major NPDES wastewater treatment plant permits with nutrient limits.	Annual	Numeric/ Percent	N	Indicator
WQ-20b	Number and percent of major NPDES wastewater treatment plant permits with nutrient monitoring requirements.	Annual	Numeric/ Percent	N	Indicator
WQ-24.N11	Number of American Indian and Alaska Native homes provided access to basic sanitation in coordination with other federal agencies	Cumulative	Numeric	N	103,806
WQ-29	Number of states protecting or improving water quality conditions, as demonstrated by state-scale statistical surveys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On average, water quality is improving or at least not degrading (there is no statistically significant decrease in mean water quality);</li> <li>• The percentage of waters in good condition is increasing or remaining constant; and,</li> <li>• The percentage of waters in poor condition is decreasing or remaining constant.</li> </ul>	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
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").	Annual	Qualitative	N	Protection of condition of rivers

FY 2017 Measures Continued in FY 2018

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
WQ-SP14aN11	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	Numeric	N	50
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	Numeric	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
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.)	Annual	Qualitative	Y	Not Net Loss
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	Annual	Percent	N	80%

### Measures Associated with Eliminated Work

The following measures are linked to work being eliminated beginning in FY 2018. Therefore, no FY 2018 target has been set for these measures.

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
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.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
FS-SP6.N11	Percent of women of childbearing age having mercury levels in blood above the level of concern.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
SS-2	Percent of all Tier I (significant) public beaches that are monitored and managed under the BEACH Act program.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
WQ-09a	Estimated Annual reduction in million pounds of nitrogen from nonpoint sources to waterbodies (Section 319 funded projects only).	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-09b	Estimated Annual reduction in million pounds of phosphorus from nonpoint sources to waterbodies (Section 319 funded projects only).	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-09c	Estimated Annual reduction in thousands of tons of sediment from nonpoint sources to waterbodies (Section 319 funded projects only).	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-10a	Number of NPS impairments that have been eliminated through restoration actions.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-23	Percent of serviceable rural Alaska homes with access to drinking water supply and wastewater disposal.	--	Percent	N	Indicator
WQ-25a	Number of urban water projects initiated addressing water quality issues in the community.	Annual	Numeric	Y	Indicator
WQ-25b	Number of urban water projects completed addressing water quality issues in the community.	Cumulative	Numeric	Y	Indicator
WQ-30	Number of WaterSense partners working to improve water use efficiency.	--	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-31	Number of water and wastewater utilities that use the EnergyStar Portfolio Manager to manage energy.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-32	Number of water and wastewater utilities that have registered to use the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT).	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
WQ-33	Number of CWSRFs/DWSRFs that used financial incentives to promote climate resilience projects in the last year.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator

## Measures Associated with Eliminated Work

The following measures are linked to work being eliminated beginning in FY 2018. Therefore, no FY 2018 target has been set for these measures.

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
CO-02	Total coastal and non-coastal statutory square miles protected from vessel sewage by “no discharge zone(s).”	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
CO-06	Number of active dredged material ocean dumping sites that are monitored in the reporting year.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
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).	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
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).	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
WT-01	Number of acres restored and improved, under the 5-Star, NEP, 319, and great waterbody programs	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
GL-05	Area of Concern Beneficial Use Impairments removed	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
GL-07	Number GLRI-funded Great Lakes rapid responses or exercises conducted.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
GL-09	Number of aquatic/terrestrial acres controlled by GLRI-funded projects	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
GL-17	Projected phosphorus reductions from GLRI-funded projects in targeted watersheds (measured in pounds).	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
GL-18	Projected volume of untreated urban runoff captured or treated by GLRI-funded projects (Cumulative, measured in millions of gallons).	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
GL-19	Number of miles of Great Lakes tributaries reopened by GLRI-funded projects.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
GL-20	Number of miles of Great Lakes shoreline and riparian corridors protected, restored, and enhanced by GLRI-funded projects	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
GL-21	Number of acres of Great Lakes coastal wetlands protected, restored, and enhanced by GLRI-funded projects.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
GL-22	Number of acres of other habitats in the Great Lakes basin protected, restored, and enhanced by GLRI-funded projects	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator

## Measures Associated with Eliminated Work

The following measures are linked to work being eliminated beginning in FY 2018. Therefore, no FY 2018 target has been set for these measures.

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
GL-SP31	Areas of Concern where all management actions necessary for delisting have been implemented	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
GM-02	Promote and support environmental education and outreach to the inhabitants of the Gulf of Mexico watershed.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
GM-03	Support the assessment, development and implementation of programs, projects and tools which strengthen community resilience.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
GM-SP39	Protect, enhance, or restore coastal and upland habitats within the Gulf of Mexico watershed.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
LI-SP42.N11	Reduce the size (square miles) of observed hypoxia (Dissolved Oxygen <3mg/l) in Long Island Sound	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
LI-SP43	Restore, protect, or enhance acres of coastal habitat from the 2010 baseline of 2,975 acres.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator

### Measures Associated with Eliminated Work

The following measures are linked to work being eliminated beginning in FY 2018. Therefore, no FY 2018 target has been set for these measures.

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
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	Numeric	N	Indicator
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	Numeric	N	Indicator
MB-SP23	Loading of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) removed (Cumulative million pounds/year) from the U.S.-Mexico Border area since 2003.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
MB-SP24.N11	Number of additional homes provided access to safe drinking water in the U.S.-Mexico border area since 2003.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
MB-SP25.N11	Number of additional homes provided access to adequate sanitation in the U.S.-Mexico border area since 2003.	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator
SFL-1	Increase percent 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.	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
SFL-2	<p><b>Current:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Revised:</b> The number of constructed treatment wetlands where with the annual total phosphorus (TP) outflow is less than or the same as the five-year annual average TP outflow in order to show improvement toward delivering clean water that meets the Everglades' 10 part per billion TP water quality standard.</p> <p><b>Rationale for revising measure:</b> This revision is just a change in measure language. The way the metric is actually calculated and measured does not change at all. EPA just simplifies the language to make it clearer to a non-technical audience. The South Florida Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2018, so this is an indicator measure.</p>	Annual	Numeric	N	Indicator

### Measures Associated with Eliminated Work

The following measures are linked to work being eliminated beginning in FY 2018. Therefore, no FY 2018 target has been set for these measures.

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
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).	Annual	Qualitative	N	Indicator
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.	Annual	Qualitative	N	Indicator
SFL-SP47a	<p><b>Current:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Revised:</b> Maintain water quality parameters chlorophyll and water clarity in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to protect coral reefs, fisheries, seagrass and recreational activities within the Sanctuary.</p> <p><b>Rationale for revising measure:</b> This revision is just a change in measure language. The way the metric is actually calculated and measured does not change at all. The 75% target remains the same, EPA just simplifies the language to make it clearer to a non-technical audience. The South Florida Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2018, so this is an indicator measure.</p>	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator

### Measures Associated with Eliminated Work

The following measures are linked to work being eliminated beginning in FY 2018. Therefore, no FY 2018 target has been set for these measures.

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
SFL-SP47b	<p><b>Current:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Revised:</b> Maintain nutrients nitrogen and phosphorous at levels within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to preserve and restore the overall aquatic health of the Sanctuary and to protect the biologically diverse and economically valuable coral reef, fishery and seagrass communities.</p> <p><b>Rationale for revising measure:</b> This revision is just a change in measure language. The way the metric is actually calculated and measured does not change at all. The 75% target remains the same, EPA just simplifies the language to make it clearer to a non-technical audience. The South Florida Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2018, so this is an indicator measure.</p>	Annual	Percent	N	Indicator
CR-SP53	Clean up acres of known contaminated sediments.	Cumulative	Numeric	N	Indicator
CR-SP54	Demonstrate a reduction in mean concentration of certain contaminants of concern found in water and fish tissue.	Cumulative	Percent	N	Indicator

### Discontinued Measures

ACS Code	Measure Text	Annual/ Cumulative	Percent/ Numeric	FY18 Budget Measure (Y/N)	FY18 Planning Target
SDW-19a	<b>Deleted text:</b> Volume of CO2 sequestered through injection as defined by the UIC Final Rule. <b>Rationale:</b> EPA is proposing to delete this measure due to shifts in programmatic priorities.	Annual	Numeric	N	--
SDW-19b	<b>Deleted text:</b> Number of permit decisions during the reporting period that result in CO2 sequestered through injection as defined by the UIC Final Rule. <b>Rationale:</b> EPA is proposing to delete this measure due to shifts in programmatic priorities.	Annual	Numeric	N	--
WQ-SP12.N11 (FY 2019)	<b>Deleted text:</b> Improve water quality conditions in impaired watersheds nationwide using the watershed approach. <b>Rationale:</b> As a follow-up to the conversations on the replacement measures for SP-10 and SP-11, EPA decided to suspend this measure in FY 2019. In late FY 2018, the EPA will begin working with the Regions on a potential replacement measure for documenting incremental water quality improvement	Cumulative	Numeric	Y	543
WT-02a	<b>Deleted text:</b> 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. <b>Rationale:</b> Deleting WT-02a and Replacing with WT-04: The EPA believes the existing measure doesn't fully capture the progress and achievements being made by states and tribes as a result of EPA's technical and financial assistance. The EPA is proposing a new indicator measure (WT-04) that focuses on outputs that demonstrate progress in developing wetland programs, steering away from the current more input/activity-based measure. For a given state or tribe, there are 52 potential actions under this scheme.	Annual	Numeric	N	--
WQ-SP10.N11 (FY 2019)	<b>Deleted text:</b> Number of waterbodies identified in 2002 as not attaining water quality standards where standards are now fully attained. <b>Rationale:</b> Delete existing measures and replace with proposed measure WQ-35 in FY2019. Rationale is included in the New Measures section.	Cumulative	Numeric	Y	4,146
WQ-SP11 (FY 2019)	<b>Deleted text:</b> Remove the specific causes of waterbody impairment identified by states in 2002. <b>Rationale:</b> Delete existing measures and replace with proposed measure WQ-35 in FY2019. Rationale is included in the New Measures section.	Cumulative	Numeric	Y	13,252

## Appendix B – Key Contacts

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## Appendix C- Additional Guidance for CWA Section 106 State, Interstate, and Tribal Grant Recipients

This appendix, along with the specific Section 106 text found in the program specific guidance, 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 106 Guidance in the program specific guidance and Appendix D make up the CWA Section 106 grant guidance.

### 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-20 a and b
WQ-SP11	WQ-1a and 1d	WQ-27	WQ-13a, b, c, d
WQ-SP12.N11	WQ-11	WQ-10a	WQ-14a and b

In Fiscal Year 2019, EPA, in collaboration with stakeholders, is poised to roll out a new performance measure, “*Progress on Meeting Water Quality Standards in Waters Targeted for Local Action*” to replace the WQ-SP10.N11 and WQ-SP11 performance measures (WQ-35), and will suspend reporting on the WQ-SP12.N11 performance measure until methods for measuring or communicating incremental water quality improvements are developed. The new performance measure will document progress using the Integrated Report data that states submit to EPA under Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305(b) in ATTAINS as the data source to automate the calculation of this measure and to make these data available to the public in the modernized ATTAINS database. Key aspects include: track all water quality attainment reasons, use catchment area and percentage to report, and adopt a new baseline to track waters over the period of the next Strategic Plan (FY 2018 to FY 2022)

### 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, including wetlands. Agencies have the flexibility to allocate funds toward priority activities. Other activities that may be funded with CWA Section 106 funds include:

#### Source Water (Surface Water and Ground Water)

CWA Section 106 grant funds are an essential funding mechanism 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 WQS 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:

- waterbodies where state, tribal, or local source water assessments have identified highly threatening sources of contamination that are subject to CWA, and
- 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 encourages state programs to access a new online mapping tool, the Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters (DWMAPS). DWMAPS helps state and utility drinking water professionals in concert with other state and local mapping tools to update their source water assessments and protection plans by locating drinking water providers, potential sources of contamination, polluted waterways as well as information on protection projects and Source Water Collaborative initiatives in their area. EPA also encourages state programs to leverage the tools and resources of the National Source Water Collaborative members and allies, found on:

<http://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/>. States and tribes are also encouraged 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.

Assessing Water Quality and Developing Plans to Restore and Protect Waters  
States, interstate agencies, 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. In addition, EPA encourages 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 wetland program activities such as wetlands identification and monitoring and dredge and fill permit programs.