

eQMP Project:

Implementing Electronic Quality Management Plans

Gary L. Johnson
U.S.EPA
Quality Staff
Research Triangle Park, NC



What is a QMP?

- **Quality Management Plan (QMP)**
 - Describes an organization's Quality Management System
 - Documents critical management controls and responsibilities for QMS implementation
 - Describes the processes/procedures needed to plan, implement, assess, and improve a QMS applied to environmental programs.



Why is a QMP Needed?

- **Comply with EPA Policy:**
 - Since 1980, EPA has required a QMP from its organizations.
- **Demonstrate commitment to Quality:**
 - Show clearly how EPA will apply quality management principles and practices in its work.



Why is a QMP Needed?

- **Provide basis/criteria for assessments:**
 - Establishes baseline for assessing QMS compliance with Agency Quality Policy
 - Provides criteria for audits of QMS
- **Serves as a resource for EPA managers and staff:**
 - Documents what is done and who does it



Traditional QMP

- **Traditional QMP is:**
 - A paper document,
 - Reviewed and approved by Quality Staff,
 - Valid for up to 5 years except when:
 - Audits require changes
 - Mission or organization changes
 - Rarely seen by managers or staff.



Why the eQMP?

- **Electronic QMP offers many advantages:**
 - Easier to revise/update
 - More readily available to and accessible by users
 - Can be kept current as QMS evolves
 - Allows for focused access to desired information and links to new tools/resources



Why the eQMP?

- **Electronic QMP offers many advantages continued:**
 - May provide greater uniformity in QMPs across EPA organizations
 - Allows for expanded use of IT tools
 - May permit partners (e.g., States, Tribes) to access the eQMP as a reference/resource at the EPA organization's discretion



eQMP History

- **OEI developed and implemented the first eQMP in EPA:**
 - Tailored specifically to OEI mission
 - Did not apply to traditional environmental program activities (e.g., environmental data collection and use)
 - Approved in 2006
 - Demonstrated feasibility of the eQMP concept



eQMP Project

- **Three Pilots proposed to demonstrate validity of concept:**
 - One Region (Region 2, New York)
 - One Program Office (Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards)
 - One National Research Laboratory (National Risk Management Research Laboratory)



eQMP Project

- **Design Criteria included:**
 - Be able to satisfy current QMP requirements
 - Be able to encompass new requirements from expanded EPA Quality Policy
 - Provide for multiple user access
 - Provide linkages to other data bases and tools



eQMP Project

- Implementation highlights:
 - Quality Staff used Neptune & Company for design and implementation
 - Frequent communication between Neptune & Company and pilot organizations occurred
 - Discussions with QA staff on content
 - Interfacing with IT staff
 - Organizations were responsible for content



eQMP Project

- **Region 2 and NRMRL Pilots were completed in February 2008**
 - Region 2 operational on Internet site
 - NRMRL operational in Intranet site
 - Start-up testing begun on Region 2 and NRMRL sites
 - Both Region 2 and NRMRL have approved eQMPs



eQMP Project: Next Steps

- **Complete Pilot with OAQPS.**
 - Delay in content delivery from OAQPS.
- **Assist Region 2 and NRMRL with start-up adjustments.**
- **Plan to initiate Pilot with Region 4 and consider other subjects.**



Long-Term Objectives

- **Expand eQMP links to other resources:**
 - Other data bases
 - New QA/QC tools
- **Establish and implement a Communications Plan:**
 - Provide for user feedback on what does/does not work adequately
 - Seek ideas for improvement



Long-Term Objectives

- **Replace existing QMPs with eQMPs in all EPA organizations that wish to participate.**
- **Increase links to other business management and quality management tools and information.**
- **Align eQMPs with revised EPA Quality Policy and its requirements.**



Thank you!

- **Questions?**

