



Getting the Data Right: Future Directions in Quality

Reggie Cheatham & Ron Shafer

Quality Staff, OEI

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Agenda



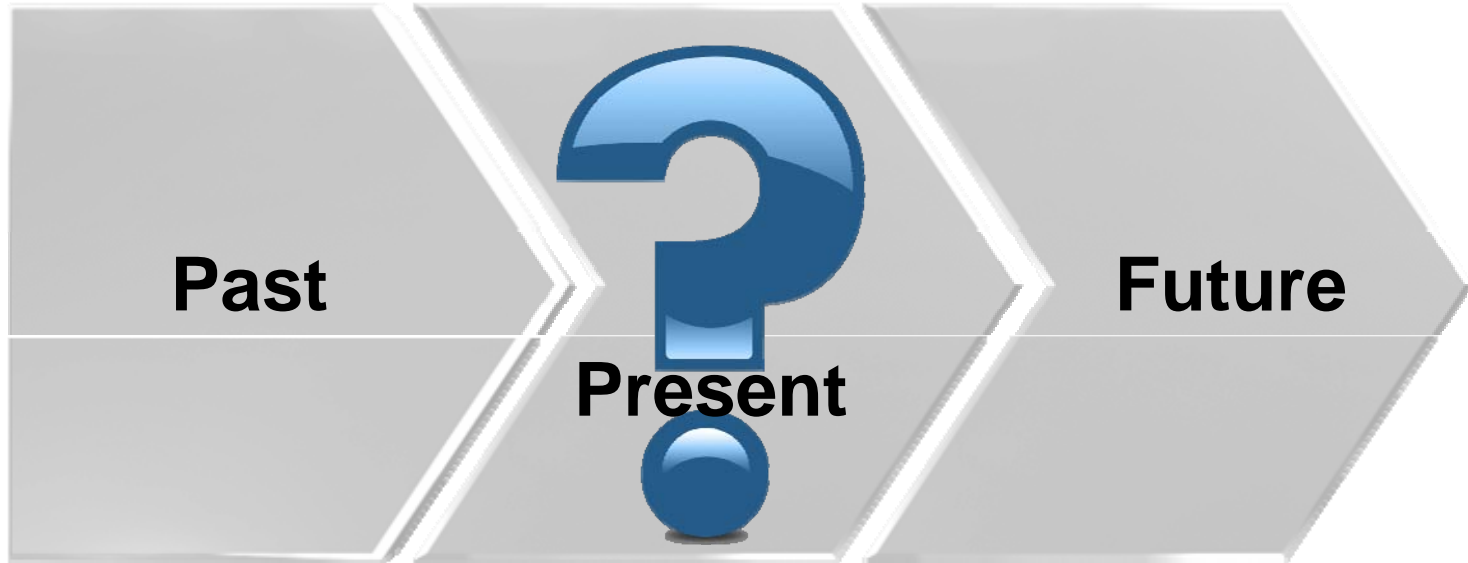
- What is “Good Quality”
- Evolving Demand for Quality Assurance
- Quality Policy Framework
- Proposed EPA Quality Policy
- Key Quality Assurance Questions
- Path Forward

What is “Good Quality”

- Definitions:
 - Essential character, the degree of excellence (Webster’s)
 - Develop systems to ensure products and services meet customer requirements (Wikipedia)
 - Achieved by designing it into a product and not by inspecting defects out of a finished product (W.E. Deming’s)
 - Data are of high quality if they are fit for their intended uses in operations, decision making and planning (J.M. Juran’s)

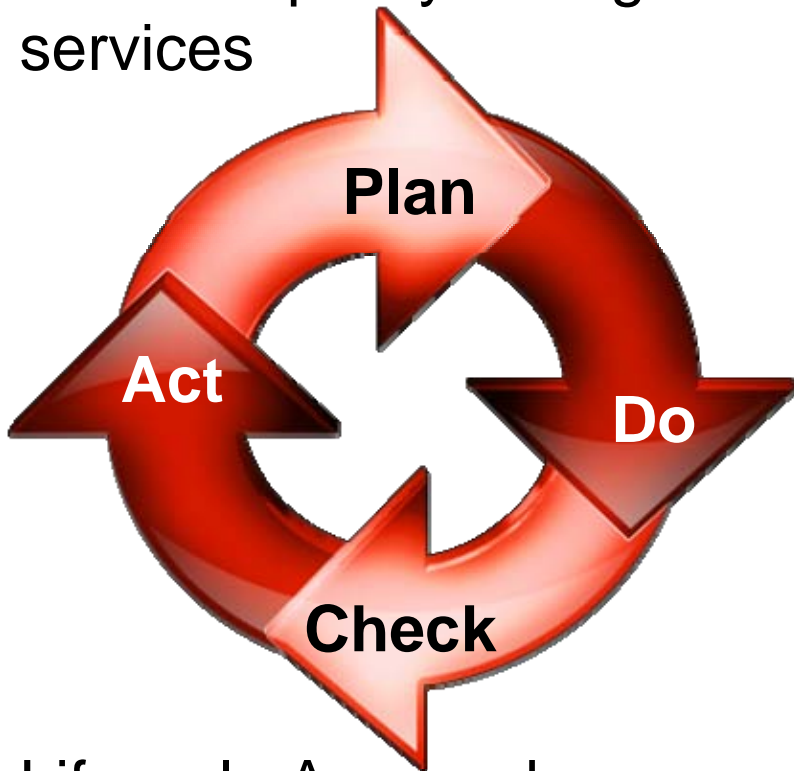
When is Quality Important to You?

Evolving Demand for Quality Assurance



- Laboratory Data
- Data Collection
- Sampling
- Measurement
- IT Investment Increasing
- Increasing Demand for Information
- “Good Quality” Expected
- Integration
- Interoperability
- Useful
- Credible

- Establish standards and guidelines for personnel to address quality during the entire lifecycle of products and services



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**International
Consensus
Standards**

- Lifecycle Approach
 - Agency-wide; all products and services

The CIO and Quality Information Council will...

- Conduct an annual EPA Quality Program Progress Review
- Develop a Management Action Plan
- Set priorities and identify performance objectives for EPA's Quality Program

**Policy Directive
Structure**

- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Procedures
- ✓ Standards
- ✓ Guidance

Key Quality Assurance Questions



- How many products and services supporting EPA's mission did my organization fund or initiate this year?
- How many are governed by quality standards, procedures and guidance?
- Are the final products or services meeting expectations, well documented and satisfy user requirements?

Key Quality Assurance Questions



- Are the final products consistent with Agency quality-related policies, procedures, standards and guidance?
- Have we considered opportunities for improvement?



The questions you ask may reflect the maturity of your QA Program.

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Path Forward

- Agency Review during First Quarter FY 2008
- Present to QIC for approval Second Quarter FY 2008
- Pre-implementation Activities
 - Establish a Quality Subcommittee of the QIC to address policy implementation and other issues
 - Make the effective date for the policy up to one year after its QIC approval
 - Outreach to EPA business partners (states/tribes)
 - Convene workshop with external stakeholders

Questions?

Ron Shafer

OEI/Quality Staff

shafer.ronald@epa.gov

202-564-5173

Reggie Cheatham

OEI/Quality Staff Director

cheatham.reggie@epa.gov

202-564-6830