



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY


WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 15 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT:** Draft *Fiscal Year 2013 National Water Program Guidance*

**FROM:**   
Michael H. Shapiro, Deputy Assistant Administrator

**TO:** Regional Planning Leads; Regions 1 – 10  
Large Aquatic Ecosystem Planning Leads

Enclosed is the published Draft *FY 2013 National Water Program Guidance*. This document can be found at ([http://water.epa.gov/resource\\_performance/planning/FY-2013-National-Water-Program-Guidance.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/resource_performance/planning/FY-2013-National-Water-Program-Guidance.cfm)). As with other Agency draft program guidance documents, comments are due by March 19, 2012.

As you review the draft *Guidance*, please consider commenting on the following general topics:

**Guidance Text.** The narrative explains FY 2013 national priorities, the management system for the National Water Program, and the strategies and approaches that water programs will implement to accomplish the environmental and public health goals established in the EPA *FY 2011-2015 Strategic Plan*. Comments on clarity and comprehensiveness of the narrative are welcome.

**Program Measures.** Program measures, described in the text and presented in more detail in Appendix A, identify key activities that support program implementation. The Office of Water and regions worked together over the past several months to improve measures for planning and reporting. In an effort to continue to improve efficiency, reduce burden, and maintain the best suite of measures to demonstrate environmental results and in coordination with Lead Region 6, we are proposing to streamline a net of 17 measures for FY 2013 (see Appendix C). Comments on any aspect of these measures are welcome.

**FY 2013 Regional Targets.** For those environmental outcome measures and program activity measures for which regional targets are needed (see attachment), each regional office is to provide a regional target for FY 2013 along with other comments on the draft *Guidance* by March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Regions should use the draft national *budget* and *planning* targets in this *Guidance* as a point of reference, but should develop regional targets to reflect regional priorities and circumstances. Regional targets, taken together, will be used to develop revised national targets for the final *Guidance* in April. National program managers should review any adjustments to national targets

based on regional targets and either concur the adjusted target or work with regional offices to make necessary changes for the final *Guidance*.

I would like to draw your attention to several notable proposed changes (summarized in Appendix C) in the draft *Guidance*. First, we are integrating the DWSRF grant guidance in this *Guidance* to gain efficiency in the issuance of the grant guidance. The second major update is to the National Water Program's effort to capture incremental progress in improving water quality. Third, we are highlighting the EPA's effort with the Environmental Information Exchange Network to reduce burden and enhance efficiency in the sharing of information. The other major changes are to highlight the Agency's effort to improve coordination of community-based programs and the National Water Program's support of Plan Environmental Justice 2014. In addition, please review measure changes, additions, and deletions listed in Appendix C.

Finally, the Office of Water will seek comment on the draft *Guidance* from a range of state and tribal organizations and other stakeholders over the next month. National program managers should also work with state and tribal organizations as appropriate. In addition, regions should work with individual states and tribes, and other stakeholders, to encourage and support review and comment on the draft *Guidance*.

Please send your comments, as well as comments that you may receive from states, tribes, and other stakeholders, to Vinh Nguyen ([nguyen.vinh@epa.gov](mailto:nguyen.vinh@epa.gov)) and Ian Achimore ([achimore.ian@epa.gov](mailto:achimore.ian@epa.gov)) in the Office of Water by March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your hard work and contributions to this document. I look forward to working with you as we develop the final *Guidance*.

Attachment:

Draft *FY 2013 National Water Program Guidance Measures Requiring FY 2013 Regional Targets*

cc: Nancy Stoner  
HQ/Region National Water Program Staff Workgroup

**Draft FY 2013 National Water Program Guidance  
Measures Requiring FY 2013 Regional Targets**

**Objective 2.1: Protect Human Health**

Drinking Water Standards: SDW-211; SDW-SP1.N11; SDW-SP2; SDW-SP3.N11

Source Water: SDW-SP4a

Sanitary Surveys: SDW-01a & b

DWSRF: SDW-04; SDW-05

UIC: SDW-07; SDW-08

Beaches: SS-SP9.N11; SS-2

CSO Permits: SS-1

**Objective 2.2: Protect and Restore Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems**

Water Quality: WQ-SP10.N11; WQ-SP11; WQ-SP12.N11; WQ-SP14A.N11; WQ-01a; WQ-02; WQ-03a & b; WQ-04a; WQ-26

Monitoring: WQ-06a & b

TMDLs: WQ-08a & b

Nonpoint Source: WQ-10

Permits: WQ-12a & b; WQ-14a; WQ-19a & b

CWSRF: WQ-17

Coastal/Ocean: CO-SP20.N11

NEPs: CO-432.N11

U.S.-Mexico Border (Regions 6 and 9): MB-SP24.N11 & MB-SP25.N11

Great Lakes (Regions 2, 3, 5): GL-6 through GL-16