

National Water Program Guidance

Appendix C

Explanation of Key Changes Summary



APPENDIX C: Explanation of Changes from FY 2012 to FY 2013

Office of Water – National Water Program Guidance FY 2013

Change from FY 2012 Guidance Document		Reason for Change	Affected Sections
Priorities	No change to National Water Program priorities.	Not applicable	Executive Summary and Introduction
Strategies	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Grant Guidance.	Integrating the DWSRF grant guidance in the NWPG to gain efficiency in the issuance of the grant guidance.	Section II, 1, C. Page 17.
	The National Water Program’s effort in showing incremental progress in restoring water quality.	Summarizing the National Water Program’s effort to capture incremental progress in improving water quality. EPA proposes a new indicator measure based on reporting state scale survey results starting in FY 2014.	Section III, 1, B, 3. Pages 33-34.
	Environmental Information Exchange Network	Highlighting EPA’s effort to reduce burden, improve compliance, expand the information available to the public about pollution that affects them, and improve the ability of EPA, states, and tribes to implement environmental programs.	Section V, 1, A, 3. Page 63.
	New narrative on better serving communities.	Highlighting EPA’s efforts to improve coordination of community-based programs to be more effective at the local level, more efficient in delivery of services, and less duplicative in our work.	Section V, 1, A, 6. Page 64.
	Expanded narrative for Environmental Justice.	Highlighting the National Water Program’s support of Plan EJ 2014, including five cross-Agency focus areas, tools development, and program initiatives.	Section VII. Pages 69-73.
Annual Commitment Measures	Streamlining measures in FY 2013.	For FY 2013, the National Water Program proposes to reduce a net of 20 measures (adding one measure and deleting 21 measures), highlighted below, to minimize reporting burden and reach the most meaningful suite of measures. In the core water programs (not including geographic programs), the net reduction is 16 measures.	Appendix A and E.
	Measure deleted: SDW-SP5. By 2015, in	SDW-18.N11 was added in FY 2011 to replace SDW-SP5	Section II

Change from FY 2012 Guidance Document		Reason for Change	Affected Sections
Annual Commitment Measures	<i>coordination with other federal agencies, reduce by 50 percent the number of homes on tribal land lacking access to safe drinking water.</i>	in the new Strategic Plan to more accurately capture tribal drinking water access. SDW-SP5 is proposed for deletion in FY 2013 as part of the streamlining effort and to help focus on the new strategic measure.	
	Measure deleted: SDW-03. <i>Percent of the lead action level data that for the Lead and Copper Rule, for community water systems serving over 3,300 people, is complete in SDWIS-FED.</i>	Suspend measure until SDWIS NextGen is fully implemented and the recommendations from the GAO report have been taken into consideration.	Section II
	Measure deleted: SDW-12. <i>Percent of DWSRF dollars awarded to small PWS serving <500, 501-3,300, 3,301-10,000 consumers.</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. Data will still be tracked in the Drinking Water National Information Management System (DWNIMS).	Section II
	Measure deleted: SDW-13. <i>Percent of DWSRF loans that include assistance to disadvantaged communities.</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. Data will still be tracked in the Drinking Water National Information Management System (DWNIMS).	Section II
	Measure deleted: SDW-14. <i>Number and percent of CWS and NTNCWS, including new PWS, serving fewer than 500 persons. (New PWS are those first reported to EPA in last calendar year).</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. Data will still be tracked in the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS).	Section II
	Measure deleted: SDW-16. <i>Average time for small PWS (<500, 501-3,300, 3,301-10,000) to return to compliance with acute Nitrate/Nitrite, Stage 1 D/DBP, SWTR and TCR health-based violations (based on state-reported RTC determination date).</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. Data will still be tracked in the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS).	Section II
	Measure deleted: WQ-SP15. <i>By 2015, in coordination with other federal agencies, reduce by 50 percent the number of homes on tribal lands lacking access to basic sanitation. (cumulative)</i>	WQ-24.N11 was added in FY 2011 to replace WQ-SP15 in the new Strategic Plan to more accurately capture tribal access to basic sanitation. WQ-SP15 is proposed for deletion in FY 2013 as part of the streamlining effort and to help focus on the new strategic measure.	Section III

Change from FY 2012 Guidance Document	Reason for Change	Affected Sections	
<p>Annual Commitment Measures</p>	<p>Measure deleted: WQ-1b. <i>Number of numeric water quality standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus at least proposed by States and Territories, or by EPA proposed rulemaking, for all waters within the State or Territory for each of the following waterbody types: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries (cumulative, out of a universe of 280).</i></p> <p>Measure deleted: WQ-1c. <i>Number of States and Territories supplying a full set of performance milestone information to EPA concerning development, proposal, and adoption of numeric water quality standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus for each waterbody type within the State or Territory (annual). (The universe for this measure is 56.)</i></p>	<p>WQ-1b and c are proposed for replacement by the new measure WQ-26 to support OW AA’s March 16, 2011 Memo, <i>Working in Partnership with States to Address Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution through Use of a Framework for State Nutrient Reductions.</i></p>	<p>Section III</p>
	<p>Newly created measure: WQ-26. <i>Number of states and territories implementing nutrient reduction strategies by (1) setting priorities on a watershed or state-wide basis, (2) establishing nutrient reduction targets, and (3) continuing to make progress (and provide performance milestone information to EPA) on adoption of numeric nutrient criteria for at least one class of waters by no later than 2016. (cumulative)</i></p>	<p>Measure is proposed to track the progress of states in setting priorities on a watershed or statewide basis, establishing nutrient reduction targets, and adopting numeric nutrient criteria (and providing milestone information to EPA) for at least one class of waterbodies by no later than 2016. This measure replaces WQ-1b and WQ-1c.</p>	<p>Section III, Appendix A and E.</p>
	<p>Measure deleted: WQ-05. <i>Number of States and Territories that have adopted and are implementing their monitoring strategies in keeping with established schedules.</i></p>	<p>Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. EPA regions also review state commitments through CWA 106 Monitoring Initiative grant terms and conditions, including participation in the national surveys and specific, state-defined, deliverables</p>	<p>Section III</p>

Change from FY 2012 Guidance Document		Reason for Change	Affected Sections
Annual Commitment Measures		for the use of the program enhancement funds to enhance a state monitoring program (or maintain an enhancement). EPA is initiating work with states, through the MAP, to develop a mechanism for more detailed evaluation and determination of whether state monitoring programs are making progress/improvement, maintaining, or losing ground that can be captured by this measure.	
	Measure deleted: WQ-07 . <i>Number of States and Territories that provide electronic information using the Assessment Database version 2 or later (or compatible system) and geo-reference the information to facilitate the integrated reporting of assessment data. (cumulative)</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. This measure was originally intended to promote the use of standardized data and submission of geospatial data, but has outlived its usefulness.	Section III
	Measure modified: WQ-19a . <i>Number of high priority state NPDES permits that are issued in the fiscal year.</i>	While measure language is not being changed, the background permit selection and commitment processes, as well as result calculations are being modified. To make the measures more meaningful, we are making the selection and commitment process more consistent and more clearly defining the universe used to calculate percentage results.	Section III, Appendix A and E.
	Measure modified: WQ-19b . <i>Number of high priority state and EPA (including tribal) NPDES permits that are issued in the fiscal year.</i>		
	Measure deleted: WQ-20 . <i>Number of facilities that have traded at least once plus all facilities covered by an overlay permit that incorporates trading provisions with an enforceable cap.</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. Results for the measure have been fairly static and less indicative of progress in current program priorities.	Section III
	Measure deleted: WQ-21 . <i>Number of water segments identified as impaired in 2002 for which States and EPA agree that initial restoration planning is complete (i.e., EPA has approved all needed TMDLs for pollutants causing impairments to the waterbody or has approved a 303(d) list that</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. As part of the FY 2014 NWPG, EPA will work with regions and states over the coming year to identify more meaningful ways to measure the success of the 303(d) Listing and TMDL Program.	Section III

Change from FY 2012 Guidance Document	Reason for Change	Affected Sections	
Annual Commitment Measures	<i>recognizes that the waterbody is covered by a Watershed Plan [i.e., Category 4b or Category 5m]. (cumulative)</i>		
	Measure deleted: WQ-22b. <i>Number of states that have completed a Healthy Watersheds Protection Strategy or have completed at least 2 of the major components of a Healthy Watersheds assessment.</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. A discussion of state progress and priorities regarding the development of State Healthy Watersheds Protection Strategies and/or Healthy Watersheds assessments is in the narrative.	Section III
	Measure deleted: CO-05. <i>Number of dredged material management plans that are in place for major ports and harbors.</i>	Although tracking the number of dredged material management plans gives EPA an indication of regional efforts to provide comprehensive consideration of dredged material disposal options, regional sediment management techniques, and beneficial use options (which are important to the Agency); it is not clear that CO-05 is the best way to track progress for these activities and has thus been proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. Ocean Protection priorities are discussed in the narrative.	Section III
	Measure deleted: WT-02b. <i>Number of core elements (regulation, monitoring and assessment, water quality standards, or restoration and protection) developed and implemented by (number) of States/Tribes.</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. This measure tracks the efficacy of getting state wetlands programs to include the essential elements of the program. Measure WT-2b can be deferred to the future after a good number of state programs have adopted the full program.	Section III
	Measure deleted: WT-04. <i>Number of states measuring baseline wetland condition - with plans to assess trends in wetland condition - as defined through condition indicators and assessments (cumulative).</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort as it has been replaced by WT-2a.	Section III
	Measure deleted: CB-2. <i>Percent of forest buffer planting goal of 10,000 miles achieved.</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion because the target is inconsistent with the forested buffer goal in the federal strategy for the Chesapeake Bay developed pursuant to Executive Order 13508 <i>Chesapeake Bay Protection and</i>	Section IV

Change from FY 2012 Guidance Document		Reason for Change	Affected Sections
Annual Commitment Measures		<i>Restoration</i> , and the US Forest Service leads federal efforts in this area.	
	Measure deleted: GM-01 . <i>Implement integrated bi-national (U.S. and Mexican States) early-warning system to support State and coastal community efforts to manage harmful algal blooms (HABs).</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion as part of the streamlining effort. The operating system and state training are completed.	Section IV
	Measure deleted: PI-SP27 . <i>Percentage of time that sewage treatment plants in the U.S. Pacific Island Territories comply with permit limits for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS).</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion because it is a weak management measure. The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) compliance data is dominated by out-of-compliance WWTPs in Guam that are being addressed through a court order.	Section IV
	Measure deleted: PI-SP28 . <i>Percent of days of the beach season that beaches in each of the U.S. Pacific Island Territories monitored under the Beach Safety Program will be open and safe for swimming.</i>	Measure is proposed for deletion because the beach monitoring data is correlated more closely with the rainy season than with Wastewater Treatment Plant compliance. It's unclear at this point whether the unsafe beach days are caused by stormwater, natural runoff, or another issue.	Section IV
Contacts	No change	Not applicable	