

Management & Technical Services Division Updates Quality Assurance Office



A Quick Quality Assurance Primer

EUGENIA MCNAUGHTON

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER

REGION 9 US EPA

Topics

- ▶ **New kid on the block – Quality Management Plans**
 - ▶ **Reminder – QA Project Plans have a 5-year life span**
 - ▶ **Meeting Lab Competency Policy requirements**
 - ▶ **Where has bioassessment gone?**
 - ▶ **Any training requests?**
-
- ▶ **Next QA appearance: August RTOC, October Conference**

What is a Quality Management Plan?

- ▶ **A QMP describes a Tribe's environmental quality system**
- ▶ **It commits management to establishing a system that ensures the generation of data of known quality**
- ▶ **It sets out QA roles and responsibilities for all programs**

- ▶ **It does NOT take the place of program-specific Quality Assurance Project Plans**

QAPPs, yes, but QMPs?

- ▶ *Region 9 does NOT currently require Tribes to have a QMP, but*
- ▶ Tribal environmental programs are growing
- ▶ Several Tribes have a number of environmental programs
- ▶ All programs should follow general quality guidelines
- ▶ A Quality Management Plan lays out these guidelines

Should My Tribe Have a QMP?

- ▶ **If your Tribe fits the description, you may want to write a QMP**
 - ▶ **Some tribes have either submitted one or are in process**
- ▶ **It is not appropriate for all Tribes**
- ▶ **It could be written to represent a consortium of Tribes in a watershed or an airshed**

Quality Assurance Project Plans

- ▶ **Are program specific**
- ▶ **Should be reviewed every year**
- ▶ **Addenda or appendices with new parameters, new methods should be submitted before they come on line**
- ▶ **Should be submitted to EPA every five years**

Laboratory Competency

- ▶ **The Lab you hire must meet your environmental monitoring needs**
- ▶ **Labs demonstrate their competence by**
 - ▶ **Having a Quality Manual or Plan**
 - ▶ **Passing a performance evaluation test or tests**
 - ▶ **Participation in certification or accreditation programs**

Bioassessment – Where Are We Now?

- ▶ **A Tribally-convened group met quarterly**
- ▶ **Trainings were held in the field and in the lab**
- ▶ **Presentations were made at Tribal EPA meetings**

- ▶ **What's happened since?**

Training

- ▶ **QA Office offered trainings several years ago**
- ▶ **Is it time to refresh and renew QA understanding?**
- ▶ **What topics do you think would be most useful?**
- ▶ **Send your requests to mcnaughton.eugenia@epa.gov**