Proposed Revision

EPA Region 9’s
Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside
Ranking Criteria
Proposed Revision

• Assign higher ranking to projects that address documented *health effects* over projects that address health risks

  – Lower Health Ranking Category E (projects that address water supply deficiencies)

  – Raise Health Ranking Categories F, G, H and I (projects that address MCL exceedances)
## DWTSA Health Ranking Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher Priority</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category A</td>
<td>Demonstrated illness attributable to the water system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category B</td>
<td>Microbial contamination of the water supply resulting in a repeated coliform bacteria maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category C</td>
<td>Unfiltered surface water or ground water under the influence of surface water.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category D</td>
<td>Filtered surface water and ground water under the influence of surface water that violates surface water filtration or disinfection regulations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category E</td>
<td>Water supply deficiency that presents a serious health risk, which may include insufficient water supply resulting in water outages occurring for an extended period that could not be corrected through operational improvements. For projects to address insufficient water supply, requires that conservation efforts be made before funding may be awarded, if per capita water consumption is excessive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category F</td>
<td>Arsenic contamination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category G</td>
<td>Nitrate/nitrite contamination exceeding MCL.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category H</td>
<td>Lead contamination exceeding Action Level or Treatment Technique.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category I</td>
<td>Chemical contamination (other than nitrate/nitrite, lead, or arsenic) exceeding a primary MCL.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category J</td>
<td>Copper contamination exceeding Action Level or Treatment Technique.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower Priority</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Category K</td>
<td>Significant sanitary defect involving sewage, or disinfection facilities that have defects, or uncovered distribution reservoirs, or documented inadequate pressure potentially causing cross-connection contamination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category L</td>
<td>Systems meeting existing MCLs but not future MCLs or Action levels, or Iron/Manganese problems, or other water system deficiencies.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Consequences

• Higher ranking for projects that address:
  – documented *health effects*
  – drinking water violations and MCL exceedances

• Lower ranking for projects that address:
  – Water supply deficiency that presents a serious health risk, which may include insufficient water supply resulting in water outages occurring for an extended period that could not be corrected through operational improvements.
DWTSA Projects Funded, by Health Ranking

- B: Coliform 24%
- D: Surface water violations 5%
- C: Untreated surface water 9%
- E: Water supply deficiencies 30%
- F: Arsenic 22%
- H: Lead 0.5%
- I: Chemicals 0.5%
- K: Significant defect 3%
- L: Other deficiencies 7%
Next Steps

• Initiate consultation with letter to tribal leaders, and copy to tribal environmental directors and water system contacts
• Provide outreach to tribes
• Review tribal input
• Conduct follow up as necessary
• Provide feedback to tribal leaders involved with the consultation to explain how their input was considered in the final action
• Implement next steps
Tribal Set-Aside Transfer Authority

- EPA FY12 budget allows transfers between Clean Water and Drinking Water tribal set-aside programs
- Money can be transferred from either program
- Transfer amount equals up to 33% of the Drinking Water allotment
Region 9 Transfer Needs

Not enough money to address all needs:
• $300M to address all high priority needs
• FY 12 declining tribal water infrastructure funds (CW -3.5%, DW -4.5%) (IHS -17%)

Historically:
• CW receives 2/3 water infrastructure funds, but has 1/3 of the need
R9 CW Allocation and High Priority Needs

- California IHS
- Navajo IHS
- Phoenix IHS
- Tucson IHS

- CW allocation based on Total Needs
- Homes with DL 4/5 CW Needs
- Homes with DL 4/5 DW Needs
- Cost of DL 4/5 CW & DW Needs
Next Steps

• HQ must approve transfer process
• EPA will initiate tribal consultation
Contact

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