

Updates from the Region 9 QA Office

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Topics

- New EPA Quality Policy (CIO 2106)
- Region 9 QAPP Review Policy



New EPA QA Policy

“New” Policy

- Last iteration of the policy > 10 years ago
- Review policy and associated documents
- Additions, changes and up dates
- Quality Staff held a consultation with Tribes on the new policy (February 2012)
- Ready for internal review
- Next step is publishing for external review

What Is New?

- Organizational changes
- New version of Environmental Data Standards
- Up dated guidance for writing Quality Management and Quality Assurance Project Plans

How Does This Affect Region 9?

- New citation (CIO 2106)
- New guidance
 - Acknowledgement of “Program” Plans
 - Better guidance on use of secondary data
 - Other guidances will go through the same process
 - All documents available on line
 - No changes to regional policy of QA review

Region 9 QAPP Review Policy

- New policy and Region 9 policy
- Types of QA documents
- How often to submit a monitoring QAPP
- Appendix and addendum
- Next steps for Water
- No “null and void” data
- Questions to ask
- Summary

Region 9 Tribal QA Plans

- Type
 - Program Plans
 - Air
 - Project Plans
 - Superfund
 - Water
 - Sampling and Analysis Plans
 - Blood lead
 - Radon
 - One time assessment
- WATER ONLY
 - 3-Tiered Program
 - Beginning
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced
 - Water Quality Assessment Report

For Monitoring QAPPs

- Evaluate data yearly internally
- Review data in relation to stated QAPP objectives
- Submit a revised QAPP every 5 years

What to Send to the QA Office?

- QA Project Plans revised and submitted every 5 years
- As needed
 - Appendix
 - Addendum

Appendix

- References monitoring plan
- Adds parameter(s)
- New or different data quality objectives
- New or different decisions to be made
- Changes in sampling plan
 - Frequency
 - Location

Addendum

- Change in organization
- Working with a new laboratory
- Change in personnel
- Reducing monitoring parameters

Next Steps - Water

- Treatment as a State – Water Quality Standards
- Development of a quality system
- Documentation of the system in a Quality Management Plan

No Data are “Null and Void”

- There may have been problems in some aspect of data collection (field or lab)
- Environmental questions may not have been answered
- The important work is to review and change elements for next QAPP
- Any data point may or may not be “useable”
- The data user (the Tribe) makes the decision

There are Questions to Ask

- Did the data collection effort reflect what was written in the plan?
- Were there any problems in the field?
- Did the laboratory meet the Tribe's objectives?
- Overall, did the data meet the monitoring objectives?
- How should answers to all of the above be reflected in the new plan?

In Summary

- Plans due every five years
- QA in place while Tribe is working on update
- Data collected evaluated under old plan should inform new QAPP
- Monitoring plan changes should relate to data quality objective changes
- Rationales for changes should always be included

Questions:

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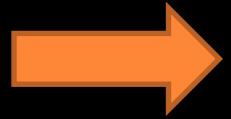
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Bioassessment training class –
Richmond 2012



A QUICK ANNOUNCEMENT



EPA Wastewater Treatment Ponds Manual 2011 Version

- Devoted to design and operation of wastewater treatment ponds
- Includes nutrient treatment information
- Focuses on operation and maintenance
- Extensive trouble shooting chapter
- How-to appendices

Principles of Design and Operations of Wastewater Treatment Pond Systems for Plant Operators, Engineers, and Managers



Office of Research and Development
National Risk Management Research Laboratory - Land Remediation and Pollution Control Division

Available on line at
www.epa.gov/region09/water

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