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
- Updated 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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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
Available on line at
www.epa.gov/region 09/water

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