

Performance Measure SP-14B

**What Is It?
And, How Does It Relate To The Tribal CWA Programs?**

August 29, 2012

EPA, Region IX Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC)

Audrey L Johnson, Water Division, Tribal Office



Agenda

- Why was SP-14B Developed?
- What is Measure SP-14B?
- Who Will be Involved?
- How Does This Affect the Tribal Clean Water Act Programs?
- What are the Next Steps in This Process?
- Who can We Go To for Questions?



Background of Measure SP-14B

Measure SP-14a

- Focuses on ***improving water quality*** at monitoring stations identified with a history of degradation
- Tracks improvement of water quality over a two year period at baseline monitoring stations in Indian country
- Performance measure
 - Begin Reporting FY12

Measure SP-14b

- Focuses on identifying where ***protection & maintenance*** of water quality has occurred in Indian Country
- Tracks where water quality is meeting applicable benchmark water quality criteria over a two year period
- Indicator measure
 - Begin Reporting FY12

Measure SP-14b Definition

<i>WQ-SP14b.N11</i>	Identify monitoring stations on tribal lands that are showing no degradation in water quality (<i>meaning the waters are meeting tribal water quality objectives</i>). (cumulative)	Indicator
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Purpose:

To **pilot** the identification and tracking of tribal monitoring locations in Indian country that meet water quality benchmark criteria and show no degradation from the criteria over a period of at least two years.



Measure SP-14b WQ Criteria

Benchmark water quality criteria:

- EPA-approved Tribal water quality standards, where available
- In all other situations, Tribes may choose benchmark criteria such as:
 - ✓ Draft tribal standards,
 - ✓ Tribal standards adopted under tribal law,
 - ✓ EPA recommended criteria, or
 - ✓ Neighboring state water quality standards
- Benchmark criteria should be documented within a Tribe's EPA-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)
- Benchmark criteria must be at least as protective as EPA's Clean Water Act (CWA) section 304(a) national recommended water quality criteria (<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/current/index.cfm>)

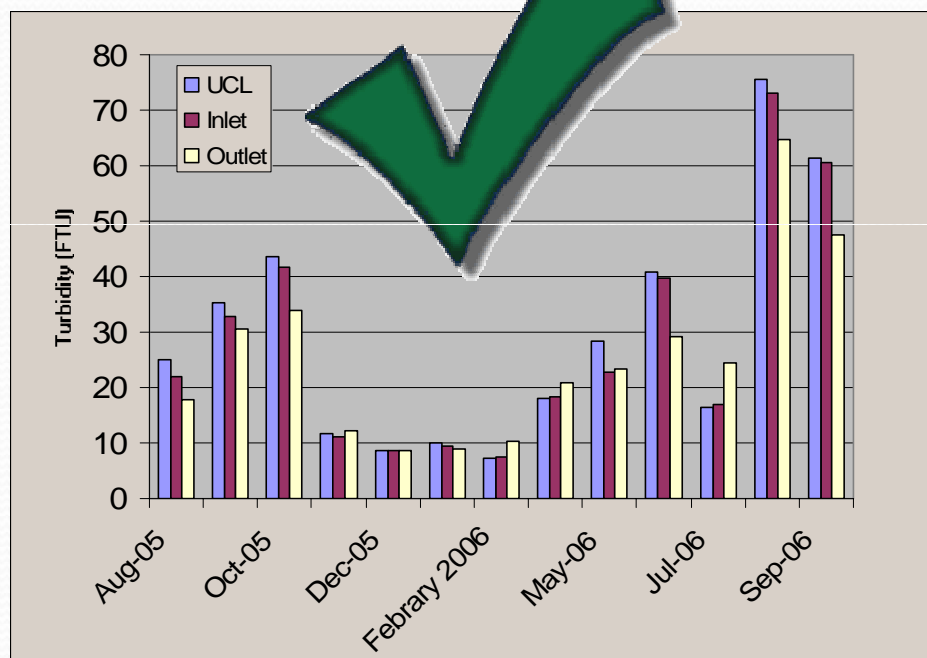
Measure SP-14b Core Indicators

Core indicators:

- May include, *but is not limited to*, the indicators identified in EPA's CWA section 106 Program Guidance for Tribes:
 1. pH
 2. Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
 3. Temperature
 4. Turbidity
 5. Total Nitrogen
 6. Total Phosphorus
 7. Pathogen Indicators



Measure SP-14b Results



Monitoring & analysis to demonstrate no degradation:

- Sampling, analysis, and assessment methods must be conducted in accordance with EPA-approved QAPP
- Report stations if tribal objectives set forth within the tribe's QAPP for a particular station are meeting and maintaining associated benchmark criteria
- Need to demonstrate no degradation of related parameters over two year period to report for Measure SP-14b



Measure SP-14b Results

Path A – For Those Programs with A Lot of Data

- Use “statistical procedures” to demonstrate with *90% or greater confidence level* that no degradation has occurred
 - If data is limited, use 70% confidence level or greater
- “Statistical Procedures” - procedures capable of showing statistically significant maintenance of water quality indicator(s) (e.g. seasonal Kendall trend test, Wilcoxon sign rank)
 - For statistical methods go to <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/> and look for “NEMI-SAMS” -- *Statistical and Assessments Methods Search*



Measure SP-14b Results

Path B

- Use benchmark criteria chosen by the tribe against which to compare monitoring results
- Suggested approach when not enough consistent data can support statistical tests mentioned in Path A
- Must demonstrate no degradation in applicable waterbody use(s) and/or applicable benchmark water quality criteria



Measure SP-14b Results

- **Supporting documentation for stations where no degradation has occurred**
 - Locational information of Monitoring Station (*use the same data fields for EPA WQX/STORET submissions*)
 - Present summary data for demonstrating no degradation of water quality using **either** Path A or Path B
 - A brief narrative describing why water quality shows no degradation, including what action(s) took place to account for the no degradation, if any
 - Example: tribal ordinance in place, NPS projects implemented, etc
- **Tribes can provide Measure SP-14b information in reports as agreed upon between tribes and CWA Regional Project Officers**

Who Will Be Involved?

Data Collectors & Analysis
of Results



House Information & Share
with Decision Makers



***** This is a Way of Showing Positive
Environmental Results Associated with
CWA Programs in Indian Country*****



Additional Information

- This is a ***Volunteer*** measure, to assist EPA with Showcasing Environmental Results Occurring in Indian Country. This is ***Not a Grant Requirement***.
- Because this is a volunteer effort, funding ***is NOT*** linked to this measure to perform the tasks to report at a monitoring station.
- Whether or not a Tribal Program volunteers for this measure, grant funding ***will NOT*** be affected by this measure.



Measure SP-14B: Next Steps

- **Tribal Consultation Period Closes on: Sept 14, 2012**
 - Comments Need to be Sent to EPA, Headquarters
 - Directed to: Laura S Johnson (johnson.Laura-S@epa.gov)
- **Final Measure Definition Distributed: October 1st, 2012**
 - Final Definition, Associated Documents and EPA Response to Comments submitted will be uploaded to Tribal Portal.
- **Region 9 is looking for Tribal Program Volunteers to assist with reporting for this measure.**
 - Have to use FY10 and FY11 Data for the FY12 Reporting
 - Would be a quick turnaround time to get supporting documents



Measure SP-14b: Contacts

- **For Region 9 Questions regarding SP-14b:**
 - CWA Project Officer (lastname.firstname@epa.gov)
 - Audrey L. Johnson, Water Division, Tribal Office
 - (415) 972-3431 or johnson.audreyL@epa.gov
 - Janet Hashimoto, Water Division, Manager
 - hashimoto.janet@epa.gov