

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**ABSTRACT:** *In April of 2004, the National Water Program published Guidance describing strategies for meeting the water related goals established in the new Environmental Protection Agency Strategic Plan and defining the measures to be used to assess progress in meeting these goals in FY 2005. Some of these measures included “targets,” or increments of progress that might be accomplished under the measure in FY 2005.*

*The Guidance described a process for EPA Regions to work with States and Tribes over the summer of 2004 to refine these “targets” to more formal “commitments” and to reflect these commitments in FY 2005 State and Tribal performance partnership agreements or other grant agreements and workplans.*

*This Appendix to the April 2004 Guidance includes all the measures that will be used to judge the progress of the National Water Program in FY 2005, at both the national and EPA Regional levels, and identifies the final “commitments” for progress that were agreed upon as a result of the recent collaborative process among EPA, States, and Tribes.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **OVERVIEW – New EPA Strategic Plan**

In October of 2003, EPA published a new *Strategic Plan* defining specific environmental and public health improvements to be accomplished by 2008. The central theme of the new EPA *Strategic Plan* is that the rate of progress toward a cleaner environment can be improved through clearer definition of the specific environmental improvements needed in the foreseeable future (e.g. 5 years). The *Strategic Plan* defines specific improvements in drinking water and surface water quality to be accomplished by 2008 and goes further to outline general strategies for accomplishing these improvements. The EPA *Strategic Plan* addresses water programs in both Goal 2 (i.e. “Clean and Safe Water”), and Goal 4 (i.e. “Healthy Communities and Ecosystems”). The complete text of the EPA *Strategic Plan* may be found on the Internet at (<http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan.>)

Within these two overall goals, there are ten subobjectives that define specific environmental or public health results related to water that are to be accomplished by 2008. These ten subobjectives are identified in Table I, along with the lead office at the national and EPA Regional level.

<b>Table I</b>			
<b>National Water Program—Ten Subobjectives</b>			
<b>Subobjective</b>		<b>Lead National Office</b>	<b>Lead Regional Office</b>
1)	Water Safe to Drink	Ground Water/Drinking Water	Region 7
2)	Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat	Science and Technology	Region 1
3)	Water Safe for Swimming	Science and Technology	Region 2
4)	Restore and Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis	Wetlands/Oceans/Watersheds	Region 4
5)	Protect Coastal and Ocean Waters/Estuaries	Wetlands/Oceans/Watersheds	Region 10
6)	Protect Wetlands	Wetlands/Oceans/Watersheds	Region 8
7)	Protect Mexico Border Water	Wastewater Management	Region 6
8)	Protect the Chesapeake Bay	Chesapeake Bay Program Office	Region 3
9)	Protect the Great Lakes	Great Lakes Program Office	Region 5
10)	Protect the Gulf of Mexico	Gulf of Mexico Program Office	Region 4

NOTE: Subobjective Plan not developed for Research Subobjective; measures addressing access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation on Tribal lands are managed by an interoffice Tribal Access workgroup (National lead: OWM/OGWDW; Regional lead; to be determined.)

## **NATIONAL WATER PROGRAM – FY 2005 GUIDANCE**

In April of 2004, the National Water Program published *Guidance* that described the program strategies to be used to implement the new Strategic Plan in FY 2005, including specific measures to be used to assess program implementation (<http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan>.) The national program *Guidance* is divided into four major sections: program strategies, measures of progress, description of the management system, and links to program grants.

### **Strategies for Attaining Objectives and Subobjectives**

EPA developed implementation plans for FY 2005 for each of the ten key subobjectives related to water (see Table I). These Subobjective Implementation Plans describe the basic strategic approach to accomplishing each of the subobjectives, identify the key program activities that support this work, describe innovative approaches developed by Regions, and identify the EPA program grants in the subject area. The Plans were developed jointly by EPA Headquarters and Regional offices and reflect program approaches and innovations identified in Regional Plans developed by each EPA Region. The *Guidance* provides a summary of the more detailed Subobjective Implementation Plans. The Subobjective Implementation Plans are available on the Internet at (<http://www.epa.gov/wata/wataplan>.)

### **Measures of Progress**

The *Guidance* includes two appendices that identify the specific measures that support each water Subobjective Plan.

The first Appendix includes all measures related to water programs, including the environmental/public health measures stated in the EPA *Strategic Plan* (i.e. subobjectives and strategic targets) and the measures of activity in a range of program areas that support each subobjective (i.e. “Program Activity Measures” or “PAMs”). PAMs address activities to be implemented by EPA Headquarters, EPA Regional Offices, or by States/Tribes that administer national programs. They are the basis for monitoring progress in implementing programs to accomplish the environmental improvements described in the new *Strategic Plan*.

The second appendix includes only those PAMs for which there are management “targets” for FY 2005 and FY 2008. For these measures, the appendix provided FY 2005 targets for each Region and for the country as a whole. Other PAMs do not include “targets” and simply report progress achieved.

### **Description of the Program Management System**

EPA Regions, States, and Tribes worked during the spring and summer to further define Regional and State priorities and develop State and Regional “commitments” based on the “targets” in the *Guidance*. The process of tracking measures and commitments is supported by the Agency Commitment Tracking system. The Agency system provides a forum for Regions and national program offices to exchange “bids” on commitments and resolve final commitments.

During FY 05, the Office of Water will track progress in program implementation and improve program performance based on evaluation feedback (see Section III of the April *Guidance*). This *Appendix* supports program implementation and assessment by providing a comprehensive summary of measures, including final FY05 commitments. Because this *Appendix* provides a complete set of measures, it provides a comprehensive basis for assessing progress in FY 2005, including progress under “outcome” measures, under measures with targets/commitments, and under indicator measures. These final FY 2005 commitments are presented in this *Appendix*.

### **Information on Program Grants to States and Tribes**

EPA provides a wide range of grant funding to States, Tribes, and others to implement clean water and drinking water programs and projects, including the PAMs described above. The Office of Water places a high priority on effective grants management, and the April *Guidance* presented grants guidance for FY 2005 for most grants and emphasized linking grants to the achievement of environmental results as laid out in the *Agency Strategic Plan*. A key step in assuring a strong linkage between grants and environmental results is inclusion of measure reporting and commitments in State performance partnership agreements and State and Tribal grant agreements or related workplans. More information about grants management is available in Appendix 3 of the April *Guidance* and a table of key water grant programs with applicable FY 2005 grant guidance is provided on the Internet at (<http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan>.)

## THE FINAL MEASURES AND COMMITMENT APPENDIX

This *Appendix* is organized by the ten key subobjectives related to water in the EPA *Strategic Plan*. An initial summary section provides a brief description of the subobjective and the “strategic targets” that support the subobjective. Following the subobjective summary, each PAM supporting the subobjective is presented in a summary format that describes key information, including FY 05 commitments for each Region and nationally, where applicable.

These measure summaries are designed to provide for the future addition of data reflecting progress under the measure at the mid-year for FY05 and at the end of the year where data is available . Where data sources will not allow mid-year or end-of-year data, these areas are marked as “n/a.” The National Water Program evaluation process for FY05 is described in Section III of the April National Water Program *Guidance*.

Finally, it is important to note that measures related to Tribes are included in this *Appendix* but are also presented in the new *Water Tribal Strategy* document (<http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan>). In addition, measures related to improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation are managed by an interoffice task force directed to address the access issues. The access related measures are not managed by the drinking water or watershed subobjective teams.