

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 22 2009

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Release of the *FY 2010 National Water Program Guidance*

FROM: Nanci E. Gelb
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator

TO: Office Directors, Office of Water
Regional Water Division Directors; Regions 1-10
Great Waterbody Program Office Directors
Large Aquatic Ecosystem Subobjective Leads

The final *FY 2010 National Water Program Guidance*, which defines environmental and public health goals and program strategies for the National Water Program for FY 2010, is now available on the internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/npmguidance/index.htm>. Printed copies of the *Guidance* are available from the EPA Office of Water.

Priorities for the water program in FY 2010, which may be subject to change in an addendum to the *Guidance* in July, are summarized in the Executive Summary and Introduction of the *Guidance*. These priorities are:

- Support Sustainable Water Infrastructure;
- Improve Water Security and Preparedness;
- Restore, Improve, and Protect Wetlands;
- Improve Water Monitoring;
- Restore Water Quality on a Watershed Basis; and
- Improve Achievement of Drinking Water Standards.

For FY 2010, the grant guidance for the Water Pollution Control Grants from Section 106 of the Clean Water Act is incorporated into this National Water Program Guidance. This is a pilot effort to gain efficiency in the issuance of the Section 106 Grant Guidance within this *Guidance*. In addition, the *Guidance* includes a discussion of the National Water Program strategic response to changing climate in the Introduction and Appendix G. Appendix C highlights key changes from FY 2009 to FY 2010 in the *Guidance*.

The Agency planning process provides for the development of draft EPA regional and national commitments for FY 2010, based on the targets for measures identified in this *Guidance*, by July 10th. I strongly encourage EPA regional offices to do their best to **develop commitments that meet or exceed targets** in the *Guidance* while reflecting the needs and priorities in each region. Final commitments will be negotiated in late summer and finalized by October.

Once final commitments are in place, the National Water Program will monitor progress throughout FY 2010. The program evaluation “feedback loop” includes the following key elements:

- Reporting of progress toward environmental and public health goals and program commitments at the mid-year and at the end of the year, including identification of “best practices”;
- Continued efforts to share program perspectives among regional and headquarters (HQ) program managers through HQ visits to regional offices; and
- Cooperation with the other offices, such as the Office of Management and Budget, EPA Inspector General, Government Accountability Office, and National Academy of Sciences, to consider conclusions of evaluation studies of water programs and adopt recommended “best practices” where appropriate.

If we can continue to reinforce a strong annual planning process with an equally effective performance assessment effort, the National Water Program will be well prepared to continue its strong performance in the years ahead.

Thank you for the outstanding work you have done to continue progress toward cleaner and safer water for the citizens of the United States. I look forward to working with you as we continue with this important mission.

cc: Maryann Froehlich, Acting Chief Financial Officer; Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Michael Shapiro; Acting Assistant Administrator for Water