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# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

**MAY 18 2010**

OFFICE OF WATER

## MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT:** The Release of the *FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance*

**FROM:** Michael H. Shapiro *Michael Shapiro*  
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 Managers

The final *FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance*, which defines environmental and public health goals and program strategies for the National Water Program for FY 2011, 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 2011 are summarized in the Executive Summary and Introduction of the *Guidance*. These priorities are:

- 1. Sustainable Communities - Making Communities More Sustainable**
  - Making America's Water Systems Sustainable and Secure
  - Safeguarding Public Health
  - Restoring and Protecting Urban Waters
  
- 2. Healthy Watersheds - Restoring and Protecting America's Watersheds**
  - Focusing Efforts in Key Geographic Areas
  - Strengthening Protections for Our Waters
  - Improving Watershed-Based Approaches

For FY 2011, the grant guidance for the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) and Underground Injection Control (UIC) grants within the Water Safe to Drink Subobjective are incorporated into this *National Water Program Guidance*. This is a continuation of the pilot effort to gain efficiency in the issuance of water grant guidance within this *Guidance*. In addition, the *Guidance* includes new sections on children's health, the Urban Waters Initiative, changing climate, and the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary. Appendix D highlights key changes from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in the *Guidance*.

The Agency planning process provides for the development of draft EPA regional and national commitments for FY 2011, based on the targets for measures identified in this *Guidance*, by July 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Once final commitments are in place, the National Water Program will monitor progress throughout FY 2011. 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: Peter Silva, Assistant Administrator for Water  
Maryann Froehlich, Acting Chief Financial Officer; Office of the Chief Financial Officer