

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

NATIONAL WATER PROGRAM MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2011

Office of Water
Environmental Protection Agency
July 2011

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I. Introduction

In May 2010, the National Water Program published the *National Water Program Guidance* describing how EPA, States, Tribes, and others would work together in FY 2011 to implement the water elements of the 2011-2015 *Strategic Plan*. This *FY 2011 Mid-Year Performance Report* describes the progress being made in 2011 towards the goals and objectives described in the *Guidance* and the *EPA Strategic Plan*. The *FY 2011 Guidance* is available on the internet at http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/goals_objectives/waterplan/fy2011.cfm, as is this *Report*.

This *FY 2011 Mid-Year Performance Report* is based on materials and analysis developed by teams of Headquarters and EPA Regional staff addressing each of the fifteen sub-objectives within the 2011-2015 *EPA Strategic Plan* related to the National Water Program (see table I, below). The materials developed by these subobjective teams provide data concerning progress toward environmental and public health goals. Much of the work of the National Water Program is accomplished through grants and this *Report* serves as the Office of Water's primary summary of mid-year progress under the Environmental Results Grants Order.

This report includes the following key elements:

- An overview of FY 2011 mid-year performance of National Water Program performance measures,
- A report out on specific measures highlighted for discussion during the FY 2011 Mid-Year National Water Program Oversight Group meeting, and
- A comprehensive appendix displaying the FY 2009 status, FY 2010 status and FY 2010 mid-year results for all FY 2011 National Water Program measures.

Program Contacts

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Table I
National Water Program – Key Subobjectives

- 1) Water Safe to Drink
- 2) Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat
- 3) Water Safe for Swimming
- 4) Restore and Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis
- 5) Protect Coastal and Ocean Waters/Estuaries
- 6) Protect Wetlands
- 7) Protect Mexico Border Water Quality
- 8) Protect the Pacific Island Waters
- 9) Protect and Restore the Great Lakes
- 10) Protect and Restore the Chesapeake Bay
- 11) Protect the Gulf of Mexico
- 12) Protect the Long Island Sound
- 13) Protect the South Florida Ecosystems
- 14) Protect the Puget Sound Basin
- 15) Protect the Columbia River Basin

Internet Access: This FY 2011 Mid-Year Performance Report and supporting documents are available at http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/goals_objectives/waterplan/upload/Final-FY-2011-Mid-Year-Report.pdf.

II. Overview of FY 2011 Mid Year Performance

There are 146 measures in FY 2011 for the National Water Program and 102 of these measures have FY 2011 commitments. Of the 102 commitment measures, 54 measures had data to report at mid-year 2011. Ninety-one percent (49) of the measures were on track; 2% (1) were not on track; and 7% (4) did not have data available. (Figure 1)

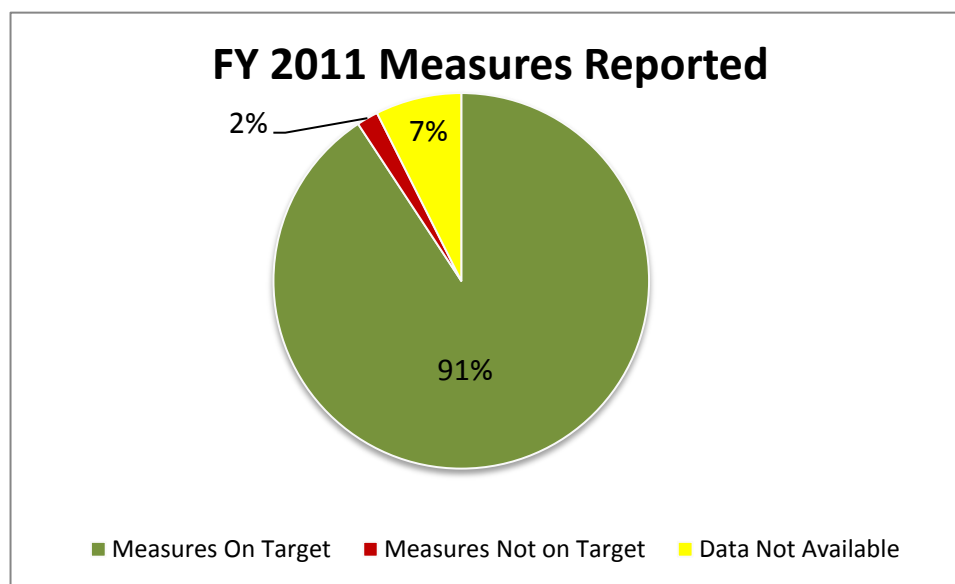


Figure 1

Trend results from previous years show a gradual increase in measures that are on track at mid-year (76% in 2009 to 91% in 2011). (Figure 2)

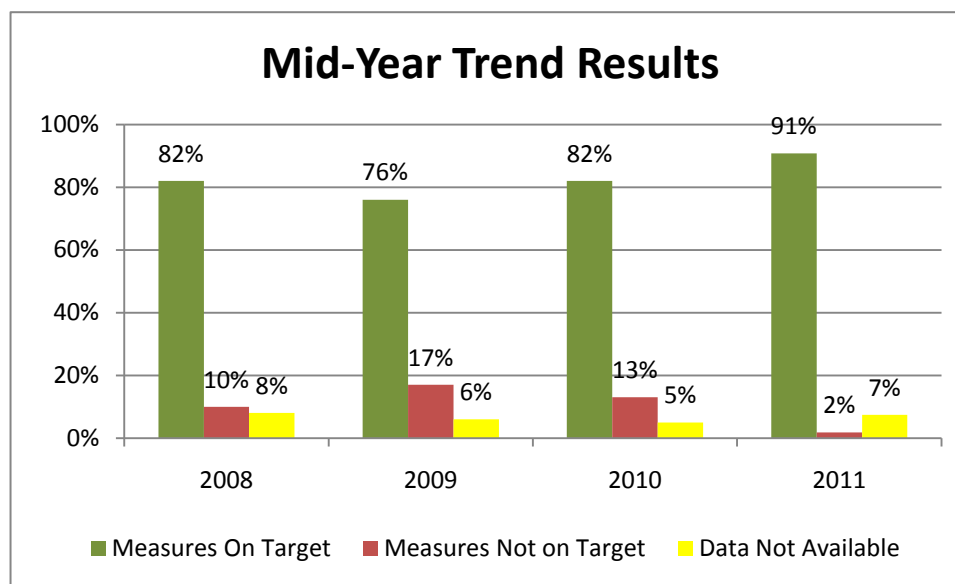


Figure 2

When we compare progress at mid-year with end of the year results for previous years, past trends show that there are fewer measures that meet their commitments than were on track at mid-year. This is an approximate 10-15% drop from measures on track at mid-year to measures met at the end of the year. The cause of this phenomenon is unknown: it could be due to overly optimistic assessments at mid-year or problems that occur during the last two quarters for some measures. However, there doesn't seem to be a pattern for any specific measure. (Figure 3)

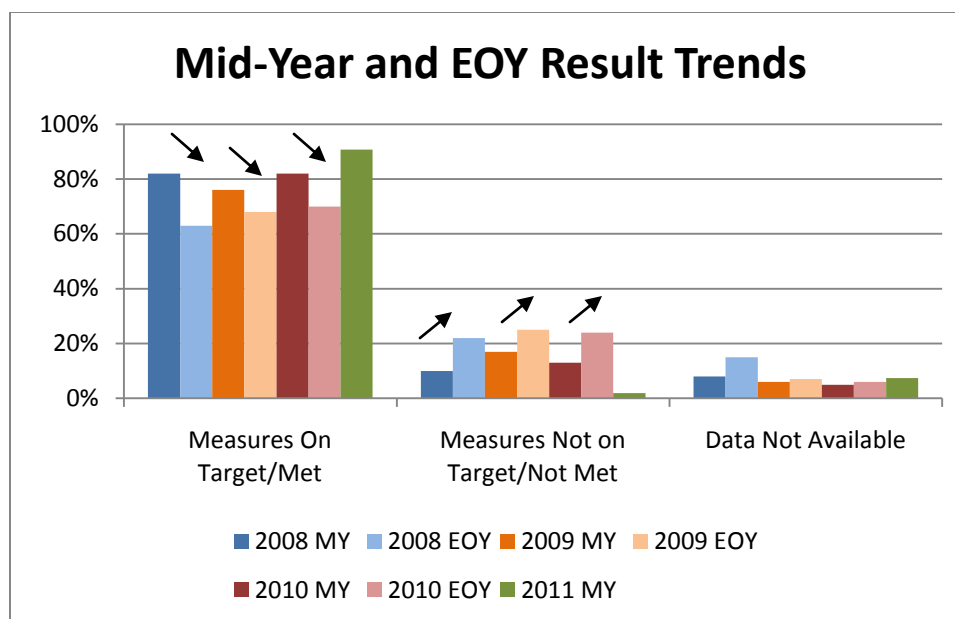


Figure 3

An increasing trend of concern for the Office of Water at mid-year is the growing number of measures exempt from reporting mid-year data. Most exemptions result from the lack of data available at mid-year, particularly as certain environmental trends fluctuate during the year (i.e., hypoxia). In the past three years, the gap between measures exempt and reported has narrowed significantly as more measures are exempt (42% exempt and 58% reported in FY 2008 compared to 48% exempt and 52% reported in FY 2011). (Figure 4)

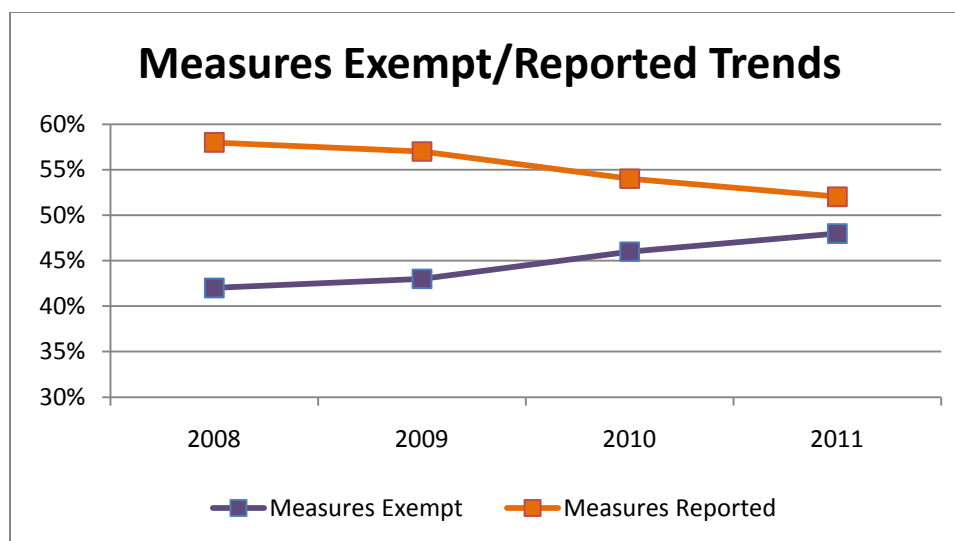


Figure 4

The Office of Water's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were all on track to meet their commitments at the end of the year.

Key Performance indicator	FY 2010 Mid-Year	FY 2010 EOY	FY 2011 Commitment	FY 2011 Mid-Year	FY 2011 Status
SDW-SP2: Percent of "person months" (i.e., all persons served by community water systems times 12 months) during which community water systems provide drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.	97%	97.3%	95%	97%	▲
SDW-SP3.N11: Percent of the population in Indian country served by community water systems that receive drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.	86%	87.2%	80%	87%	▲

WQ-SP10.N11: Number of waterbodies identified in 2002 as not attaining water quality standards where standards are now fully attained (cumulative).	2,569	2,909	2,973	2,926	▲
WQ-8a: Number, and national percent, of TMDLs that are established or approved by EPA [Total TMDLs] on a schedule consistent with national policy.	1,166	4,951	2,433	1,330	▲
WQ-12a: Percent of non-Tribal facilities covered by NPDES permits that are considered current.	86%	89.4%	88.4%	89%	▲

Tribal measures (9 reported; 4 exempt) were mostly on target at mid-year, except where data was not available. In recent years, tribal measures only meet approximately half of their commitments at year's end (In FY 2010, 6 tribal measures were met; 4 were not). In FY 2011, tribal measures look to be on target to meet most of the tribal commitments at the end of the year. (Figure 5)

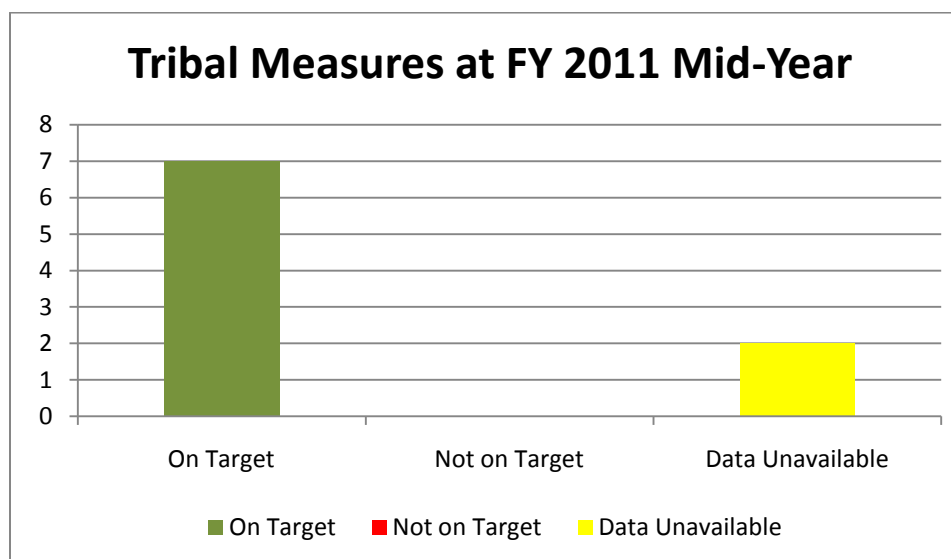


Figure 5

Summary

- The FY 2011 mid-year results indicate that most performance measures are on track to meet or exceed their FY 2011 commitments, including most of our tribal measures and all of our key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Measures showed higher performance results at mid-year FY 2011 than in previous fiscal years, suggesting that programs may be making improvements in their data collection and program implementation through the years.
- Some concerns that have arisen from mid-year data are the amount of measures exempt from reporting (with no clear criteria for exemptions) and the number of measures on target at mid-year showing a 10-15% decrease in measures met at the end of the year.

III. Performance Measures Highlighted for Discussion at National Water Program Oversight Group Meeting

The following seventeen measures were selected (out of a universe of 54 reported measures) for discussion at the Office of Water Oversight Group meeting on June 7, 2011. These measures were selected mostly where mid-year data was indicating under-performance, prompting concern about reaching the FY 2011 commitment at the end of the year. However, this discussion also focuses on measures showing success at mid-year – what is being done right? A full list of all FY 2011 performance measures and their mid-year results can be found in Appendix A.

For each selected measure (organized by subobjective), the specific findings highlighted at the Oversight Group meeting and the discussion which followed in response to each finding is depicted below.

Water Safe to Drink

Small drinking water systems measures (SDW-11 to SDW-17)

FY 2011 ACS Code	FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance Measure Text	FY 2011 National Results	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
SDW-11	Percent of DWSRF projects awarded to small PWS serving <500, 501-3,300, and 3,301-10,000 consumers.											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR	Exempt										
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2009 BASELINE	71%	72%	75%	70%	30%	68%	76%	80%	87%	81%	80%
	UNIVERSE (Total number of projects)	623	138	44	56	43	126	33	70	87	26	75
SDW-12	Percent of DWSRF dollars awarded to small PWS serving <500, 501-3,300, 3,301-10,000 consumers.											

	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	Exempt										
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2009 BASELINE	40%	24%	38%	40%	16%	42%	36%	54%	52%	60%	79%
	UNIVERSE (Millions)	1,420.5	127.7	251.5	137.2	176.9	246.6	211.7	105.7	108	55.2	101.8
SDW-13	Percent of DWSRF loans that include assistance to disadvantaged communities.											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	Exempt										
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2009 BASELINE	34%	22%	55%	43%	33%	20%	42%	27%	43%	23%	32%
	UNIVERSE	623	138	44	56	43	126	33	70	87	26	75
SDW-14	Number and percent of CWS and NTNCWS, including new PWS, serving fewer than 500 persons. (New PWS are those first reported to EPA in last calendar year).											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	Exempt										
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2009 BASELINE (CWS & NTNCWS <500)	44,673	3,662	3,647	4,741	6,061	7,357	4,949	2,827	2,659	4,386	4,384
		64%	77%	65%	67%	56%	61%	52%	60%	69%	68%	78%
	FY 2009 New Systems (CWS & NTNCWS)	511	51	59	62	89	94	45	30	51	30	30
	UNIVERSE (CWS & NTNCWS)	70,347	4,736	5,577	7,046	10,774	12,040	9,567	4,715	3,863	6,415	5,614
SDW-15	Number and percent of small CWS and NTNCWS (<500, 501-3,300, 3,301-10,000) with repeat health based Nitrate/Nitrite, Stage 1 D/DBP, SWTR and TCR violations.											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	Exempt										
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2009 BASELINE (CWS & NTNCWS <10,000 w/ repeat Health-Based Viols)	1,904	164	208	113	218	102	394	288	91	154	172
		3%	4%	4%	2%	2%	1%	4%	6%	2%	3%	3%
	UNIVERSE (CWS & NTNCWS<10,000)	66,165	4,478	5,189	6,751	9,840	11,270	9,082	4,562	3,690	5,877	5,426

SDW-16	Average time for small PWS (<500, 501-3,300, 3,301-10,000) to return to compliance with acute Nitrate/Nitrite, Stage 1 D/DBP, SWTR and TCR health-based violations (based on state-reported RTC determination date).											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	Exempt										
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2009 BASELINE (CWS & NTNCWS <10,000 w/ Acute Health-Based Viols)	99	15	9	31	1	6	6	17	4	7	3
		88	134	18	69	74	44	72	153	135	53	36
	UNIVERSE (CWS & NTNCWS<10,000)	66,165	4,478	5,189	6,751	9,840	11,270	9,082	4,562	3,690	5,877	5,426
SDW-17	Number and percent of schools and childcare centers that meet all health-based drinking water standards.											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	Exempt										
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2009 BASELINE	7,260	1057	705	1179	688	1933	329	197	224	523	425
		94%	92%	95%	96%	95%	95%	95%	89%	94%	90%	97%
	UNIVERSE	7,703	1,146	740	1,228	724	2,041	345	222	239	578	440

Issues for Oversight Group:

This series of new indicator measures (SDW-11 to SDW-17) were designed to focus on small drinking water systems. What is the current status of data collection? Is the system in place working as it should, and will data be provided at the end of the year? Do we have any data that gives us an indication of progress thus far?

Program Response: The data collection system is in place and the program expects to report data at the end of the year. Small systems remain a challenge, but current performance indicates that these measures are expected to perform well at the end of the year. It may take another year of data to see if the results are significantly different from the national population served measure (211).

Water Quality

Number of water segments identified as impaired in 2002 for which States and EPA agree that initial restoration planning is complete (i.e., EPA has approved all needed TMDLs for pollutants causing impairments to the waterbody or has approved a 303(d) list that recognizes that the waterbody is covered by a Watershed Plan [i.e., Category 4b or Category 5m]) (cumulative). (WQ-21)

FY 2011 ACS Code	FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance Measure Text	FY 2011 National Results	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-21	Number of water segments identified as impaired in 2002 for which States and EPA agree that initial restoration planning is complete (i.e., EPA has approved all needed TMDLs for pollutants causing impairments to the waterbody or has approved a 303(d) list that recognizes that the waterbody is covered by a Watershed Plan [i.e., Category 4b or Category 5m]). (cumulative)											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	13,954	4885	437	2703	1806	1036	n/a	1781	227	100	979
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2010 END OF YEAR RESULT	13,932	4,877	437	2,693	1,806	1,036	Dec	1,781	227	96	979
	FY 2010 MIDYEAR RESULT	12,190	n/a	n/a	2680	1806	947	n/a	1771	n/a	96	n/a
	FY 2009 END OF YEAR RESULT	13,515	4,866	266	2,596	1,804	947	n/a	1,759	206	96	975
	FY 2008 END OF YEAR RESULT	12,856	4,978	266	2,240	1,799	868	n/a	1,698	206	96	705
	FY 2007 END OF YEAR RESULT	6,792	529	332	1,313	1,322	506	263	1,637	200	47	643
	UNIVERSE (FY 2002)	39,503*	6,710	1,805	8,998	5,274	4,550	1,407	2,036	1,274	1,041	6,408

Issues for Oversight Group:

What accounts for the slower pace of waterbodies meeting standards and segments with initial restoration planning this year?

Program Response:

1. This measure reports on 2002 baseline waters for which a TMDL, 4b, or 5m has been developed for all of the causes of impairment for which the water was listed. Since the majority of TMDLs are approved in the 4th quarter, accomplishments for WQ-21 are difficult to calculate mid-year.
2. At the National program level the number of TMDLs developed annually (it is expected to be lower compared to historical levels) because of budget cuts and a notable shift toward more difficult TMDLs being developed, which will result in lower numbers of waters for which initial restoration planning is complete.

This measure may have limited utility and could be a candidate for streamlining during development of the FY 2013 National Water Program Guidance.

Nutrient water quality standards measures (WQ-01a-WQ-01c)

FY 2011 ACS Code	FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance Measure Text	FY 2011 National Results	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-01a	Number of numeric water quality standards for total nitrogen and for total phosphorus adopted by States and Territories and approved by EPA, or promulgated by EPA, for all waters within the State or Territory for each of the following waterbody types: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries (cumulative, out of a universe of 280)											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	45	1	7	5	6	4	n/a	0	n/a	22	n/a
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	46	1	7	5	6	4	n/a	1	n/a	22	n/a
	FY 2010 BASELINE	31	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	22	0
	UNIVERSE	280	34	20	34	44	24	24	16	24	38	22
WQ-01b	Number of numeric water quality standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus at least proposed by States and Territories, or by EPA proposed rulemaking, for all waters within the State or Territory for each of the following waterbody types: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries (cumulative, out of a universe of 280).											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	50	3	7	6	6	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	n/a
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	53	3	7	6	6	4	n/a	3	n/a	24	n/a

	FY 2010 BASELINE	31	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	22	0
	UNIVERSE	280	34	20	34	44	24	24	16	24	38	22
WQ-01c	Number of States and Territories supplying a full set of performance milestone information to EPA concerning development, proposal, and adoption of numeric water quality standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus for each waterbody type within the State or Territory (annual). (The universe for this measure is 56.)											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	14	2	1	0	6	1	n/a	n/a	0	4	n/a
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	19	n/a	n/a	1	6	1	n/a	4	3	4	n/a
	FY 2010 BASELINE	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
	UNIVERSE	56	6	4	6	8	6	5	4	6	7	4

NOTE: Some of the 2011 results (e.g., criteria translators for DC's waters that have not been adopted as standards) may not fully qualify and are under review. Any needed adjustments will be made in 2012.

Issues for Oversight Group:

Considering the starting baseline for these new measures in FY 2011, they seem to be progressing very well towards meeting their end-of-year commitment. What is the reason behind this success?

Program Response: States are devoting more attention to numeric water quality standards for nitrogen and phosphorus than in the past. Measure definition issues, however, may produce some uncertainty in the final end of the year results.

Number of Tribes that have water quality standards approved by EPA (cumulative). (WQ-02)

FY 2011 ACS Code	FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance Measure Text	FY 2011 National Results	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10

WQ-02	Number of Tribes that have water quality standards approved by EPA. (cumulative)											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	37	n/a	1	n/a	2	4	10	n/a	2	8	10
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	39	n/a	1	n/a	2	5	10	n/a	3	8	10
	FY 2010 END OF YEAR RESULT	37	n/a	1	n/a	2	4	10	n/a	2	8	10
	FY 2010 MIDYEAR RESULT	36	n/a	1	n/a	2	3	10	n/a	2	8	10
	FY 2010 COMMITMENT	38	n/a	1	n/a	2	4	10	n/a	3	8	10
	FY 2009 END OF YEAR RESULT	35	n/a	1	n/a	2	3	10	n/a	2	7	10
	FY 2008 END OF YEAR RESULT	35	n/a	1	n/a	2	3	10	n/a	2	7	10
	FY 2005 BASELINE	26	0	0	n/a	2	2	9	0	2	3	8
	UNIVERSE	55	n/a	1	n/a	2	5	11	n/a	6	16	14

Issues for Oversight Group :

This measure was down by 2 at mid-year FY 2010 and then not met at the end of the year. At mid-year FY 2011, we are again down by 2. Is this measure expected to meet its commitment at the end of the year?

Program Response: Regions may approve one more tribal water quality standards but this measure could fall short of its annual commitment at the end of the year.

Number of sites covered under either an individual or general construction storm water site permit (c) and Number of facilities covered under either an individual or general CAFO permit (d). (WQ-13c and WQ-13d)

FY 2011 ACS Code	FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance Measure Text	FY 2011 National Results	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
WQ-13c	Number of sites covered under either an individual or general construction storm water site permit.											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	181,597	8801	11930	28983	54689	3137	24463	13,624	16019	14242	5709
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2010 END OF YEAR RESULT	186,874	11,177	5,669	28,983	54,607	7,477	24,463	13,254	10,013	23,339	7,892
	FY 2010 MIDYEAR RESULT	187,373										
	FY 2009 END OF YEAR RESULT	200,732	7,704	17,671	19,317	75,311	7,738	17,403	12,480	12,444	24,069	6,595
	FY 2008 END OF YEAR RESULT	204,341	4,321	9,742	23,799	75,317	9,879	16,308	18,210	12,051	27,409	7,305
WQ-13d	Number of facilities covered under either an individual or general CAFO permit.											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	7,902	6	566	358	967	2173	781	1517	663	184	687
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	Indicator										
	FY 2010 END OF YEAR RESULT	7,882	6	566	333	967	2,145	781	1,510	658	205	711
	FY 2010 MIDYEAR RESULT	7,938										
	FY 2009 END OF YEAR RESULT	7,900	6	602	277	1,021	2,129	890	1,443	618	203	711
	FY 2008 END OF YEAR RESULT	7,830	2	609	269	966	2,024	895	1,438	581	222	824
	FY 2005 BASELINE	8,623	0	624	175	2,131	1,488	1,391	1,239	448	296	831
	UNIVERSE	18,972	33	632	770	3,621	2,523	4,190	3,777	841	1,670	915

Issues for Oversight Group:

What are these indicator measures telling us about overall progress with stormwater permits? Based on the lead Region's interest in reducing the number of indicator measures, do you think these measures add value to the program and what would be the impact on the program if they were eliminated?

Program Response: It is very important for HQ and Regions to keep track of the size of the stormwater universe. The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance's current ICIS database is not able to track this universe. The stormwater data exist in states' data systems and we will have to rely on the Regions to obtain this data if these measures were eliminated.

Mexico Border

Number of additional homes provided safe drinking water in the U.S.- Mexico border area that lacked access to safe drinking water in 2003. (MB-SP24.N11)

FY 2011 ACS Code	FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance Measure Text	FY 2011 National Results	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
MB-SP24.N11	Number of additional homes provided safe drinking water in the U.S.-Mexico border area that lacked access to safe drinking water in 2003.											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT				2,604					2,604		0
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT				2,000					2,000		0
	FY 2010 END OF YEAR RESULT				21,650					19,751		1,899
	FY 2010 MIDYEAR RESULT				19,751					19,751		0
	FY 2010 COMMITMENT				21,899					20,000		1,899
	FY 2009 END OF YEAR RESULT				1,584					1,584		0

	FY 2008 END OF YEAR RESULT	5,162					5,162			0	
	FY 2003 BASELINE	0					0			0	
	FY 2003 UNIVERSE	98,515									

Issues for Oversight Group:

This measure has already been met with a mid-year result of 2,604 (against a commitment of 2,000). The FY10 end of year result just fell short of meeting its commitment of 21,899, with 21,650 connections or 99% of the commitment. The 2011 mid-year result is a significant departure from past trends.

Program Response:

All 3 drinking water projects anticipated for completion in FY2011 were completed on-schedule during the first half of FY2011. These projects resulted in a greater number of connections than anticipated when targets were set. No additional drinking water connections are anticipated in FY2011.

There is no real "trend" to these annual targets. The targets are based purely on expected project completions. Drinking water infrastructure projects come in many sizes. Project completions and associated connections are a function of annual funding, which has varied from year to year.

For each project, connections estimates are revisited during quarterly meetings held by the EPA regional offices. These estimates can be refined over the roughly five-year project period as a result of new information provided by the project sponsor. The closer a project is to completion, the more accurate the information will be.

Number of additional homes provided adequate wastewater sanitation in the U.S.-Mexico border area that lacked access to wastewater sanitation in 2003. (MB-SP-25.N11)

FY 2011 ACS Code	FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance Measure Text	FY 2011 National Results	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
MB-SP25.N11	Number of additional homes provided adequate wastewater sanitation in the U.S.-Mexico border area that lacked access to wastewater sanitation in 2003.											
	FY 2011 MIDYEAR RESULT	34,174						28,424			5,750	
	FY 2011 COMMITMENT	207,000						190,000			17,000	
	FY 2010 END OF YEAR RESULT	75,175						71,926			3,249	
	FY 2010 MIDYEAR RESULT	64,668						64,668			0	
	FY 2010 COMMITMENT	190,720						190,000			720	
	FY 2009 END OF YEAR RESULT	43,594						39,477			4,117	
	FY 2008 END OF YEAR RESULT	31,686						31,686			0	
	FY 2003 BASELINE	0						0			0	
	FY 2003 UNIVERSE	690,723										

Issues for Oversight Group:

With a 2011 midyear result of 34,174 against a commitment of 207,000, this measure does not appear to be on target. It looks like it may be a challenge to reach the FY 2011 commitment. Do you expect to meet the commitment this year, and what is your strategy to do it?

Program Response:

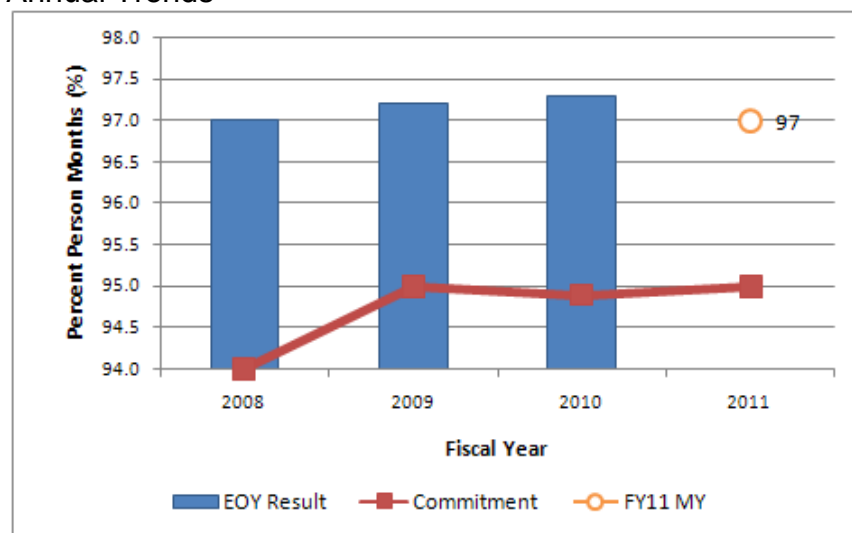
Annual targets are based on anticipated project completions that can occur at anytime throughout the fiscal year. New connections as of June 1st exceed 145,000. Both regions are on pace to meet or exceed the program's FY11 target of 207,000 connections.

IV. Mid-Year Results for National Water Program Key Performance Indicators

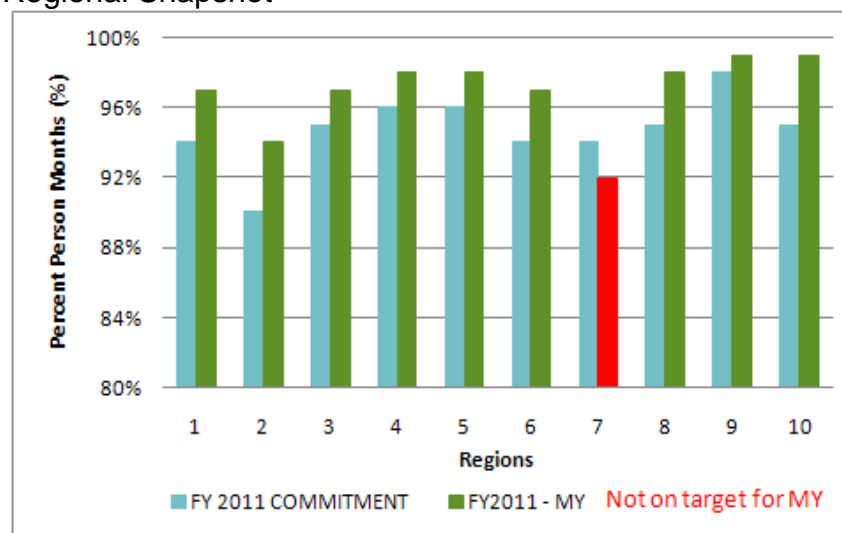
The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are a subset of existing annual measures which are used to assess annual progress in FY 2011 toward the long-term vision in the Agency Strategic Plan. The Office of Water KPIs were a central focus of discussion and dialogue among senior managers at the Goal 2 Progress Meeting on June 21, 2011.

Indicator: *Percent of "person months" (i.e. all persons served by community water systems times 12 months) during which community water systems provide drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.* (SDW-SP2.N11)

Annual Trends



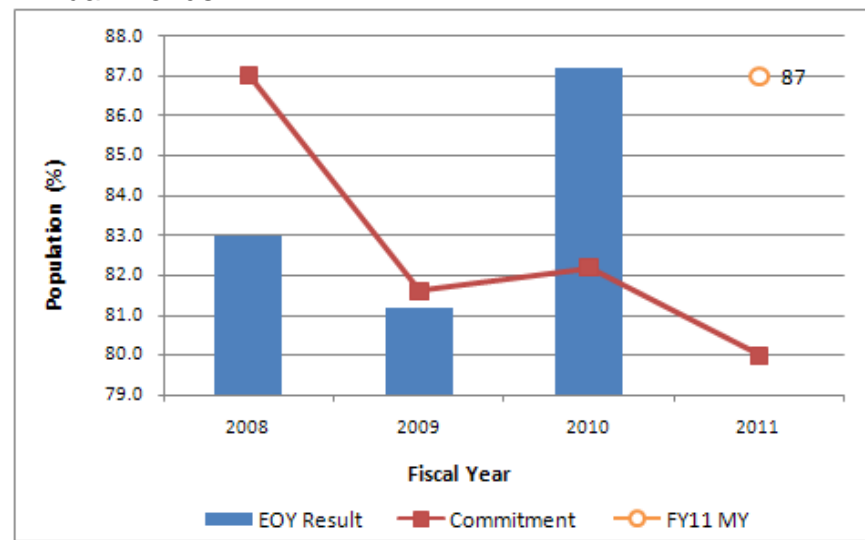
Regional Snapshot



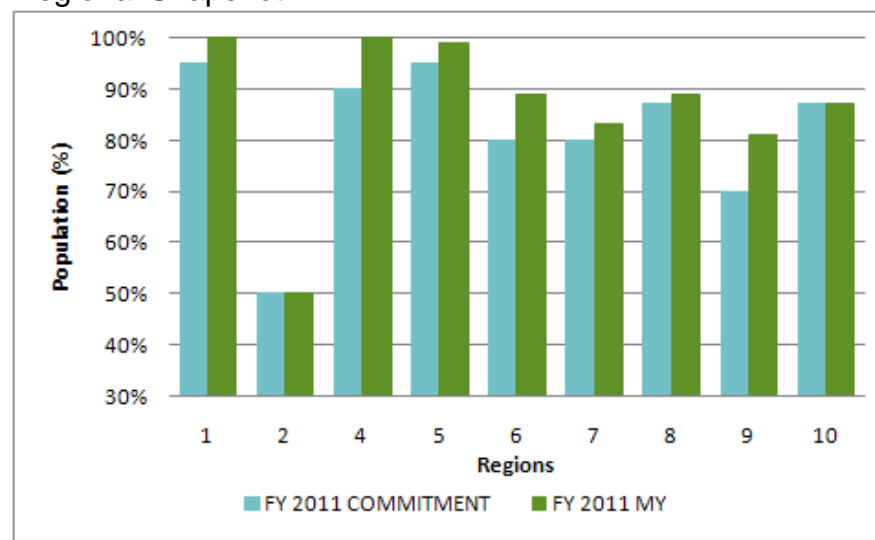
Findings: The purpose of this measure is to capture the length of time a given population is served by a water system that is in violation with drinking water standards. At mid-year, this measure was on track to meet its national commitment with 97% of the population was being served by CWSs that are in compliance with drinking water standards. Region 7 was not on target at mid-year due to system violations in Missouri and Kansas; Region 7 expects to improve by the end of the year.

Indicator: *Percent of the population in Indian country served by community water systems that receive drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards. (SDW-SP3)*

Annual Trends



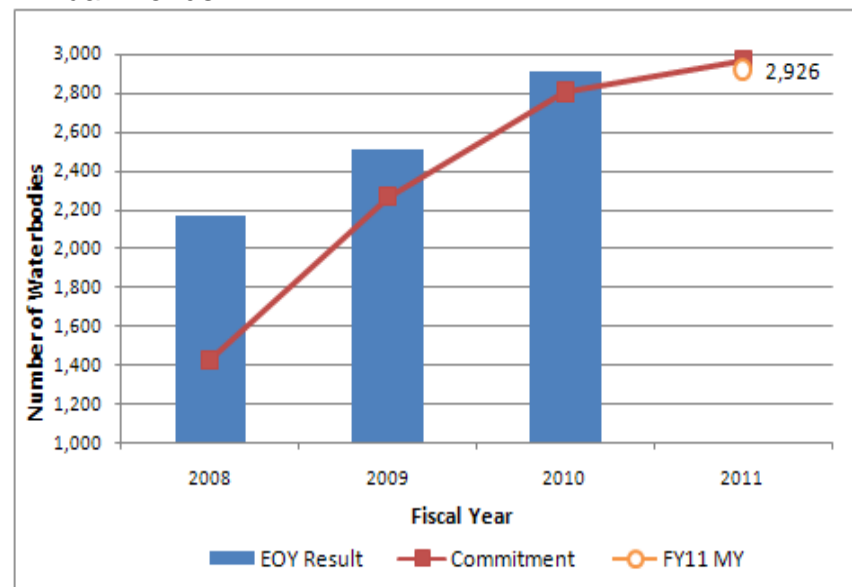
Regional Snapshot



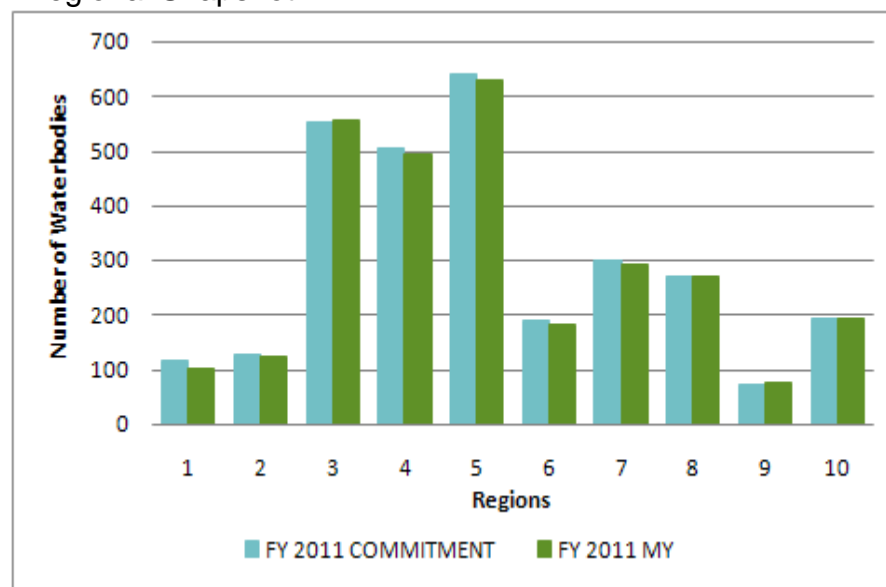
Findings: The FY 2011 commitment is 80% and nationally, the FY 2011 mid-year result stands at 87%, well on target towards meeting the commitment at the end of the year. There have been challenges with meeting the commitment in the past for this measure; however, the Agency met its commitment for the first time in FY 2010. This achievement is especially important considering approximately 93% of the population in Indian Country is served by small systems (501–3,300 people; 64%) or very small systems (25–500 people; 29.2%). Throughout the United States, smaller systems generally have greater difficulty maintaining compliance with new and existing drinking water regulations than larger systems. Regions 4 and 9 appear to be showing exceptional progress due to fewer systems having microbial and arsenic violations as well as intermittent coliform exceedances.

Indicator: *Number of waterbodies identified in 2002 as not attaining water quality standards where standards are now fully attained.* (WQ-SP10.N11)

Annual Trends



Regional Snapshot

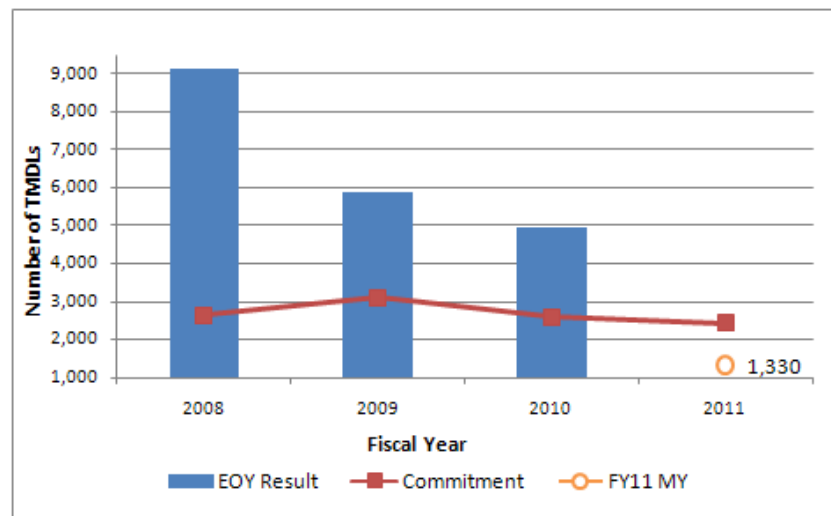


Findings: In 2002, states identified some 39,503 specific waterbodies as impaired on lists required under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Nationally, EPA had adopted a goal of having 2,973 of those waters identified as attaining water quality standards by 2011 and had achieved 2,926 by mid-year. All regions are currently on target. While this measure doesn't take credit for success until water quality standards are attained, other measures track progress related to improvement of impaired waters short of full standards attainment to help tell the story. In looking at the long-term trends, we see fewer accomplishments now than in earlier years of this measure. We believe the declining trend is due to:

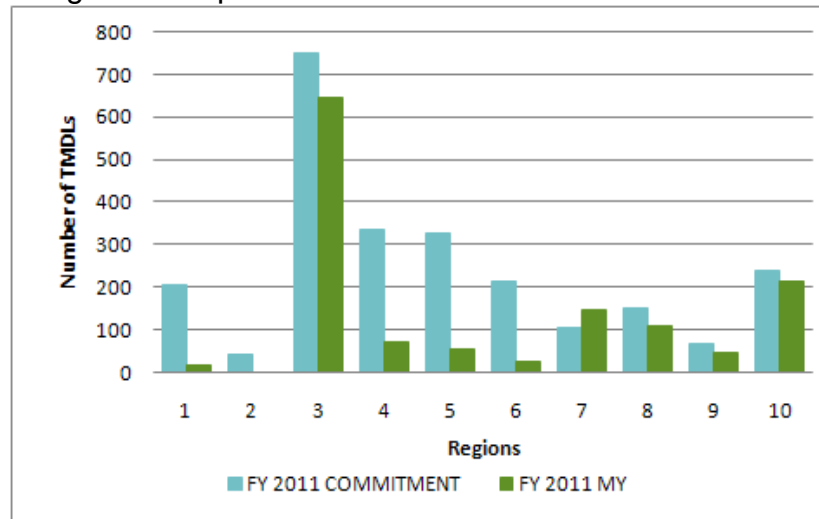
- A large number of early "successes" are likely from waters with one cause of impairment or reasons other than restoration activities (i.e. original basis for listing was incorrect; new assessment methodology).
- Although states are putting more emphasis on implementation and not just development of TMDLs, full water quality restoration may take longer to manifest itself in many circumstances (particularly with nonpoint sources).

Indicator: *Number, and national percent, of TMDLs that are established or approved by EPA [Total TMDLs] on a schedule consistent with national policy (cumulative). Note: Because a TMDL is a plan for attaining water quality standards, the terms "approved" and "established" refer to the completion of the TMDL itself and not necessarily its implementation.* (WQ-08a)

Annual Trends



Regional Snapshot



Findings: This measure tracks the pace of TMDL development, which refers to the annual number of TMDLs needed to be consistent with national policy. The national policy recommends that TMDLs be established and approved within eight to 13 years of the water having been listed as impaired under CWA Section 303(d). This measure indicates 1,330 TMDLs established at mid-year, against a national target of 2,433. In FY 2010, the program exceeded its commitment primarily because EPA developed an estimated 2,600 TMDLs for Pennsylvania due to state budget cuts and layoffs that impacted the state's ability to develop TMDLs. (A "partner" measure, state TMDLs, did not meet its commitment in FY 2010 and may not meet the commitment in FY 2011 reporting 849 at mid-year against a commitment of 1,999. This is a concern as states are less and less able to shoulder the burden of TMDL development, relinquishing the responsibility to EPA instead.) This is not uncommon at mid-year for this measure. Historically, mid-year numbers have been low because the majority of TMDLs are approved in the fourth quarter (see chart).

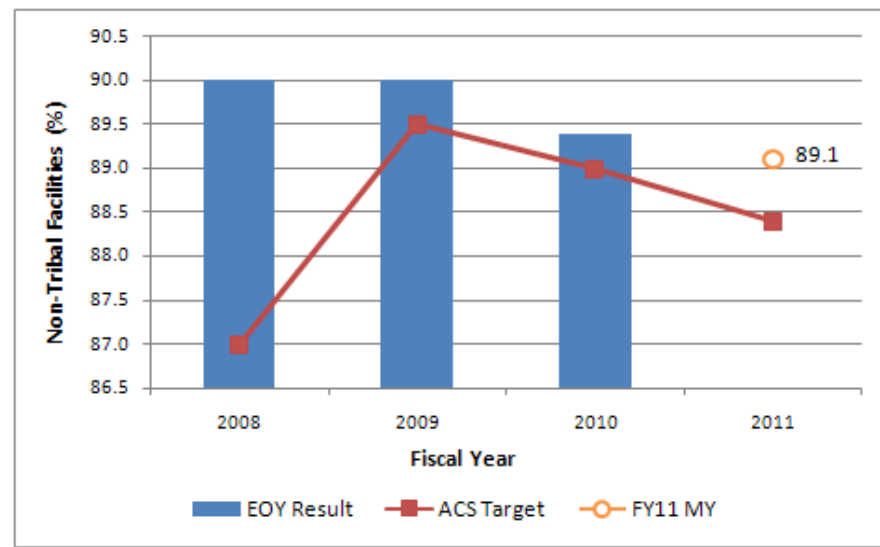
WQ-08(a)	WQ-08(b)	
FY 09 Mid-Year	2,089 (56%)	2,044 (57%)
FY 09 End-of-Year	5,887 (157%)	5,829 (162%)
FY 10 Mid-Year	974 (29%)	794 (24%)
FY 10 End-of-Year	4,951 (147%)	2,262 (69%)
FY 11 Mid-Year	1,330 (40%)	872 (27%)

At the National Program level, we anticipate that the number of State-established TMDLs will continue to be low (compared to historical levels) because of budget cuts and a notable shift toward more difficult TMDLs being developed. These TMDLs require more time and resources. Additionally, EPA and States are completing Consent Decree and Settlement Agreements, and in some cases, more emphasis is now being placed on implementation then writing a large number of TMDLs.

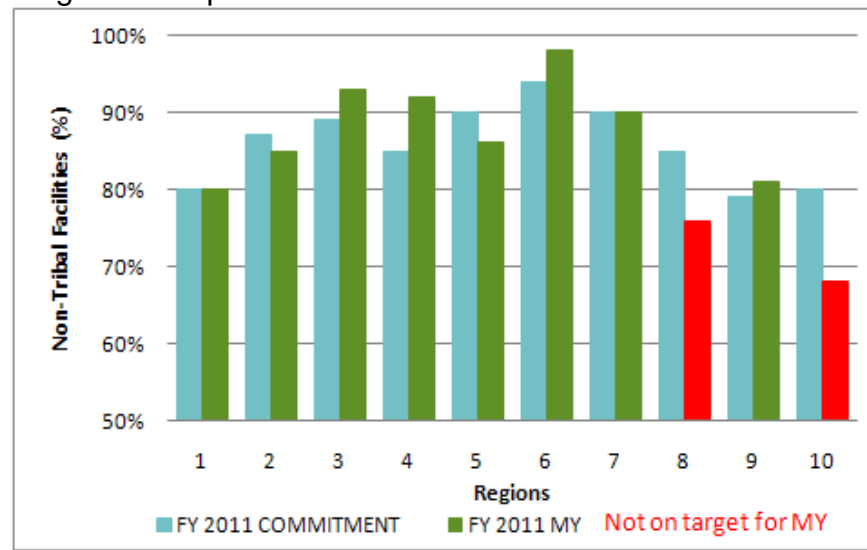
It is also worth noting that there is significant movement by States and EPA Regions to review the fundamental way by which we measure program success due to the dissatisfaction with our current method that focuses entirely on quantity of TMDLs completed. While we do not want to set ourselves up for legal challenges similar to the late 1990s, we are beginning the conversation with the States and Regions to explore program metrics that are not limited solely to TMDL numbers. For example, stream miles/areal extent of watershed covered or a metric of pollutant severity addressed could be more representative of success.

Indicator: *Percent of non-Tribal facilities covered by NPDES permits that are considered current* (WQ-12a)

Annual Trends



Regional Snapshot



Findings: The national FY 2011 commitment is 88.4% current (i.e. not backlogged) permits. At mid-year, the program was reporting 89.1% of non-Tribal facilities covered by NPDES permits that are considered to be current. All regions report being on track to meet their commitments at the end of the year. Reasons for Region 8's low numbers include:

- South Dakota is having resource issues;
- Region 8 has objected to several CBM permits in WY; and
- All Region 8 States are working on updating CAFO rules before reissuing the CAFO permits

Region 8 says the resource issues are likely to continue and the CBM issue will likely not be resolved before EOY, so numbers may still be below target at that time. Reasons for Region 10's low numbers include:

- Authorization and transition issues in the state of Alaska;
- Legal antidegradation issues in Idaho; and
- Erroneous data in Washington.

Region 10 says resource issues are likely to continue and that numbers should be higher at the end of the year, when the Washington data is corrected and the Idaho issue is resolved.