

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# FY 2011 National Water Program End of Year Performance by Subobjective

The following chapters provide a summary of the progress made toward accomplishing environmental and program goals for each subobjective described in the *FY 2011 National Water Program Guidance*. Each subobjective chapter includes the following information:

- A brief summary of overall performance in 2011 and the previous four years for measures under each subobjective.
- A description of performance highlights, including what commitments were met and what factors contributed to success.
- A description of management challenges, if appropriate, identifying key factors that led to measures not being met and next steps to improve performance for the future.

Each subobjective section focuses primarily on measures with FY 2011 commitments. Indicator measures are discussed where trends significantly differ from previous year's results. Annual Commitment System (ACS) measure codes (e.g., SP-1) are provided in the text in parentheses.

## Key for Reading Performance Measure Charts and Tables

For all charts with national trend results, commitments are reflected by blue trend lines and results by vertical bars. For charts with regional FY 2011 results, a dotted line (in orange) indicates the national FY 2011 commitment for that particular measure. Although regions use the national commitment as a point of reference in setting their annual commitments, regional commitments may vary based on specific conditions within each region. Green bars in both national and regional charts identify commitments met, and red bars identify measures not met. A purple bar indicates that the Agency did not set a commitment for that year.

For the measure summary tables in each subobjective chapter, a green "up" arrow means that a measure met its FY 2011 commitment, and a red "down" arrow indicates that the annual commitment was not met. The letter "I" means that the measure is an indicator measure and did not have an annual commitment for FY 2011. Measures without data or not reporting in FY 2011 are indicated by "Data Unavailable." An "LT" symbol notes that the measure has a long-term goal and does not have an annual commitment. A gold star (★) in the past trends column highlights that the measure has met its annual commitment 100% of the time over the past four or five years. And finally, the appendix number represents the page in Appendix D (A-00) on the website where additional details about the measure can be found, and the figure number is the number of the chart in the chapter.



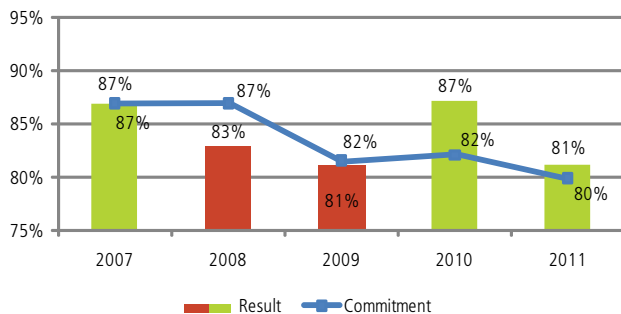
# American Indian Drinking Water and Water Quality FY 2011 Performance

## Drinking Water

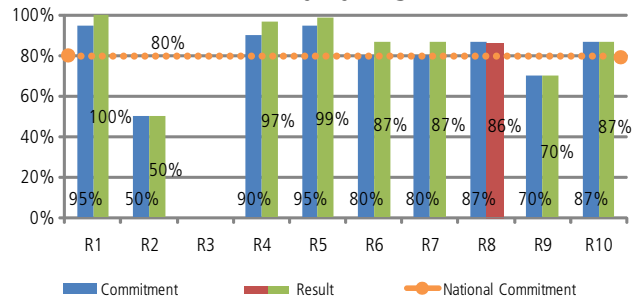
An important priority for the National Water Program is to ensure public health and environmental protection to drinking water consumers in Indian Country through sustained Public Water System (PWS) compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs). EPA's Office of Water has three measures for tracking the safety of drinking water for tribes: percent of population in Indian Country receiving safe drinking water (SP-3), number of American Indian Alaska Native homes provided access to safe drinking water (SDW-18), and the number of community water systems (CWSs) undergoing sanitary surveys (SDW-1b). EPA met two of the three commitments for these measures in FY 2011.

For the second consecutive year, EPA achieved its national target for the percentage of the population in Indian Country served by CWSs that receive drinking water meeting all applicable health-based standards (SP-3) (Figure 72). The FY 2011 universe was 918,668 people. Eight of the nine regions with SDWA direct implementation responsibility in Indian Country met or exceeded their individual SP-3 commitments in 2011 (Figure 73).

**Figure 72: Population Served by CWSs in Indian Country Trend by Fiscal Year (SP-3)**



**Figure 73: FY 2011 Population Served by CWSs in Indian Country by Region (SP-3)**



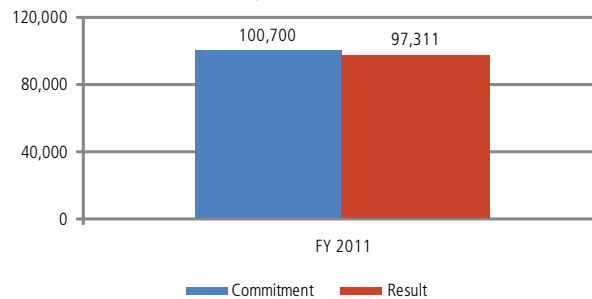
Achieving the national target is especially important considering 93% of the population in Indian Country is served by small systems (501 to 3,300 people, or 64%) and very small systems (25 to 500 people, or 29.2%) with populations under 3,300. In the United States, smaller systems generally have greater difficulty maintaining compliance with new and existing drinking water regulations compared to larger systems. EPA is striving to improve how tribes perceive the value of high-quality drinking water, as well as research potential funding sources for addressing infrastructure shortfalls by:

- Clarifying the goal and priorities for the tribal infrastructure set-asides from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan fund (DWSRF)—the Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG-TSA) program—with a focus on compliance.
- Improving the collection and analysis of data to enhance the transparency and strategic coordination of the DWIG-TSA program.
- Enhancing communication with all partners via the tribal Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) and biannual discussions with EPA regions that focus on clarifying of collected data for use in communicating program achievements.
- Reassessing the national budget allocation to ensure that funds are targeted to the strategic goals and priorities (including considerations of the influence of Alaska Native Villages on the distribution of funds).

- Updating the tribal drinking water infrastructure need as part of the EPA 2011 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey.

In its first year of reporting, EPA, in coordination with other federal agencies, fell just short of reaching its FY 2011 commitment of achieving 100,700 American Indian and Alaska Native homes with access to safe drinking water (SDW-18) (Figure 74). The FY 2011 universe was 360,000 homes.

**Figure 74: Number of American Indian and Alaska Native Homes With Access to Safe Drinking Water (SDW-18)**



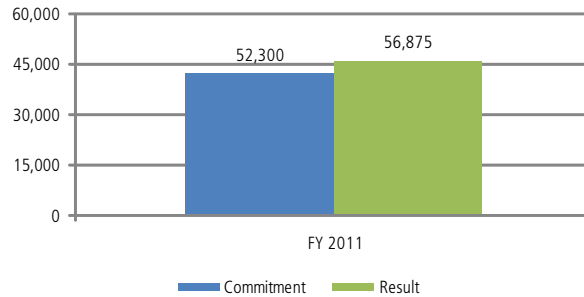
For the fifth year in a row, EPA met its annual commitment for the percent of CWSs that have received a sanitary survey within the past three years, as required under the Interim Enhanced and Long-Term I Surface Water Treatment Rules. In FY 2011, sanitary surveys were completed for 74 tribes, above the commitment of 65 (SDW-1b).

## Water Quality

The National Water Program has six measures for tracking access to basic sanitation on American Indian lands and for assessing the quality of tribal water quality programs. These include the number of American Indian and Alaska Native homes provided access to basic sanitation (WQ-24), the number of tribes with approved water quality standards (WQS) (WQ-2), the number of tribes that submitted water quality criteria acceptable to EPA (WQ-3b), the number of tribes implementing monitoring strategies (WQ-6a), the number of tribes providing water quality data in an accessible format (WQ-6b), and the percent of current tribal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits (WQ-12a). The Office of Water met its commitments for five of six of these measures in FY 2011.

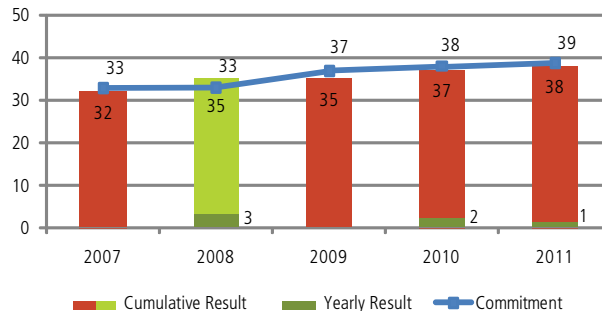
In its first year of reporting, EPA, in coordination with other federal agencies, exceeded the FY 2011 commitment by 9% by providing nearly 57,000 American Indian and Alaskan Native homes with access to basic sanitation (Figure 75). In FY 2011, EPA continued to enhance the working tribal water infrastructure relationships with the Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). EPA led the coordination of the ITF, composed of four federal agencies and tribal representatives, in addressing the extreme infrastructure needs in Indian Country. Challenges remain, given that 12% of tribal homes are without water and/or wastewater service, compared to 0.6% of non-tribal homes. The FY 2011 universe was 383,674 homes.

**Figure 75: Number of American Indian and Alaska Native Homes With Access to Basic Sanitation (WQ-24)**



EPA is committed to assisting any tribe interested in adopting WQS under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and tracks progress through measure WQ-2. Meeting the eligibility criteria and developing the detailed standards can be a challenge for tribes and often requires time and collaboration with EPA. Not all tribes can meet the criteria, and some do not desire WQS authority. For this measure, therefore, the universe reflects all federally recognized tribes that have applied for “treatment in the same manner as a state” (TAS) to administer the WQS program (as of September 2009). In FY 2011, EPA approved standards for 38 tribes, falling short of the annual goal of 39. The universe of tribes is 62 (Figure 76).

**Figure 76: Number of Tribes With EPA-Approved WQS (WQ-2)**

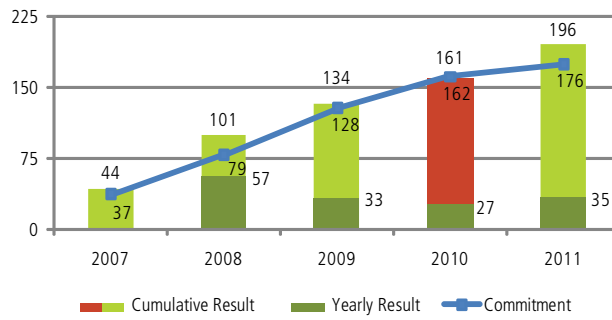


Tribes continue to develop and implement their ambient water quality monitoring strategies. In FY 2011, 196 tribes that are currently receiving funding under CWA Section 106 have developed and begun implementing monitoring strategies. This is an increase of 35 tribes over the FY 2010 results and is well above the FY 2011 commitment of 176 tribes (WQ-6a) (Figure 77). The universe for this measure is 261 tribes. The result was higher than expected due to an increase in the number of monitoring strategies developed and implemented in Region 9. The region’s accomplishment is a reflection of its efforts in conducting face-to-face trainings and workshops focused on writing and developing monitoring strategies for their CWA programs. For the first time, the Quality Assurance Office in Region 9 was able to travel to Indian Country and provide regional trainings in FY 2011.

One of the most important factors contributing to the success of tribal monitoring and assessment programs is improved tools for data submission. Against the FY 2011 commitment of 130, a total of 176 tribes are providing water quality data in a format accessible for storage in EPA’s data system (WQ-6b). With additional training assistance, as well as clarification regarding appropriate criteria for reporting on the measure, Regions 6 and 9 added many new tribes to the count for WQ-6b.

In previous years, EPA and other federal agencies have struggled to meet their annual commitments for keeping tribal NPDES permits current. In FY 2011, permits for 86.5% of tribal facilities were considered current, slightly above the national goal of 84% (WQ-12b) (Figure 78). The universe is 412 tribal facilities.

**Figure 77: CWA Section 106-Funded Tribes With Monitoring Strategies (WQ-6a)**



**Figure 78: Percent of Tribal Facilities Covered by Current NPDES Permits (WQ-12b)**

