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Stakeholder Meeting on EPA's Development of New or Revised Recreational Water Quality Criteria

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Background

- Experts Workshop (March 2007)
- Report from Experts Workshop (June 2007)
- Stakeholder Meeting (February 2008)
 - Explained what was in the Critical Path Science Plan (CPSP)
 - Reported on progress of research
 - Solicited early input on research areas (e.g., inland waters), desired attributes of the criteria, and options for stakeholder involvement
- Settlement of Lawsuit (August 2008)
 - Research studies by December 2010
 - New or revised criteria by Oct 2012
- BEACH Act Reauthorization
 - Senate version (S 878) sent to full Senate for consideration
 - House version (HR 2093) passed on July 29, 2009.

Development of Today's Agenda

- Scoping calls with several stakeholder groups to get input on what they would like to hear from EPA.
 - Status of research
 - EPA's current thinking on key issues
 - Impact of settlement and pending legislation on criteria development

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Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Provide update on progress of activities
- Discuss steps we have taken to date to develop the new or revised criteria
- Seek your input on key issues and possible elements of the new criteria
- Provide a plan for stakeholder involvement during criteria development

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Accomplishments Since 2008 Stakeholder Meeting

- Settled Lawsuit
- Conducted study to identify sites and initiated 2 epidemiological studies
- Conducted study to identify sites for QMRA for waters impacted by agriculture animals
- Initiated reanalysis of archived samples from previous epidemiological studies
- Continued validation and refinement of models
- Initiated single lab validation of 2 methods
- Co-hosted Inland Waters Expert Workshop
- Refined sanitary survey tools
- Completed literature reviews and other background projects to set the foundation to develop criteria

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Future Opportunities for Dialogue

- Stakeholder Meeting October 2010
 - EPA will update stakeholders on progress made in completing studies and framing the issues associated with the development of the new or revised criteria and allow interested stakeholders to comment.
- Stakeholder Meeting in 2011
 - EPA will provide an opportunity for interested stakeholders to comment on EPA's evaluation, synthesis, summarization and statistical analysis of the studies and development of options for the overall structure and content of the recreational water quality criteria that EPA will publish in 2012.
- Communication Plan
 - To be presented tomorrow

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For More Information

- EPA's Rec Criteria and Beach Web Pages
 - www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/recreation
 - Experts Scientific Workshop Report and Executive Summary
 - Critical Path Science Plan
 - Criteria Development Plan & Schedule
 - Consent Decree & Settlement Agreement
 - Literature reviews
 - Stakeholder meeting summaries
 - www.epa.gov/beaches
 - BEACH Act text
 - Grants information
 - Beach Guidance Document
 - Local beach information
 - www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/humanhealth/microbial/#wqs
 - BEACH Act rule
 - Technical fact sheets

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