Background

EPA is revising the Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act (Section 106 Tribal Guidance). More information about EPA’s revision process can be found on the CWA Section 106 Revision website.

We are forming sub-work groups to draft the revised Guidance and we are seeking tribal participation.

How can I participate?

There are a variety of ways you can participate:
- Volunteer to be a sub-work group member
- Take part in listening sessions to share your input

Later in the year, we will request:
- Success stories about Section 106 programs
- Photos related to Section 106 programs

Who can volunteer to participate in the revision process?

We are looking for tribal staff with experience in a Section 106 program and a desire to be involved in the Guidance revision process. You can be from any type of Section 106 program (new, established, large or small).

What would participation on a sub-work group look like?

You would be expected to participate in scheduled calls and provide input throughout the revision process. Depending on the needs of each sub-work group, you will contribute by developing or reviewing drafts. Each sub-work group member will have an equal opportunity for input and participation. You can expect to participate from now until the Guidance is finalized.

What sub-work group opportunities are available?

Each sub-work group will revise one of the following sections of the Guidance according to EPA’s internal work group recommendations and the tribal feedback received during the first comment period.

- **Program Development**: Will explain how to initiate and grow a Section 106 program and introduce the foundational activities associated with a Section 106 program.
- **Program Implementation**: Will provide information about monitoring activities and performing assessments.
- **Reporting**: Will identify additional flexibilities for reporting frequencies and the criteria for issuing temporary WQX electronic data submission waivers.
- **Expanding Section 106 Funded Water Quality Programs**: Will describe options for expanding a Section 106 program to apply for and implement water quality standards, Section 401, Listing and TMDLs, and NPDES authorities.
- **Other EPA Programs**: Will explain how to leverage funds and activities across other EPA funding programs (e.g., Section 319, Wetlands, GAP, MPG).

Approximately 25 sub-work group member spaces will be available for tribal staff. You will be invited to join a sub-work group based on your preference and the needs of each sub-work group.

How do I volunteer to be on a sub-work group?

Contact Jennifer Wintersteen. Please briefly describe your Section 106 program, your role, and your sub-work group preference(s). Please contact Jennifer by May 14, 2021.

Wintersteen.Jennifer@epa.gov, (406) 457-5006

For More Information: Visit the CWA Section 106 Revision website or contact your Regional Tribal Coordinator

Goals for the Tribal Guidance Revision

- Develop clear, comprehensive, updated, and succinct language that is relevant and applicable to tribes
- Describe the Section 106 program and provide context around the CWA generally
- Describe the benefits of water quality program development and implementation
- Provide practical guidance in program implementation
- Provide consistent messaging on national program requirements to help tribes more effectively negotiate workplans with EPA