

**Summary of Early Engagement with States and Tribes
on the FY 2016-2017 National Water Program Guidance**

Office of Water

October 31, 2014

The Office of Water initiated the early engagement with states and tribes in July with a letter via email on July 18 from the DAA to state and tribal associations, requesting comments on water priorities, performance measures, and subobjective/program strategies. The request provided links to the FY 2014 NWPG full narrative and FY 2015 NWPG Addendum as reference points for making comments. The Office of Water followed this request with states and tribes in existing meetings:

- State-EPA Workgroup on July 23rd
- National Tribal Water Council – EPA Monthly Call on August 20th

A request was also sent out by email to tribal partners and EPA regional Indian Coordinators on September 4th. OW coordinated with other NPMs on cross media comments. A set of water comments were coordinated with OECA.

Comments were requested by September 15th. Ten organizations provided comments:

- Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA)
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Delaware Center for the Inland Bays
- Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
- Hualapai Department of Natural Resources
- National Tribal Water Council
- National Tribal Toxics Council, via Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Northern Arizona University (via OECA)
- Navajo EPA
- RTOC Region 10
- Washington Department of Ecology

The comments range between general, cross program to specific program and measures:

- Suggestions on changes to water priorities
- Specific questions on water programs
- Suggestions on resources
- Requests for inclusion of new information and clarification
- Changes to performance measures

The comments have been reviewed by water subobjective leads and regions to provide clarification and consider and/or incorporated in the FY 2016-2017 NWPG. Specific actions are noted for the development of the draft NWPG.