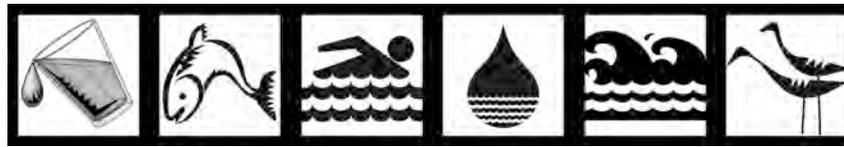


Link to National Guidance  
On EPA's Website



## **REGION 8 GUIDANCE FOR WATER PROGRAMS**

### ***FISCAL YEAR 2013***

The *National Water Program Guidance* describes, in general terms, the work that needs to be done in FY 2013 to reach the public health and water quality goals that are proposed in the EPA *2011-2015 Strategic Plan*. The *Office of Water National Program Guidance for FY 12* is posted on the internet at <http://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/> and it reflects the priorities of the EPA Administrator and the EPA Strategic Plan 2011-2015 as well as, the two Office of Water themes: Sustainable Communities and Healthy Watersheds.

In a letter to the States, dated December 20, 2010, the Directors of the four EPA water programs (Water Program, Water Technical Enforcement Program, Ecosystems Protection Program and Montana Office) made a commitment to focus more holistically on water issues and priorities within each state. EPA and each state are holding ongoing discussions to identify water program priorities individual to that state and determine how the Region and the state can work together to focus on those priorities.

As in past years, this *Region 8 Guidance for Water Programs* and the *Office of Water National Program Guidance* serves as the kick-off for EPA and State partners to begin discussion for Performance Partnership Agreements (PPAs) and grant work plans to be implemented in Federal Fiscal year FY 2013. This *Region 8 Guidance for Water Programs* covers areas of emphasis, including measures, from the national program guidance, but it does not detract from the ongoing State-EPA conversations on priorities. Our conversations are meant to find a common ground on our highest priorities which will be reflected in the final grant work plans/PPA, and ultimately lead to greater environmental improvements.

## ***Goal 2: Protecting America's Waters***

### ***Objective 2.1: Protect Public Health***

#### ***Sub-Objective 2.1.1: Water Safe to Drink***

### **Source Water Assessment and Protection Program**

***1 of 1 Page***

States should continue to implement active Source Water Protection (SWP) programs in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and EPA's National Strategic Plan.

| <b>PAM</b>   | <b>PAM EXPLANATION</b>   | <b>EXPECTATIONS FOR STATES</b>  |
|--|--|---|
| Strategic Target SP-4<br>Minimize risk to public health through source water protection. Minimized risk is defined as substantial implementation (as defined by state) of actions in a source water protection plan or strategy. | The regional target(s) for SP-4 (a) and (b) for FY13 is 39% of regional Community Water Systems meeting the measure, and 37% of population. This measure is a state grant template measure | All states are required to report on achievement at the end of the FY. Each state is expected to contribute meaningfully toward achievement of the regional target.<br>States are expected to maintain staffing for the SWP program, and to commit to the following activities in the PPA in support of SP-4:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Annually report</b> SWP Program progress as fully as possible by the end of September of each year; at a minimum this reporting will address the percentage of systems and population served achieving minimized risk through substantial implementation of SWP plans. It is also advantageous to submit a brief narrative statement that explains the progress for SWP program.</li> <li>• <b>Provide technical and programmatic assistance</b> to Public Water Systems, communities, and other entities working on local SWP issues.</li> <li>• <b>Provide technical assistance</b> to support Public Water Systems development and implementation of SWP Plans.</li> <li>• <b>Provide technical assistance</b> for the completion of Source Water Assessments for <u>new</u> water sources or systems.</li> <li>• <b>Coordinate as needed with other state programs</b> such as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, technical service providers such as National Rural Water state affiliates, and with EPA Region 8.</li> </ul> |

### **Ground-Water Program**

| <b>ACTION</b>  | <b>EXPLANATION</b>   | <b>EXPECTATIONS FOR STATES</b>   |
|--|--|--|
| State, Tribal and Federal water resource management agencies need to effectively manage all ground-water resources in a way that promotes sustainable use of the resource and protects vital ecological resources that rely on ground-water discharge. | Within Region 8, ground-water uses have increased significantly during the past decade. Many areas within the Region rely heavily on ground water to supply domestic, irrigation and municipal needs. Large areas within Region 8 have experienced a significant drought. Global climate change is likely to increase the frequency and severity of droughts. This will result in significant decrease in annual recharge to critical aquifers. The combination of increased use of ground-water and decreased recharge makes it imperative to bring a renewed emphasis to the comprehensive management of ground-water resources. | Region 8's Ecosystem Protection Program requests that the States address the following activities in their 2013 Performance Partnership Agreement:<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and /or continue to implement statewide ground-water monitoring programs</li> <li>- Continue work on mapping and characterizing major and minor aquifers, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and other critical hydrogeologic resources within each State</li> <li>- Assess the status of State ground-water management activities and increase coordination among State agencies that are responsible for ground-water management.-</li> <li>- Submit a brief narrative describing major groundwater accomplishments, including studies and mapping. This can be done as an email to your state coordinator.</li> </ul> |

## **Goal 2: Protecting America's Waters**

### **Objective 2.2: Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis**

*Subobjective 2.2.1: Use pollution prevention and restoration approaches to protect and restore the quality of rivers, lakes, and streams on a watershed basis.*

In FY 2013, EPA Region 8 and the States will continue to effectively implement and better integrate programs established under the Clean Water Act to protect, improve, and restore water quality on a watershed basis. In support of Goal 2, protecting and restoring water quality on a watershed basis continues to be one of four National Water Program priorities for FY 2013. Under the watershed approach, focusing on the needs of a watershed or an individual water body allows us to bring to bear those programs and partners necessary to support protection, improvement, or restoration of water quality. There are three environmental outcome measures under the Watershed Subobjective, strategic targets WQ-SP10.N11, SP-11, and WQ-SP12.N11. Continuing in FY 2013, States are expected to set individual goals to support the National FY 2013 goals for these Strategic Targets, and to make specific, numeric commitments annually to demonstrate progress toward those goals.

### **Strategic Targets**

| PAM  | PAM EXPLANATION   | EXPECTATIONS FOR STATES   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>WQ-SP10.N11 - Full Waterbody Restoration - Number of waterbodies identified in 2002* as not attaining water quality standards where standards are now fully attained.(cumulative)</p> | <p>SP-10 is required in the State Grant Template for CWA 106 water quality management programs. It is the sole strategic target identified during the 2005 OMB Program Accountability Rating Tool (PART) review of the EPA surface water quality program and state CWA 106 grant program. Consequently, this measure remains one of high visibility and significance.</p> <p>This measure cumulatively tracks the number of waterbodies listed as impaired in 2002 (or 1998 if 2002 303(d) list is unavailable) where water quality standards are now attained due to one of the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water no longer is impaired because of restoration activities (i.e. water now meets water quality standards based on the current assessment methodology.)</li> <li>2. Water reassessed - shown to be meeting water quality standards (based on current assessment methodology).</li> <li>3. Original basis for 303(d) listing is incorrect; water meets water quality standard (i.e. waterbody was not truly impaired).</li> <li>4. Change in WQS assessment methodology, water now meets water quality standard based on a reassessment using the new/revised assessment methodology.</li> <li>5. Water originally listed as threatened but has continued to meet water quality standards and is no longer considered threatened.</li> </ol> | <p>EPA R8 uses a biannual targeting and reporting cycle for measures SP-10 and SP-11 to reflect the biannual integrated reporting cycle. During odd numbered PPA years, states are not required to submit an integrated report to EPA, therefore, states will only be expected to provide an estimated target in PPAs for these measures during these years. However, during even numbered PPA years, states are required to submit an integrated report to EPA and therefore states will also be expected to include a commitment for measures SP-10 and SP-11 in their PPA agreements. <u>Since FY2013 is an odd numbered (i.e. non-IR report) fiscal year, states only need to provide an estimated value for this measure in their FY2013 PPA agreements.</u></p> <p>This target should be set to reflect the cumulative number of waterbodies expected to qualify as “Fully Restored” <u>as defined in SP-10</u>, and measured against the 2002 integrated report (or combined 303(d) and 305(b) reports). The baseline for this measure consists water bodies identified by states or EPA as not meeting water quality standards in 2002. <u>This includes all waters in categories 5, 4a, 4b, and 4c in 2002.</u> Impairments identified after 2002 are not considered in counting waters under this measure; such impairments will be considered when revising this measure for future updates of the Strategic Plan.</p> |

| PAM  | PAM EXPLANATION  | EXPECTATIONS FOR STATES   |
|--|--|---|
|  | <p>6. Change in WQS; data shows that water meets new WQS based on current assessment methodology.</p> <p><a href="http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/goals_objectives/waterplan/pamsfy11_index.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/goals_objectives/waterplan/pamsfy11_index.cfm</a></p>   |   |
| <p>SP-11 - Partial Waterbody Restoration - Remove the specific causes of waterbody impairment identified by states in 2002*. (cumulative)</p>    | <p>Remove specific causes of waterbody impairment identified by states in 2002. This measure reflects improvement of water quality by cumulatively tracking the number of specific waterbody impairment causes removed by states in subsequent Integrated Reporting cycles.</p> <p>Whereas the Full Restoration measure (SP-10) tracks the number of waterbodies for which <u>all</u> impairments have been addressed, SP-11 tracks progress in restoring water quality by counting the number of specific impairments addressed. Two impairments restored on the same waterbody would count as two toward this measure. Progress for this measure is counted cumulatively against the 2002 integrated reports. The baseline for SP-11 includes all individual impairments for waterbodies segments included in categories 5, 4a, 4b, and 4c as of 2002 (or 1998 if in 2002 such data was not available).</p> <p><a href="http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/goals_objectives/waterplan/pamsfy11_index.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/goals_objectives/waterplan/pamsfy11_index.cfm</a></p> | <p>EPA R8 uses a biannual targeting and reporting cycle for measures SP-10 and SP-11 to reflect the biannual integrated reporting cycle. During odd numbered PPA years, states are not required to submit an integrated report to EPA, therefore, states will only be expected to provide an estimated target in PPAs for these measures during these years. However, during even numbered PPA years, states are required to submit an integrated report to EPA and therefore states will also be expected to include a commitment for measures SP-10 and SP-11 in their PPA agreements. <u>Since FY2013 is an odd numbered (i.e. non-IR report) fiscal year, states only need to provide an estimated value for this measure in their FY2013 PPA agreements.</u></p> |
| <p>WQ-SP12.N11 - Watershed Improvement<br/>Improve water quality conditions in impaired watersheds using the watershed approach (cumulative)</p> | <p>This measure cumulatively tracks the number of impaired watersheds (12-digit HUCs) identified as priority watersheds where water quality is improved through restoration as a result of applying the watershed approach. A full description of the measure can be found at: <a href="http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/goals_objectives/waterplan/def_wq11.cfm#SP-12">http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/goals_objectives/waterplan/def_wq11.cfm#SP-12</a></p>   | <p>Each year states are expected include a numeric annual commitment for SP-12 in their PPA (and/or Staffing &amp; Support 319 Grant) that demonstrates progress toward the goal, and to report against that annual commitment. The Region 8 cumulative target for SP-12 for 2013 is 43 12-digit HUC watersheds (6 new watersheds for 2013). Reporting under SP-12 requires the development of a narrative using a provided template that describes the use of the watershed approach that led to delisting of water bodies from the 303(d) list or to show the documented improving water quality trends that are watershed wide (in lieu of delisting).</p>   |

| PAM  | PAM Explanation   | Expectations for States   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>WQ-1a : 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).</p>         | <p>Criteria are for eutrophication endpoints. Numeric translators for TN and TP will be counted in this measure if they are binding upon section 303(d) assessments, TMDLs, and NPDES permits, and have been adopted as water quality standards and approved by EPA under section 303(c). Response variables are not considered translators for this purpose. Universe for Region 8 is 24. Universe for each State is 4 (TN Lake, TN River, TP Lake, TP River).</p> | <p>The Region’s expectation is that States will continue to make progress towards adoption of numeric nutrient criteria. The Region does not expect any States to meet this measure in FY 2013.</p> |
| <p>WQ-1b (New): Number of numeric water quality standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus at least proposed in draft 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).</p> |   | <p>[LG1]None – PAM deleted in FY2013</p>  |
| <p>WQ-1c (New): 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.)</p>                     |   | <p>None – PAM deleted in FY2013</p>   |

| PAM   | PAM Explanation   | Expectations for States  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>WQ-3a: #, and national %, of States and Territories that within the preceding three year period, submitted new or revised water quality criteria acceptable to EPA that reflect new scientific information from EPA or other resources not considered in the previous standards.</p>   | <p>State/Territory has submitted new or revised criteria, between May 1, 2010 and April 30, 2013, reflecting new criteria/guidance from EPA or other resources (e.g., criteria derived by State/Territory based on original work).</p>  | <p>The Region's expectation is that four States will qualify to be counted under this PAM. CO, MT, ND and UT have already adopted new or revised WQS that can be counted. The Region will work with all States to develop appropriate revisions to WQS.</p>  |
| <p>WQ-4a: % of State and Territorial WQS submissions (received in the 12 month period ending April 30<sup>th</sup> of the fiscal year) that are approved by EPA.</p>  | <p>Covers all WQS submissions between May 1, 2010 and April 30, 2011 that are approved by September 30, 2011. The measure addresses the % of all submissions approved by EPA. No action or disapprovals do not count, but partial credit is counted (e.g., if 90% of the WQS revisions are approved).</p>   | <p>A Regional priority is to work with States/Territories during the pre-rulemaking phase as well as during the rulemaking in an attempt to ensure adopted WQS are approvable. Occasionally, however, States/Territories will adopt WQS that the Region finds to be inconsistent with federal requirements. In such cases, disapproval is appropriate. Because the Region cannot anticipate total agreement on all aspects of revised WQS, the Regional commitment is 79% for this PAM. Nevertheless, our <u>goal</u> is 100% approvability.</p> |
| <p>WQ-26 (New): Number of states making strong progress toward reducing nitrogen and phosphorus pollution by setting priorities on a watershed or state-wide basis, establishing nutrient reduction targets, and continuing to make progress (and provide performance milestone information to EPA) on adoption of numeric nutrient criteria for at least one class of waters by no later than 2016. (cumulative)</p> | <p>This measure tracks [LG2] certain key actions that States can take to address nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the nation's waters. It tracks three of the eight concepts articulated in an EPA policy memorandum issued by Acting Assistant Administrator Nancy K. Stoner on March 16, 2011, entitled <i>Working in Partnership with States to Address Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution through Use of a Framework for State Nutrient Reductions</i>. The three concepts tracked in this measure include 1) priority setting, 2) setting nutrient reduction targets in each targeted/priority sub-watershed, and 3) developing nutrient criteria. Partial credit will be given to States as they address each of the three concepts.</p> | <p>The Region's expectation is that States will continue to make progress towards addressing nutrient pollution. The Region does not expect any States to meet this measure in FY 2013.</p>  |

**Additional FY 2013 Water Quality Standards Guidance...**

**(1) Unresolved EPA Disapproval Actions** - The Region expects States with unresolved disapprovals to amend their standards, as necessary, to resolve the disapprovals. \*  
*A Regional priority is to make every effort to avoid situations that will require EPA to disapprove, and explore options to resolve, in a timely manner, any EPA disapprovals that cannot be avoided. Effective communication during the pre-rulemaking stage is very important.*

(2) Nutrients - The Region is working with to adopt numerical nutrient criteria (or narratives with implementation plans) or to develop plans to adopt State- derived nutrient criteria. *\* Regional priority is to provide technical and resource assistance to support states preparing for criteria adoption (Colorado, Montana) in the short-term. When available, additional resources will focus on states actively implementing their nutrient criteria plans or on supporting multi-state data analysis efforts that accelerate the pace of establishing nutrient thresholds by expanding the datasets and encouraging the exchange of information.*

(3) Updated Criteria for Toxic and Conventional Pollutants - The Region expects States to revise criteria values to be consistent with the most recently published EPA recommendations (see <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/wqctable/>) or State- derived, defensible alternatives.

(4) Endangered Species Act - The Region encourages States to solicit early participation by the Fish and Wildlife Service in reviewing draft water quality standards proposals, particularly for segments with occurrences of federally listed species. To the extent feasible, the Region encourages States to address issues related to the protection of threatened and endangered species as amendments to the standards are being developed (i.e., during the pre-rulemaking phase). We would like a commitment from each State stating that the Service will be notified of planned WQS revisions (i.e., ensure the Service is on the States'/Tribes' mailing lists) and that the Service will receive drafts of proposed amendments when those are available for public review.

(5) Refined “Fishable/Swimmable” Designated Uses - A longer term goal is that States refine, as needed, their aquatic life and recreational uses (including creation of new categories where appropriate) to more precisely describe the aquatic communities and recreational uses that are to be protected. *\* Several States have begun work on use refinement, but generally this is a longer-term goal that is associated with a number of challenging obstacles. For example, applying a refined designated use scheme (including new categories) requires site-specific information so that proposed use revisions are supported by evidence. UAAs are required where a site-specific change in designated use is accompanied by adoption of less stringent criteria (e.g., a change to less stringent dissolved oxygen or temperature criteria). \* A short term Regional priority is to work with States/Tribes on UAA approaches and implementation aimed at refining the level of protection, where appropriate, on a site-specific basis.*

(6) Action on Submittals - The Region will act on WQS submittals in a timely manner. *\* Regional priority is to complete action on 100% of submissions within statutory time frames.*

## **Improve Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment**

*Page 1 of 2 pages*

EPA Office of Water's monitoring and assessment guidance is contained in numerous documents, including, Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program, Integrated Reporting Guidance, Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology, and the 106 Program Guidance and the Monitoring Initiative Guidance. These documents can be found on EPA's web site at:

[http://water.epa.gov/type/watershed/monitoring/monitoring\\_index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/type/watershed/monitoring/monitoring_index.cfm)

<http://water.epa.gov/type/watershed/monitoring/repguid.cfm>

In addition to the continuation of core monitoring and assessment business, the areas of focus for FY13 should be on:

| <b>PAM</b>   | <b>PAM EXPLANATION</b>   | <b><i>EXPECTATIONS FOR STATES</i></b>  |
|--|--|--|
| <u>WQ-5</u> Number of States and Territories that have adopted and are implementing their monitoring strategies in keeping with established schedules.   | Each of the Region 8 States has submitted a monitoring and assessment program strategy.  | Region 8 strongly encourages States to review the strategies annually and, if necessary, update these documents to identify any programmatic shortcomings or gaps.<br><br>Additionally, Region 8 encourages States to follow the Monitoring Initiative Guidance in order to obtain supplemental funds that address both monitoring strategy-identified needs and participation in the National Rivers & Streams Assessment (FY 2013).<br><br>Prior to submitting their 106 Monitoring Initiative workplans, states should review their monitoring strategies to ensure that any activities identified for 106 MI funds are described in the State's monitoring strategy. |
| <u>WQ-7</u> Number of States and Territories that provide electronic information using the Assessment Database version 2 or later (or compatible system) and georeference the information to facilitate the integrated reporting of assessment data. | This action will improve the accuracy of the hard copy report and the electronic database and will minimize delays in providing the complete IR submittal (which includes the ADB and GIS files) to EPA. | Region 8 strongly encourages states to prepare for the upcoming 2014 IR reporting cycle by reviewing and updating their assessment methodologies, strategies, and other associated work. The states should then apply their methodologies in the performance of water quality assessments.<br><br>States should plan their activities for assessments and IR reporting so that they will meet the April 1, 2014 submittal date for the 2014 IR.  |

| <b>Action</b>   | <b>Explanation</b>  | <b>Expectation for State</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| Continued implementation of state monitoring and assessment strategies                  | The focus on implementation of state monitoring and assessment strategies may require states to revisit their monitoring strategies.  | <p>EPA encourages States to review and revise their Assessment Methodologies.</p> <p>Region 8 strongly encourages States to make strategy revisions that satisfy 106 Monitoring Initiative requirements and address all waters of the state, including wetlands and ground water.</p> <p>Region 8 staff will continue to meet with State monitoring and assessment staff to ensure agreement on state monitoring and assessment priorities.</p>   |
| Preparation for the 2014 Integrated Report and electronic data (ADB and GIS) submittals | Preparation will help ensure that States will be able to meet EPA's April 1 <sup>st</sup> deadline for the 2014 Integrated Reports  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin planning for development of the 2014 IR</li> <li>2. Work with Region 8 State Monitoring Coordinator to identify and resolve any issues that may delay the submittal of the 2014 report.</li> <li>3. Continue to meet with EPA monitoring and assessment staff on achieving quality Integrated Report and electronic submittals.</li> <li>4. Revise State assessment methodologies for use in the 2013/2014 assessments.</li> </ol>  |
| Use of the 106 Monitoring Initiative funds  | Clean Water Act Section 106 Supplemental Monitoring Initiative (MI) funds requires that states have a monitoring strategy that is consistent with EPA's FY06 <i>Guidelines for the Award of Monitoring Initiative Funds under Section 106 Grants to States, Interstate Agencies, and Tribes</i> | <p>Region 8 would like States to use the 106 Monitoring Initiative funds to implement the priorities identified in their monitoring strategies.</p> <p>To meet the minimum 106 Monitoring Initiative requirements, state strategies should include:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">An accurate description of the State's current monitoring and assessment activities</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A clear identification of improvements that would strengthen the State's monitoring and assessment program. The improvements may relate directly to monitoring efforts or may address programmatic needs noted in other elements of the strategy (e.g., data management, data analysis, assessment methodologies).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A prioritized list of improvements and an established schedule for addressing the improvements, reflective of their ranking. We recognize a more generalized schedule may be provided for activities planned beyond a five-year period.</p> <p>For States to maintain their eligibility to receive the 'implementation of monitoring strategies component of their 106 Monitoring Initiative funding allocation, states must:</p> <p>Implement a state-wide probability monitoring and assessment of at least one water resource type. The monitoring effort should be based on a minimum of 50 probability sites and reporting of the assessment shall be through the Integrated Report.</p> |

| <b>PAM</b>  | <b>PAM EXPLANATION</b>   | <b><i>EXPECTATIONS FOR STATES</i></b>  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>WQ-8b - Number, and national percent, of TMDLs that are established by States and approved by EPA [State TMDLs] on a schedule consistent with national policy.</b> | Water quality restoration planning through the development of TMDL plans continues to be a major EPA focus. This measure is required in the State Grant Template (attached) for CWA 106 water quality management programs. TMDL development pace tracks the annual number of TMDLs that are established by states consistent with the national policy that all waterbody/pollutant combinations need to be addressed within 8 to 13 years of originally being listed. An overriding factor may be the need for a particular state to stay compliant with a court order, consent decree, or settlement agreement derived from litigation.   | States are expected to report the calculated FY13 TMDL pace number, establish a FY13 TMDL development commitment in their PPA, and report out the actual number of TMDLs developed and submitted to EPA for approval by the end of the fiscal year (September, 30 2013). |
| <b>(WQ-21) Restoration Planning Complete – Removed for FY13</b>   | In FY 2013, EPA will no longer request states and EPA regions to report on the number of impaired water segments where restoration planning is complete (formally referred to as WQ-21). However, the completion of planning remains an essential, intermediate step toward full restoration of a waterbody and can be documented more quickly than actual waterbody improvement. The 303(d) Listing and TMDL Program will engage with states on a 10-year vision discussion for the program. As part of this effort, the program will also develop new measures to better measure the success of the program in line with the outcome of the vision effort. It is anticipated that new measures would be ready for public comment by FY 2014. | Participate in or follow the 10-year visioning efforts aimed at developing new measures to measure success of the program.   |
| <b>TMDL Program</b> (general expectation, no associated PAM measure)  | State water quality programs are expected to coordinate efforts to ensure the inclusion of specific TMDL waste load allocations into applicable NPDES point source permit effluent discharge limits.   | State water quality programs are expected to coordinate efforts to ensure the inclusion of specific TMDL waste load allocations into applicable NPDES point source permit effluent discharge limits.   |

Region 8 strongly encourages States to maintain active and effective Non-Point Source (NPS) Programs in accordance with EPA’s Strategic Plan and CWA Section 319. The State NPS program should continue to focus on restoring waters impaired by NPS pollution, and should be used by the states as a cornerstone in restoring impaired water bodies and watersheds. EPA will continue to work with the states toward this end.

The priority objective for the use of CWA Section 319 grant funds is to implement the state nonpoint source program expeditiously to achieve the goals of the CWA, including the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. To achieve this objective, EPA places top priority on implementing on-the-ground measures and practices that will reduce pollutant loads and contribute to the restoration of impaired waters. The Program Activity Measures (PAMs) described below achieve this objective by directing the use of Section 319 funds to the development and implementation of watershed-based plans that are designed to restore waters that have been listed by States as impaired under CWA Section 303(d).

| <b>PAM</b>  | <b>PAM EXPLANATION</b>   | <b><i>EXPECTATIONS FOR STATES</i></b>  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><u>WQ-9 (a,b,c)</u> Estimated annual reduction in million of pounds of phosphorus and nitrogen and in tons of sediment from nonpoint sources to water bodies (Section 319-funded projects only).</p> | <p>EPA collects this information in its Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) for Section 319-funded on-the-ground implementation projects where one or more of these three pollutants is addressed by the project. States are not strictly required to enter this information into GRTS until after one full year of project implementation, although they may enter data prior to the one-year period if they so choose. Therefore, load reduction data entered into GRTS in a particular year usually reflect the results of a project that was implemented during a previous grant year. Load reduction data must be entered into GRTS by February 15-</p> <p>EPA HQ will <b>report</b> this information <b>on a national basis</b> based on data entry in GRTS.</p> | <p>States are required to enter this information into GRTS after one full year of project implementation.</p>  |
| <p><u>WQ-10</u><br/>Water bodies identified by States (in 2000 or subsequent years) as being primarily NPS-impaired that will be partially or fully restored (cumulative).</p>                          | <p>This measure cumulatively tracks water quality improvements on a water body basis and is the main environmental outcome measure for the NPS program. A more detailed description of this measure and reporting guidance is available at: <a href="http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319/info.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319/info.cfm</a> For a water to be counted as “partially or fully restored” under this measure, it must be described as as Success Story on EPA’s NPS Success Story Website (<a href="http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/Success319/">http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/Success319/</a>). The guidance includes information on preparing and submitting Success Story writeups.</p>  | <p>States are expected to make numeric commitments for WQ-10 in their PPA and/or Section 319 grant workplan, and to develop Success Story narratives using the WQ-10 guidance to support WQ-10 submittals. The Region 8 target for WQ-10 for 2013 is 28 water bodies (4 new water-body Success Stories for 2013). State commitments are expected to meaningfully support this regional target.</p> |

| ACTION  | EXPLANATION  | EXPECTATIONS FOR STATES   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Given the increasing budget pressure and scrutiny directed at water quality programs, it is important that states and EPA evaluate the overall effectiveness of Region 8 Nonpoint Source programs at protecting threatened waters and improving the quality of impaired waters.</p> | <p>The framework for program evaluation should be designed to answer questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do funded projects align well with the location and type of water quality impairments; in other words, is the solution appropriate to the problem?</li> <li>• Are measures of effectiveness for information and education efforts capable of assessing and documenting behavior change?</li> <li>• What percentage of completed projects have post-project environmental monitoring done to assess whether projected load reductions were achieved and expected water quality improvement occurred?</li> <li>• Is effectiveness monitoring addressed as a component of the state monitoring strategy?</li> <li>• Are funds expended in a timely way prior to the closing of project/budget periods?</li> </ul> <p>The 2004 guidance provide States with a framework to use Section 319 grant funds in a manner that will implement their NPS management programs effectively. EPA HQ will be performing a review of the 319 program in 2011 at the request of OMB, with support from Region 8. In addition, GAO is also reviewing the 319 program in 2011. This information can be used by states to support their own internal reviews of their programs. Region 8 will be working with the states to move forward with program effectiveness evaluations over the FY2011-12 time frame.</p> | <p>States should consider developing a comprehensive framework for program evaluation that complies with Section(s) 319(h) 2, 8 and 11, and Section 319(1) of the Clean Water Act. Based on the results of the studies, EPA will engage the states in developing recommendations on program revisions, as appropriate, to improve program accountability and ensure that states are using cost-effective approaches to protect and restore their waters.</p>            |
| <p>2. To increase focus on protecting, maintaining, and conserving our nation’s remaining healthy waters, EPA has launched a proactive approach called the Healthy Watersheds Initiative (HWI).</p>   | <p>The goal of the HWI is to maintain and protect a healthy watershed “infrastructure” of habitat, biotic communities, water chemistry, and intact watershed processes such as hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, and natural disturbance regimes. These healthy, functioning watersheds provide the ecological infrastructure that anchor water quality restoration efforts. For FY 2013, EPA will finalize and implement its National Strategy, including a Healthy Watersheds Strategy, for building the capacity of state, tribal, and local government and watershed groups to protect and restore water quality.</p>  | <p>Key components of the HWI are development of Regional Strategies that include working with the states to identify healthy watersheds and intact components of other watersheds statewide and implement protection and conservation programs both at the state and local levels. HWI guidance can be found at:<br/> <a href="http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/watershed/hw_techdocument.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/watershed/hw_techdocument.cfm</a></p> |
| <p>3. EPA is working to foster the integration of water infrastructure decisions into smart growth strategies that provide more livable communities and reduce long term infrastructure needs and costs.</p>  | <p>Green Infrastructure management approaches and technologies infiltrate, evapotranspire, capture and reuse stormwater to maintain or restore natural hydrology. EPA supports use of Section 106 funds to provide programmatic support for green infrastructure efforts, which promote prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. <b>Urban Waters:</b> EPA’s Urban Waters effort is focusing on pilot projects nationwide to help urban communities, particularly disadvantaged communities, to reconnect with and revitalize their water environments.</p>   |   |

| <b>FY 2013 Measure</b>  | <b>EXPLANATION</b>  | <b><i>OPPORTUNITIES FOR STATES</i></b>  |
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| <p>WT-02a - Number of States/Tribes that have substantially built or increased capacity in wetland regulation, monitoring and assessment, water quality standards, and /or restoration and protection. (This is an annual reporting measure.)</p> | <p>A key objective of EPA’s wetlands program is building the capacity of States in the following core elements of a wetlands program: wetland monitoring; regulation including 401 certification; voluntary restoration and protection; and water quality standards for wetlands.</p> | <p>*States with EPA-funded project(s) underway (e.g., Wetland Program Development Grant award) to build capacity in one or more core elements should include a reference to the project(s) in the PPA.</p> <p>*A suite of actions and activities supporting capacity-building for each core element can be found in EPA’s <i>Core Elements Framework</i> at <a href="http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/cef_full.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/cef_full.cfm</a>.</p> <p>*Beginning in 2010, EPA has encouraged States and Tribes to develop “Wetland Program Plans” (WPPs) for building wetland program capacity. More funding is available for the states with WPPs through prioritization of Wetland Program Development Grants. EPA has approved four state WPPs and four tribal WPPs.</p> |