

## Tribal Coordination with the Public is Key to a Successful Water Quality Standards (WQS) Variance



Discharger and authorized Tribe determine that a WQS variance is needed to improve water quality.

The authorized The Tribe proposes authorized a WOS variance. Tribe holds and requests public public comment hearings on the WOS and obtains variance and public input. supporting documentation.

If proceeding, the authorized Tribe adopts the WQS variance after considering public input. The authorized
Tribe submits
the WQS
variance
package to EPA
for review.

If approved by EPA, the WQS variance is implemented.

The authorized
Tribe reevaluates
the WQS
variance, with
public input,
to see if more can
be done to
improve
water quality.

WQS VARIANCE PROCESS



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## ENGAGE THE PUBLIC AT EACH STEP

Collaborate with stakeholders such as through a workgroup. Clearly explain the problem, the pollutant reduction actions, the timing, and how the public can engage.

Be transparent.

Request public comment.

Consider all public comments and communicate how public input was used.

Provide the response to comments to the public.

Communicate activities implemented and water quality progress.

Make monitoring results publicly available.

Keep the public informed and invite feedback on water quality progress.

