

NATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDANCES (NPGs)

ISSUE SUMMARY:

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) manages the agency-wide [National Program Guidance \(NPG\)](#) process. NPGs provide program-specific priorities, strategies, and performance metrics that are used by Agency programs and regions and inform grant work planning with states, Tribes, and territories. The EPA issues two-year NPGs to operationalize the Agency's annual performance plan and budget, consistent with EPA's Strategic Plan.

Eight EPA programs issue NPGs: Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSP), Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM), Office of Water (OW), the Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA), Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR), and the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR).

UPCOMING MILESTONES:

- **November 2024:** OCFO issues Technical Guidance for the optional FY 2026 Exceptions-Based Addendums to the FY 2025-2026 NPGs.
- **April 2025:** OCFO posts FY 2026 Addendums on EPA's public [NPG website](#).
- **June 2025:** OCFO issues Technical Guidance for development of the FY 2027-2028 NPGs.
- **July-October 2025:** Programs that issue NPGs engage with states, Tribes, territories, and relevant media-specific organizations to identify joint priorities and important issues that inform development of the FY 2027-2028 NPGs.
- **February 2026:** EPA publishes draft FY 2027-2028 NPGs for a 6-week concurrent public comment and Tribal consultation period. [Draft NPGs can only be issued after release of the President's Budget. A delay in the release of the FY 2027 President's Budget (which normally occurs in February) will delay issuance of the draft FY 2027-2028 NPGs.]
- **June 2026:** EPA publishes final FY 2027-2028 NPGs on EPA's public [NPG website](#).

BACKGROUND:

NPGs, though not required by statute, are a long-standing practice and integral operational component of EPA's planning, budgeting, and accountability processes. The primary audiences for NPGs are EPA headquarters and regional offices and states, Tribes, and territories.

The EPA implements a two-year cycle for NPGs. The process was developed jointly with states to provide consistency and reduce the workload associated with joint planning activities. In the second year of the cycle, programs may issue an optional exceptions-based addendum to capture significant changes to program priorities and strategies.

KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

- ☐ Congress ☐ Industry ☒ States ☒ Tribes ☐ Media ☐ Other Federal Agency
☐ NGO ☐ Local Government ☐ Other (name of stakeholder) _____

The program-specific priorities and performance metrics contained in the NPGs inform EPA-state and EPA-tribal grant work planning. States and Tribes have the opportunity to provide input and feedback on draft NPGs through a public comment process.

MOVING FORWARD:

- **November 2024:** The OCFO issues Technical Guidance for the FY 2026 Exceptions-Based Addendums to the FY 2025-2026 NPGs.

LEAD OFFICE/REGION: OCFO

OTHER KEY OFFICES/REGIONS: OAR, OCSP, OECA, OLEM, OW,
OITA, OCIR, OEJECR, ALL 10 REGIONS