

2017 Oregon ACWA Annual Conference

**EPA Vision, Objectives and
Strategies for Improving
Oregon's Water Quality**

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Topics

- EPA Transition
- Region 10 Objective/Strategies
- Current Examples by Program
- Summary
- Other NPDES News



EPA Transition

- Senior Leadership Positions
- EPA National Priorities
 - Guiding Philosophies
 - Key Priority Areas



EPA Priorities: High-level Overview

Guiding Philosophies

- **Rule of law:** EPA's work won't go anywhere if it constantly faces legal challenges. By administering laws enacted by Congress and issuing environmental rules tethered to those statutes, EPA can achieve so much more for the protection of human health and our environment.
- **Cooperative federalism:** States and tribes are our partners in enforcing environmental laws and programs—EPA wants to build trust and a strong working relationship with these partners to get results for all Americans.
- **Public participation:** EPA's authority is derived from the democratic process, and that process is made more credible by engaging with the diverse views of the American public, and addressing stakeholder input on the impacts of rules on families, jobs, and communities.



EPA Priorities: High-level Overview - continued

The core philosophies will guide our work to advance progress in key priority areas:

- ***Supporting Core Drinking Water and Clean Water Infrastructure Projects***
- ***Restoring Contaminated Sites to Productive Use, Creating Jobs and New Economic Opportunities***
- ***Attaining Air Quality Standards***
- ***Implementing TSCA Reform Legislation, Instilling New Confidence and Safety for American Families***
- ***Ensuring Sound Science and Research***
- ***Detecting Non-Compliance and Performing Required Federal Inspections***
- ***Building a Stronger, More Responsive EPA***



R10 Objective/Vision

- EPA Region 10 remains committed to working in partnership with our state, tribal, and local entities in order to protect water quality in the Pacific NW
- Engage with ODEQ to improve our cross-program coordination and to do more to anticipate potential issues/concerns in order to meet objectives
- Coordinate across Region 10 states, regulatory agencies, and stakeholders on common priority issues
- Recognize: future resource constraints, litigation drivers, need to prioritize, stakeholder engagement
- Examples by program...



EPA Region 10 NPDES Program

- Direct Implementation
 - State of Idaho
 - Federal Facilities in WA
 - Indian Country in Region 10
 - Federal Waters (offshore)
- Working with our States
 - Idaho NPDES
 - Alaska
 - Oregon/Washington



EPA NPDES Collaboration with ODEQ

- Permit Quality Reviews
- Real time permit reviews
- Partners on OR NPDES Improvement Program
- Technical Support
 - Permit writer support
 - Guidance document support
 - Consult on innovative projects
 - Implementation of WQSs, TMDLs



EPA NPDES Collaboration with ODEQ

- Training
 - Permit Writing...
 - E-reporting Support
- Funding/Finance
 - Clean Water Program Funding (106 grant)
 - State Revolving Fund (SRF)
 - WIFIA
 - Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center (Water Finance Center)



Watershed Unit Efforts in Oregon

- Assessments and Listings
 - EPA/ODEQ Promulgated Impaired Water Listings for ODEQ (2010 and 2012)
 - EPA Region and HQ Providing Financial and Technical Assistance to ODEQ to Develop a New Data System



Watershed Unit Efforts in Oregon

- TMDLs
 - OR Temperature TMDLs ruled invalid. Court ordered the TMDLs to be replaced:
 - temperature TMDL for Klamath by April 2019
 - mercury TMDL for Willamette by April 2019
 - additional 10 watershed TMDLs also have to be re-done on a schedule yet to be determined
 - Columbia River Temperature TMDL Litigation
 - Petition to re-do the Snake/Hell's Canyon DO/nutrients TMDL



Water Quality Standards Efforts in Oregon

- Support common goal of putting in place defensible water quality standards that provide greater certainty to the regulated community and will withstand legal challenge.
- Recognize challenges - significant number of lawsuits
- Communicate early with ODEQ and consider cross-program implications



Water Quality Standards Efforts in Oregon

- Support update of criteria
- Temperature/natural conditions
 - EPA is engaged with ODEQ and others in the study of cold water refuges in the Columbia and Lower Willamette Rivers
 - Exploring ways to develop a defensible natural conditions approach to criteria development, and coordinate across Region 10 states
 - Coordinating a temperature research project with the Office of Research and Development, ODEQ, and Forest Service



Water Quality Standards Efforts in Oregon

- Coordinating support from the Office of Science and Technology to develop translation methods for narrative criteria to better identify and address nutrient issues
- Provide technical support on the first proposed designation of an Outstanding Resource Water (N Fork Smith River)



Summary of Efforts to Meet Objectives

- Direct Implementation
- Technical Support, Research, and Training
- Partnership to Develop Solutions to the Most Critical Issues with Consideration of Cross Program Implications
- Provide Regional Connections and National Perspective
- Financial Support



Additional NPDES Items

- Idaho NPDES Program
 - Municipal projected 6/30/2018
 - Industrial 6/30/2019
 - General Permits 6/30/2020
 - Stormwater Permits 6/30/2021
- Idaho NOI to Sue re Backlog
- WA Withdrawal Petition
- Major EPA Permits (Dams, Offshore Seafood, Suction Dredging, Aquaculture, Nutrients)