

ASSESSMENT GOAL

Terminology & Perspectives

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The presentation will cover...

- Review Assessment Goal terms warranting clarification
- Offer working definitions
- Clarify intent of Assessment Goal elements
- Revisit status of milestones

Assessment Goal Elements

Goal Statement

- “By 2020, States identify the extent of healthy and CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters in each State’s priority watersheds or waters through site-specific assessment”

Goal Text

- “The purpose of this Goal is to encourage **comprehensive understanding** of the water quality status of at least each State’s priority areas.”
- “As a general matter, targeted monitoring is expected to be the primary approach for accomplishing the **comprehensive assessment** of States’ priority areas.”

Elements (cont.)

Milestones and Proposed Timeline

- 3) States develop plans to complete **“baseline” monitoring** to gather needed data to assess pre-implementation conditions in priority areas. (2018)

- 3) States develop plans to complete **“effectiveness” monitoring** to gather needed data to assess post-implementation conditions in priority areas. (2018) “

Working Definitions

Baseline Monitoring

- Monitoring performed to allow initial or ongoing assessment of ambient site-specific conditions.

Planning Monitoring (not explicit in Vision)

- Monitoring performed, if needed, to support development of planning documents.

Effectiveness Monitoring

- Monitoring performed to assess ambient site-specific conditions post implementation activities.

Working Definitions (cont.)

Comprehensive Assessment/Understanding

- Includes baseline, planning, and effectiveness monitoring
- Completed for priority areas
- Addresses objectives in priority areas (e.g., pollutants, designated uses)
- Likely means continuation of existing monitoring protocols and assessment methodologies, unless new ones are warranted

Now, Let's Revisit...

Goal Statement

“By 2020, States identify the extent of healthy and CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters in each State’s priority watersheds or waters through site-specific assessment”

- **Clarification- complete “baseline” monitoring by 2020**

Revisit (cont.)

Milestones and Proposed Timeline

- 1) “States and EPA develop and distribute tools to support consistency in cycle-to-cycle tracking of water quality status. (2016)

Status - underway through ATTAINS redesign & catchment-based indexing

- 2) States and EPA develop and publish approaches to ensure linkage between priority waters and assessment units, and how to roll up different State approaches into a National total. (2018)

Status - underway through ATTAINS redesign & catchment-based indexing

Revisit (cont.)

Milestones and Proposed Timeline

- 3) States develop plans to complete “baseline” *[and planning]* monitoring to gather needed data to assess pre-implementation conditions in priority areas. (2018)
 - Clarification – plans developed by 2018
 - Status (baseline) – TBD; but likely near complete for many states
 - Status (planning) – work in progress for many; fertile ground for coordination with monitoring program
- 4) States develop plans to complete “effectiveness” monitoring to gather needed data to assess post-implementation conditions in priority areas. (2018)
 - Clarification – plans developed by 2018
 - Status – work in progress for many, fertile ground for coordination with monitoring program