Getting Started with Integrated Planning

The Elements of EPA’s Integrated Planning Framework

1: Description of environmental and regulatory issues to be addressed
2: Description of existing systems and performance
3: Stakeholder involvement
4: Evaluating and selecting alternatives and implementation schedules
5: Measuring success
6: Process for improvements to the plan

THEN: IMPLEMENTATION

Steps in Developing an Integrated Plan

• Identify water obligations
• Define costs and schedules
• Look at financial capability
• Define environmental/health impacts of controls
• Develop prioritized schedule
• Evaluate legal constraints and need to use relief mechanisms
• Complete Integrated Plan

Key Points to Remember

• You do not have to do a plan – only do it if it makes sense in your particular situation
• A plan does not have to include every regulatory requirement that applies – scope is up to municipality
• A plan can be done for a single source, or can be done on a watershed basis, or anywhere in between
• Two entities that share authority for a geographic area can do a plan together
• If doing a plan, think broadly – consider including stormwater, drinking water (at least in cost analysis), other sources in watershed, etc.
• Plan can be simple, complex or in-between
• Affordability is key – look at all water obligations, and at costs to run the system long-term
• Consider how to develop a plan that provides adequate legal protection if taking proper actions
• Try to use permits if possible, rather than enforcement tools such as orders and decrees
• Involve community, including on affordability
• Think about environmental justice broadly
• Consider doing adaptive management
• Keep EPA HQ, Region and State involved
• Exchange information with other communities

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