

Draft Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Framework



NACWA Stakeholders Meeting
December 13, 2011

What is an Integrated Approach?

- Under an integrated approach, EPA and States would use the flexibility of EPA's existing regulations and policies and allow municipalities to evaluate how best to meet all of their CWA requirements and their financial capability to better allow—
 - sequencing wastewater and stormwater projects in a way that allows the highest priority environmental projects to come first, and
 - innovative solutions, such as green infrastructure

Why an Integrated Approach?

- Addresses most serious water quality problems sooner
- More cost-effective, may lower overall cost of compliance
- Allows innovative approaches, such as green infrastructure, that are more sustainable



Stoner-Giles Memo to Regions

October 27, 2011

- Encourages Regions to work with States and communities on implementing comprehensive, integrated planning approaches
 - CWA and implementing regulations and guidance provide necessary flexibility
 - Existing regulatory standards will be maintained
- EPA is developing integrated planning framework
 - Will obtain feedback from States, local governments, utilities and environmental groups
 - Looking to identify municipal leaders to serve as models

Outline of Framework

- Background
- Principles
 - Overarching Principles
 - Guiding Principles
- Elements of an Integrated Plan
- Implementation
 - Permits
 - Enforcement

Overarching Principles for Integrated Approach

- Integrated planning will maintain existing regulatory standards that protect public health and water quality
- Integrated planning will allow a municipality to balance various CWA requirements in a manner that addresses the most pressing public health and environmental protection issues first
- The responsibility to develop an integrated plan rests with municipalities

Guiding Principles for Plan Development

- Reflect State requirements and planning efforts and incorporate State input on key issues
- Maximize the effectiveness of infrastructure dollars through analysis of alternatives and the selection and sequencing of actions needed to address water quality challenges and non-compliance

Guiding Principles for Plan Development (continued)

- Utilize existing flexibilities in the CWA and its implementing regulations, policies and guidance to meet water quality standards
- Incorporate effective innovative technologies, approaches, and practices (including green infrastructure)
- Evaluate and address community impacts and consider disproportionate burdens resulting from a municipality's implementation of its plan

Guiding Principles for Plan Development (continued)

- Implementation of technology-based and core requirements are not delayed.
 - proper operation and maintenance of facilities
 - secondary treatment requirements
 - nine minimum controls for combined sewer overflows (CSOs), including elimination of dry weather overflows
 - stormwater minimum measures

Guiding Principles for Plan Development (continued)

- Financial strategy is in place, including appropriate fee structures
- Opportunity for meaningful stakeholder input throughout the development of the plan

Discussion/Questions

Integrated Plan Elements

Element 1: Water Quality, Human Health, Regulatory Issues

Description of the water quality, human health and regulatory issues to be addressed in the plan, including

- An assessment of existing non-compliance with CWA requirements and projected future regulatory requirements
- Metrics for evaluating human health and water quality objectives
- Identification and characterization of human health threats
- Identification and characterization of water quality impairment and threats - TMDLs or an equivalent analysis
- Identification of sensitive areas and environmental justice concerns

Integrated Plan Elements

Element 2: Existing Systems and Performance

Description of existing wastewater and stormwater systems under consideration and summary information describing systems performance, including:

- Identification of municipalities and utilities that are participating in the planning effort
- Characterization of wastewater and stormwater systems
- Characterization of discharges (and overflows that do not reach waters of the U.S.) from the wastewater and stormwater systems under consideration

Integrated Plan Elements

Element 3: Stakeholder Involvement

Process for involving relevant community stakeholders in the planning process

- Opportunities for meaningful input at various stages of development of the plan

Integrated Plan Elements

Element 4: Evaluating and Selecting Alternatives

Process for evaluating and selecting alternatives and proposed implementation schedules

- Use of a robust Asset Management program or similar infrastructure management approach to assist in prioritizing investments
- Documentation of criteria, including estimated costs and projected pollutant reductions, used for comparing alternative projects
- Identification of alternatives, including cost estimates, projected pollutant reductions and other benefits associated with each alternative
- Financial capability assessment
- Proposed implementation schedules
- A financial strategy that ensures investments are sufficiently funded, operated, maintained and replaced over time

Integrated Plan Elements

Element 5: Measuring success

- Measuring success
- Monitoring program to address both compliance monitoring and ambient monitoring
- A process for identifying measures of success



Discussion/Questions

Integrated Plan Implementation

Role of Permits

- Incorporate all or part of an integrated plan into NPDES permit where legally permissible
- Considerations for incorporating integrated plans into permits
 - Compliance schedules for meeting WQBELs need to be consistent with the requirements in 40 CFR 122.47
 - Green infrastructure approaches and related innovative practices
 - Appropriate water quality trading

Integrated Plan Implementation

Role of Enforcement

- All or part of an integrated plan may be able to be incorporated into the remedy of an enforcement action.
- Considerations for incorporating integrated plans into enforcement actions
 - Compliance schedules prioritize the most environmental significant needs first to address CWA requirements
- Parties needed to effectuate a remedy are part of the discussion

Discussion/Questions

Leader Municipalities

What are We Looking For?

- Looking for municipalities that are already developing or have developed integrated plans to serve as models for other municipalities



Stakeholder Workshops

- Atlanta, GA - Working on date (week of 1/30/12), at EPA Region 4 Office
- New York City - February 6, 2012, at EPA Region 2 Office
- Seattle, WA - February 13, 2012, at EPA Region 10 Office
- Kansas City, KS - February 15, 2012, at EPA Region 7 Office
- Chicago, IL - February 17, 2012, at EPA Region 5 Office