

**Benita Best-Wong**

Director

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

**Benita Best-Wong** is currently Director of the Assessment and Watershed Protection Division for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She assumed this role in December 2004. Ms. Best-Wong's division is responsible for promoting national, regional, state/tribal and local capabilities to attain and maintain healthy watersheds. The division implements three key Clean Water Act (CWA) programs to achieve this goal: A) the reporting on the status of the nation's water quality under section 305(b) of the CWA which includes developing policies to promote the development and implementation of effective state/tribal monitoring strategies; B) implementation of the total maximum daily load (TMDL) program under section 303(d) of the CWA to identify waters that are impaired and actions that are needed to restore the waters; and C) implementation of the CWA section 319 Nonpoint Source (NPS) program and related programs in the Coastal Zone Management program to address the control of nonpoint sources of pollution, a key remaining water quality challenge in the U.S.

Ms. Best-Wong started her career in the EPA Headquarters in 1990 in the Water Permits Division where she worked on multimedia issues impacting the biosolids program. In 1991 she transferred to EPA Region 2 (New York City) where she worked as a NPDES permit writer for several years before managing the Region's implementation of geographic initiatives in the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain and Onondaga Lake as well as the Source Water Protection program and other place-based watershed activities. In 2000 she returned to EPA Headquarters and held a number of positions in the Water Permits Division including Industrial Branch Chief, Municipal Branch Chief and Acting Water Permits Division Director.

Ms. Best-Wong earned a BS degree in Chemistry from Georgetown University.