

EVALUATING STATE WATER MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES

Facilitators

Peter Grevatt, USEPA HQ
Lyle Cowles, USEPA Region 7
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Presenters

Mary Skopec, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Derek Smithee, OK Water Resources Board, “State Experiences in Developing Monitoring and Assessment Strategies”

Biographical Sketches

Peter Grevatt is Chief of the Monitoring Branch, in EPA’s Assessment and Watershed Protection Division; Lyle Cowles is Monitoring Coordinator, USEPA Region 7; Peter Tennant is the Deputy Executive Director of ORSANCO; Mary Skopec is the Supervisor of the Water Monitoring Section of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Derek Smithee is Water Quality Division Chief with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

Workshop Description

In March 2003, EPA issued Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program, which discussed the ten basic elements of a State water monitoring program and was designed to help EPA and the States determine whether their monitoring programs meet the basic prerequisites of Section 106(e)(1) of the Clean Water Act. First among these basic program elements is the state monitoring strategy, a long-term implementation plan that documents how the state will be meeting its program objectives for comprehensive monitoring of its waters.

This workshop will begin with a discussion of the importance of the state strategy, in particular its role in identifying each state’s current monitoring program gaps and current and future resource needs. We will use an interactive format to discuss, element by element, what should be contained in an effective state monitoring strategy, and how EPA plans to evaluate those strategies in conjunction with the states. We will round out the workshop with presentations by two states, Iowa and Oklahoma, on their experiences developing state monitoring and assessment strategies.

Among the desired outcomes of this workshop: States will emerge with a clearer understanding of monitoring strategies, including their importance and content; EPA emerges with a clearer understanding of states’ needs in developing their strategies and improving their programs (e.g., need for technical training, data management support, etc.) The target audience for this workshop is State water quality agency staff and EPA Regional staff.