

Proposed Draft of the 2006 Integrated Report Guidance

**National Water Quality Monitoring Council
May 21, 2004**

Proposed Draft of the 2006 Integrated Report Guidance

The Integrated Report

- **Combines State 305(b) and 303(d) reports**
- **Specifies a 5-part assessment classification for waters**
- **Structures data management & reporting**
- **Serves TMDL and EPA Strategic Plan needs**

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- **The Goals for the 2006 IR Guidance:**
 - **Seek even broader stakeholder input**
 - **Address new issues**
 - **Provide more detail on old issues**
 - **Be issued Final 18 months before April 06 deadline**

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- **2006 Guidance is based on EPA's 2004 Guidance which:**
 - **Recommended five part categorization scheme**
 - **Emphasized state monitoring programs**
 - **Highlighted need for improved methodologies**
 - **Supported the use of probabilistic assessments**
 - **Provided more guidance on statistical approaches**

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- **Specific Issues:**
 - **Placement of all waters into 5 Categories**
 - **Data, Information and monitoring**
 - **Water Quality Standards interpretation**
 - **Format, Content and Policy**

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- **IR Categories of Waters:**
 - **Category 1 - Water where all designated uses and water quality standards met and not threatened**
 - **Category 2 - Waters where some uses are met with no threatened waters, but insufficient data to judge other uses**
 - **Category 3 - Waters with insufficient data to determine if any use is attained**

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- **IR Categories of Waters:**
 - **Category 4 - Waters that are impaired/threatened that do not need TMDLs**
 - 4a - all required TMDLs are completed
 - 4b - other pollutant requirements are adequate to attain all standards in reasonable period of time
 - 4c - impaired or threatened water are not caused by a pollutant
 - **Category 5 - Waters impaired/threatened waters that do need a TMDLs**

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- **Data, Information, & Monitoring Issues:**
 - Assessment options for small sample sets
 - How to consider age of data in assessments.
 - Use of cut-off dates for submittal of data and information.
 - What are the data solicitation requirements.
 - Complying with 303(d) while using the targeted/rotating basin approach
 - Reporting of probabilistic data - is this a requirement and how reported?
 - Clarification on monitoring schedules - content, use, and relationship with other monitoring work plans

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- **Water Quality Standards Interpretation Issues:**
 - How should limited, conflicting, or unconventional evidence be considered?
 - How should states interpret key aspects of narrative and numeric standards?
 - Use of water quality standards in assessment of data and information
 - Is there a need to revise how shellfish consumption advisories are used?
 - How should states consider exemptions and exclusions (e.g., high flow/low flow, natural phenomenon, variances) found in the water quality standards?

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- **Format, Content, and Policy Issues:**
 - **De-listing waters based on changes to assessment methodologies.**
 - **Is each 303(d) list or IR submittal a “new” submittal or an update of the previous document?**
 - **Are there different thresholds for listing vs. delisting waters from 303d list?**
 - **What are the provisions in the Assessment Database (ADB) that support the 2006 submission?**

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- **Format, Content, and Policy Issues:**
 - **What is the recommended format for the 2006 IR submission?**
 - Reporting on wetlands, coastal waters, and groundwater in the IR.
 - **Prerequisites for category 1 waters.**
 - **Making assessment determinations only on biological data.**
 - Electronic vs. hardcopy submittal requirements

