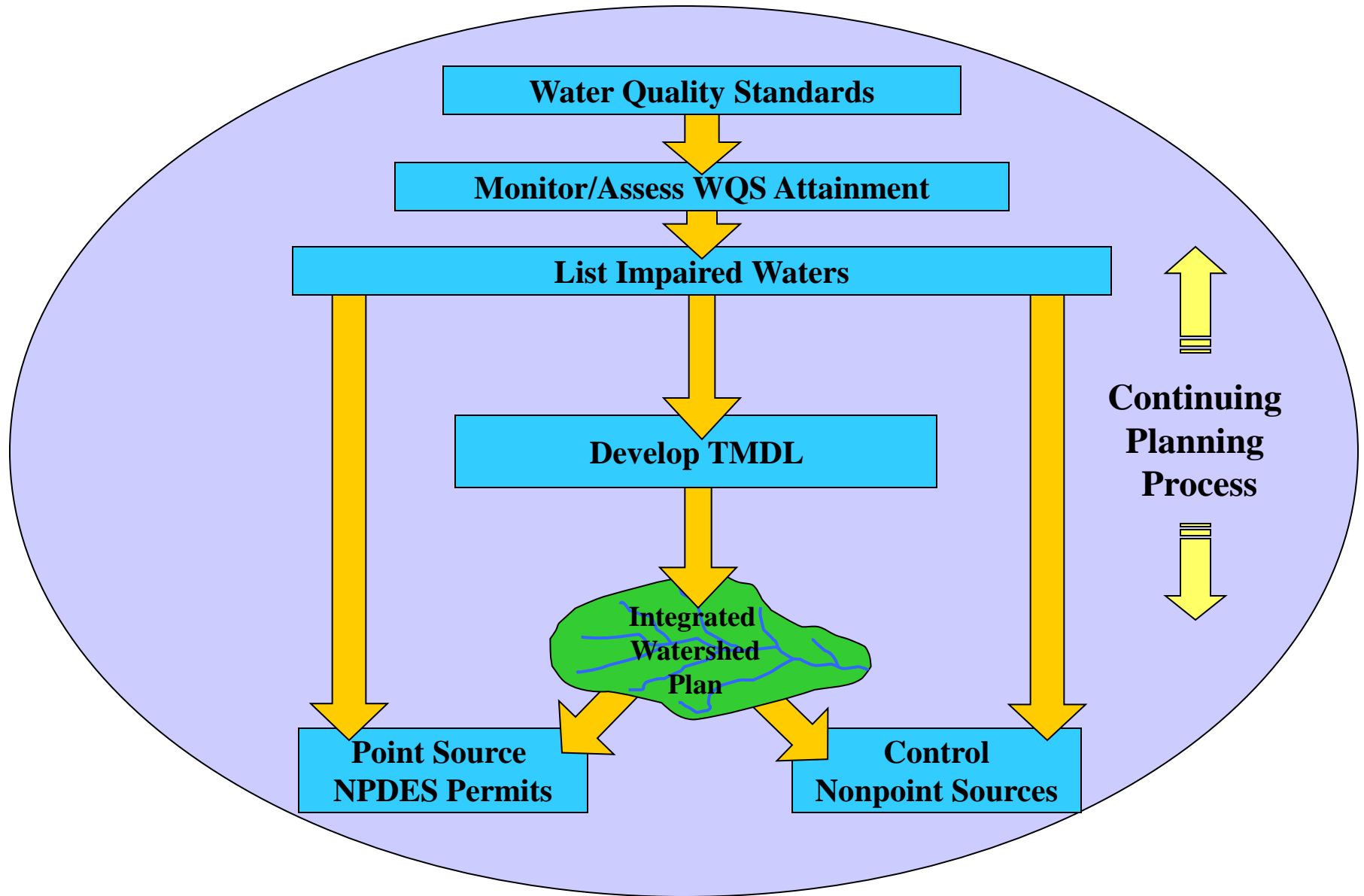


**Support of the Framework
for Monitoring**
Office of Management and Budget
March 26, 2003





Clean Water Act – Standards to Controls





Overall EPA Monitoring Objectives

- 💧 **Monitoring to serve assessments at multiple scales:**
 - **National scale: Condition of waters**
 - **State scale: Regulatory programs**
 - **Watershed scale: Management & protection decisions**
 - **Source scale: Control requirements**





Overall EPA Monitoring Objectives

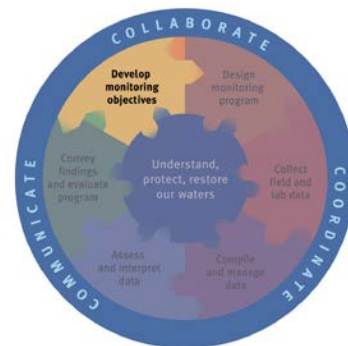
- 💧 **Build State monitoring programs that can**
 - Describe status and trends & rank existing and emerging problems
 - 305(b), 303(d)
 - Support management and regulatory programs
 - Based on standards
 - Protect critical waters
 - Source water, Chesapeake Bay, etc.





Develop Monitoring Objectives

- 💧 **EPA Produces Guidance on the Data Quality Objectives Process**
- 💧 **Encouraging the formation of state and regional monitoring councils**
Maryland, Virginia, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wisconsin, Montana, Lake Michigan Chesapeake Bay, New England
- 💧 **Other technical tools for states**





Design Monitoring Program

- 💧 **Newly Combined State 305(b) and 303(d) reports**
 - Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Policy
 - Consolidated Assessment and Listing Guidance
- 💧 **State monitoring networks**
 - EMAP assistance in probabilistic design
 - Models to bridge cover unmonitored
- 💧 **Refined methods**
 - Biological resources, Wetlands





Design Monitoring Program

💧 **A major concern is state capacity and funding**

- States spend \$138 million on ambient monitoring annually
- Only 37% is Federal funding
- \$100 million short of the need
- Many clearly need help

💧 **NAPA Study reinforces these concerns**





Collect Field & Laboratory Data

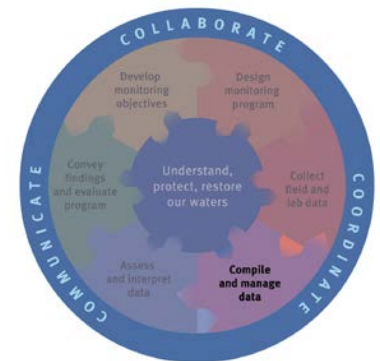
- 💧 Nearly all ambient water data is collected by states and USGS
- 💧 EPA does innovate
 - EPA Pioneered *Rapid Bio Assessments*
 - New guidance on the use of ecosystem data to set nutrient standards
 - EMAP field methods





Compile & Manage Data

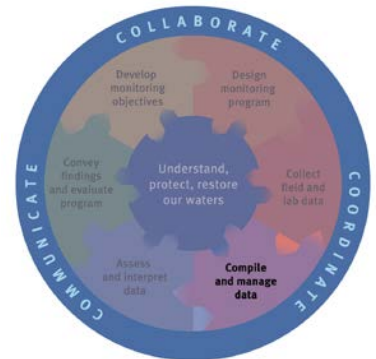
- 💧 **STORET Database**
 - Stores data & metadata
 - Water quality
 - Biological measures
 - Data from States, Superfund, EMAP, Forest Service, National Park Service
- 💧 **EPA Data Standards based on the Council's *Water Quality Data Elements***





Compile & Manage Data

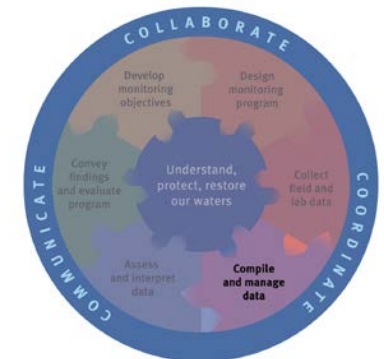
- 💧 **STORET Database is free to users, but is sustained by EPA**
 - STORET funding down % since 1996
 - STORET staff down to 5 FTE
- 💧 **The current budget may not be sustainable if competing responsibilities become mandatory**





Compile & Manage Data

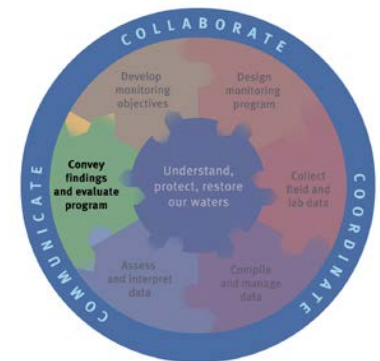
- **Continuing support for comparable data structures**
 - **National Hydrography Dataset**
 - USGS partnership
 - **Uniform Watershed Boundaries**
 - With USGS and USDA





Convey Findings & Evaluate Programs

- 💧 Program evaluations are becoming a part of EPA's Strategic Plan
- 💧 State program reviews called for in the *Elements* Guidance
- 💧 EPA prepares summaries using its **WATERS** software
- 💧 EPA reports include:
 - Coastal Condition Report, Report on the Environment





Collaborate Communicate & Coordinate

- 💧 **Support for the National, State and Regional monitoring councils**
- 💧 **Supporting volunteer monitoring**
- 💧 **Support for many technical workshops on monitoring methods**
- 💧 **Soon to establish a monitoring council inside EPA**





Future Support of the Framework

- 🔹 **EPA Report on the Environment**
 - New interest in indicators of progress
- 🔹 **Design of a National Survey to complement state assessments**
 - FY03 funding of \$4 million
 - FY04 monitoring initiative to follow
- 🔹 **Reformatted National Water Quality Report**
- 🔹 **Work with ASIWPCA and ECOS**



Reference Sites

- **Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program**
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/elements/>
- **NAPA: Understanding What States Need to Protect Water Quality**
http://www.napawash.org/pc_economy_environment/ongoing_stwaterquality.html
- **Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology—Toward a Compendium of Best Practices**
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/calm.html>
- **National Coastal Condition Report**
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/nccr/>
National Environmental Methods Index: www.nemi.gov