

Updated 319 Program Guidance

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Significance of Guidelines

- i Guidelines for the award of section 319 grants for implementation of NPS management programs
- i 2004 guidelines - consolidated earlier guidance
- i Drivers of change stimulated an update
- i Updated guidelines issued in April 2013 – Applicable for FY2014 and beyond

Drivers of Change in the 319 Program - recap of past two years

- i Early 2011- OMB called for more implementation; accountability for funds utilized
- i Nov. 2011- *“National Evaluation of CWA 319 Program”*
- i 2012 - *EPA Priority Goal* commits to issue new Guidelines in one year

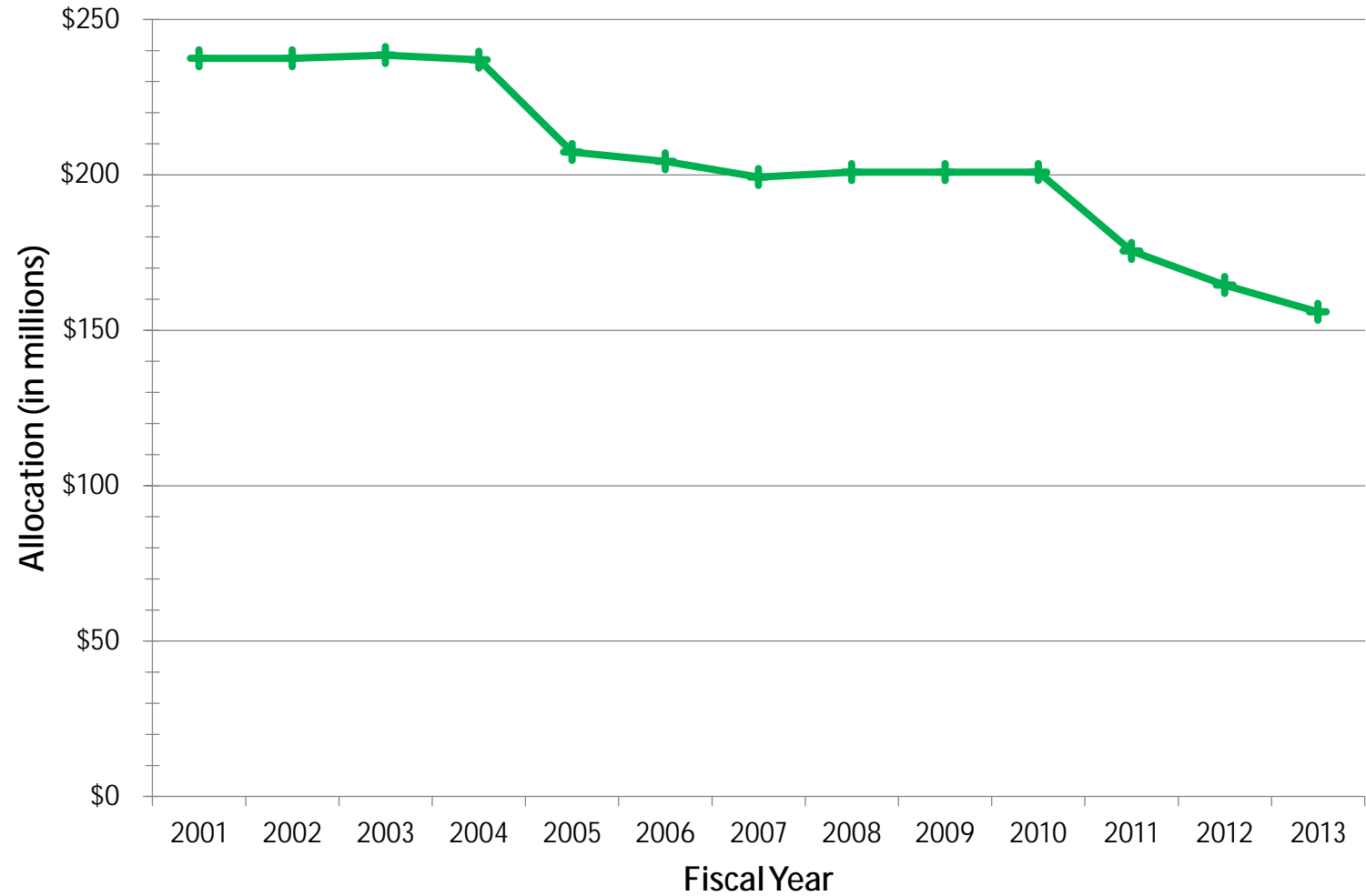
Drivers of Change in the 319 Program - recap of past two years

- i July 2012 - GAO Report calls for more program oversight, focus on protecting waters
- i Early 2012 - USDA National Water Quality Initiative: Significant opportunity for resource leveraging in small watersheds

All of these forces drive towards...

RESULTS

CWA Section 319 Funding, 2001 - Present



Goals for 319 Guideline Revisions

OMB, GAO interests

- | Realign funding structure to reflect varying appropriations, strengthen watershed implementation focus, encourage protection
- | Increase resource leveraging (e.g., NRCS, SRF)
- | Use planning to strategically focus resources
 - § NPS Program Plans → annual grant workplans
 - § Watershed-based plans (WPBs) → implementation
- | Enhance accountability for 319 program outputs and outcomes



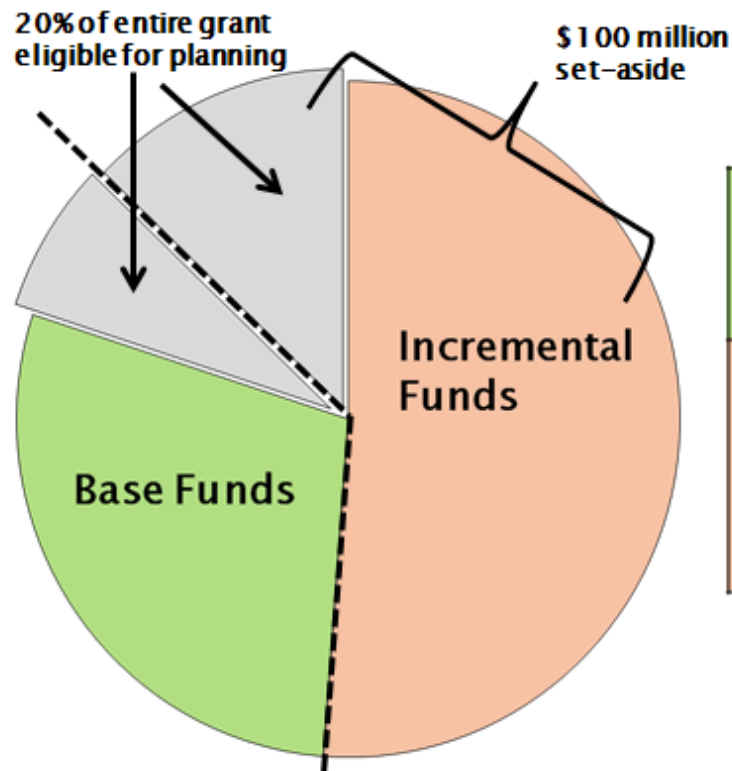
Goals for 319 Guidelines Revisions

- i Continue focus on restoring impaired waters

- i In revision process, strove to:
 - § Engage states in process
 - § Increase national consistency
 - § Add flexibilities as appropriate
 - § Encourage program integration
 - § Update where needed

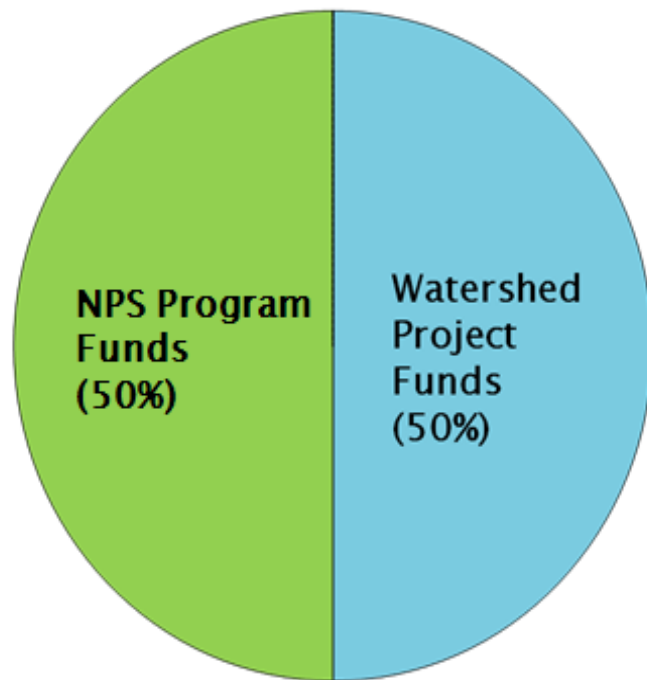
319 Funding Structure Changes

2004 GL – 319 Funding Structure



| | |
|--|---|
| Base Funds | General NPS program activities; up to 20% for WBP and NPS TMDL development and general NPS monitoring. |
| Incremental Funds (\$100M set-aside) | To develop and implement WBPs. 20% cap on planning. Region could authorize >20% for planning, but must assure proper balance b/w developing and implementing WBPs |

2013 GL – 319 Funding Structure



| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| NPS Program Funds | General NPS program activities; all planning (WBP and NPS TMDL development); general NPS water quality monitoring (no cap) |
| Watershed Project Funds | Projects to implement watershed plans and TMDLs (few cases where alternative plan may be used); staff activities directly engaged in implementation. Mostly to restoration, some to protection if identified as priority in state's NPS management program plan |

319 Funding Structure

- i **NPS Program Funds – support statewide program needs**
 - § State NPS management plan updates
 - § Prioritize watersheds for implementation
 - § RFPs, work plans
 - § Develop TMDLs and watershed-based plans
 - § Monitor NPS pollutants and sources
 - § Outreach/technology transfer

- i **Watershed Project Funds - support implementation related projects**
 - § Landowner technical assistance, BMP siting & design
 - § Watershed coordination to directly implement projects
 - § Targeted outreach
 - § Monitoring to assess implementation



Leveraging Encouraged

- Ø Option for more flexibility in use of watershed project funds (WPF) for states with significant NPS funding sources
- Ø Goal: encourage leveraging of CWSRF, other state funds

Restoration and Protection

- i Guidelines maintain strong emphasis on restoring impaired waters
- i Flexibility was added to use funds for protecting unimpaired/high quality waters where identified as a priority in state's NPS Management Program



New/updated expectations 319 grant guidelines

- | NPS Management Programs are current and relevant
 - § Roadmap of priorities, milestones, to focus implementation, coordinate programs, target resources
 - § Updates – can be targeted- every 5 years
- | EPA Priority Goal: update 50% of outdated plans by FY13
- | EPA will consult NPS MP when reviewing annual 319 grant workplans
- | EPA to establish and apply consistent framework for annual satisfactory progress determinations
 - § *Performance and Progress Determination Checklist* published with GL

Watershed Planning Focus Retained

- | Projects are guided by watershed-based plans
 - § Pollutant loads, sources, critical areas, BMPs, etc.
- | Careful planning achieves best results at watershed level
- | Flexibility for alternative plans in 4 scenarios
 - § Problem not pollutant-based
 - § Small, isolated problems with a couple sources
 - § Projects to protect high quality waters
 - § NPS-related emergencies
- | Use of other relevant planning documents encouraged to meet WBP elements

319-Funded TMDLs

- } Goal: TMDLs advance NPS implementation, program efficiency
- } 319-funded TMDLs provide supplemental information
 - NPS existing loads and necessary reductions by source type
 - Detailed identification causes/sources NPS pollution
 - Identify management measures to achieve load reductions
- ∅ 319 grant condition, not a new TMDL element

319 Projects in MS4s

- i 319 funds are to control NPS pollution
- i MS4s are regulated areas
 - § NPDES permit conditions point source control requirements
- i Actions not specifically required by the final MS4 permit may be fundable
 - § If a priority in state NPS Management Plan
 - § Green infrastructure specifically cited

National Water Quality Initiative

- | Launched by USDA/NRCS in FY12
- | NRCS invests ~5% of EQIP funding in conservation practices
- | Focus on small watersheds impaired by nutrients, sediments, pathogens
- | NRCS consults with state on watershed selection
- | States to monitor water quality over time (1 watershed/state)
- | 165 watersheds nation-wide
- | Watersheds to remain stable (multi-year effort)
- | Watershed project funds may be used even where no WBP
- | More outreach and guidance coming

Additional Program Refinements

- i Annual 319 grant workplans
 - § Link staff time/activities to priorities in NPS Management Program
 - § Well-defined outputs and outcomes

- i PPG workplans describe significant NPS activities and commitments

- i Modest changes to GRTS to track:
 - § State match
 - § Broad categories of activity – NPS program funds
 - § Protection/restoration



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Waterbodies are separated into three categories of stories, depending on the type of water quality improvement achieved:

- Stories about partially or fully restored waterbodies
- Stories that show progress toward achieving water quality goals
- Stories about ecological restoration

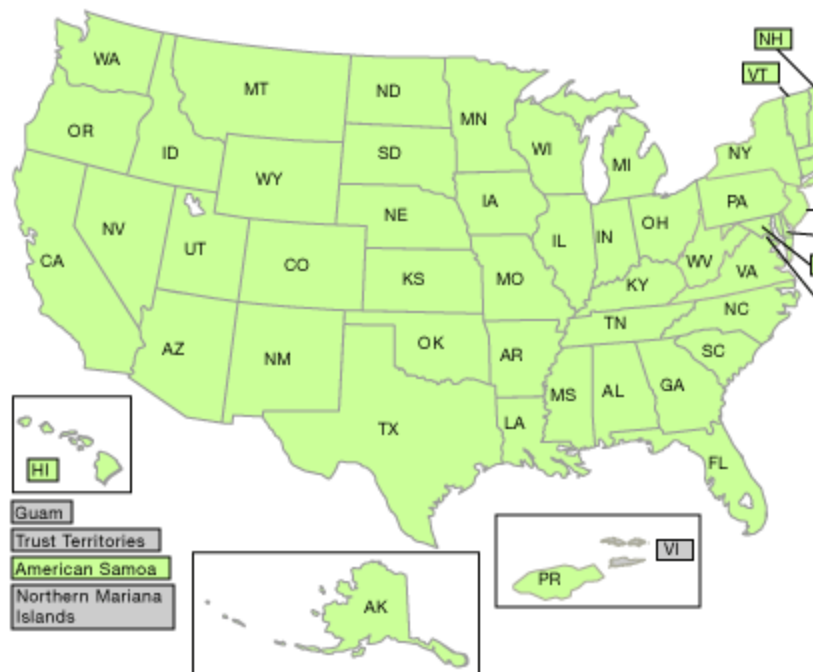
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Partially or Fully Restored Waterbodies

In Summary

- Continued focus on impaired waters
- Emphasis on planning (MP, WBPs)
- Flexibility for alternative plans
- Revised funding structure
- Need for leveraging with other funding sources
- Collaboration with NRCS on NWQI
- Requirements for 319-funded TMDLs and projects in MS4s
- Strive for WQ restoration/success stories

Looking Ahead

- | FY14 key transition year
- | Advance NWQI and monitoring
- | Explore interim measures of water quality success
- | Create a “National 319 Report” to highlight progress
- | Planning framework for protection projects
- | Create national forum for state NPS program coordinators (webinars; national conference)

Questions?

Thank you
