Significance of Guidelines

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

- Early 2011- OMB called for more implementation; accountability for funds utilized

- Nov. 2011- “National Evaluation of CWA 319 Program”

- 2012 - EPA Priority Goal commits to issue new Guidelines in one year
Drivers of Change in the 319 Program - recap of past two years

- July 2012 - GAO Report calls for more program oversight, focus on protecting waters
- Early 2012 - USDA National Water Quality Initiative: Significant opportunity for resource leveraging in small watersheds
All of these forces drive towards...

RESULTS
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

- Continue focus on restoring impaired waters

- 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.

- **20% of entire grant eligible for planning**

- **$100 million set-aside**
2013 GL – 319 Funding Structure

- **NPS Program Funds (50%)**
- **Watershed Project Funds (50%)**

### 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

- **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

- **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

- Option for more flexibility in use of watershed project funds (WPF) for states with significant NPS funding sources

- Goal: encourage leveraging of CWSRF, other state funds
Guidelines maintain strong emphasis on restoring impaired waters.

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
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

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

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

- **PPG workplans describe significant NPS activities and commitments**

- **Modest changes to GRTS to track:**
  - State match
  - Broad categories of activity – NPS program funds
  - Protection/restoration
Section 319 Nonpoint Source Success Stories

This Section 319 Nonpoint Source Success Stories Web site features stories about primarily nonpoint source-impaired waterbodies where restoration efforts have led to documented water quality improvements. 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

To find stories, either follow the story category links above or choose a state from the map.

First-time visitors:
Do you need more information about Success Stories?
Do you need more guidance for using this site?
Visit our Basic Information page for answers.
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