

Clean Water Act §106 Water Pollution Control Program Water Quality Assessment Report Requirement (FY 2008)

A Water Quality Assessment:

- Is a narrative and graphical account of water quality within tribal boundaries.
- Includes the types of water sampled, sampling procedures, and resulting data summaries.
- Includes the program's interpretation of the data collected and the assessment methodology used.
- Should vary amongst tribes due to differing program objectives, sophistication, and resources available.
- Will help EPA measure success toward improvement of water quality in tribal waters.
- Must be submitted annually.



Alternate watering source for cattle at Washoe Tribe of NV and CA

Components of a Water Quality Assessment Report:

- **An atlas table of tribal water resources:** This atlas should include the estimated number of stream miles, lake acres, wetland acres, or estuarine square miles within tribal boundaries.
- **A narrative description of tribal water quality monitoring programs and assessment methods:**
 - Purpose of monitoring program
 - Number of stream miles/lake or wetland acres/estuary square miles monitored
 - Parameters monitored
 - Monitoring frequency
 - Discussion of any applicable Water Quality Indicators (WQI), tribal goals, or standards
 - Coordination or collaboration with other organizations
 - Any lab support
 - How data are interpreted and managed

- **Narrative description of results of water quality monitoring within tribal boundaries:** This is an interpretation and summary of the findings of tribal monitoring activities, including probable causes and sources of impairment. Depending on program sophistication, summary tables should be included to show which water bodies meet tribal goals or designated uses.
- **Brief discussion of issues of tribal concern regarding water quality:** This discussion should identify any issues of concern or potential future impacts to the water bodies where the monitoring program is occurring. Examples include: outbreaks of waterborne disease, fish kills, etc. As a program advances, tables should be developed to summarize various sources of impairment by stream miles.
- **Monitoring data submitted electronically for each assessed water body:** The monitoring data should be submitted electronically in STORET-compatible format as a part of the assessment report. Depending on program relevancy and sophistication, all required parameters per the CWA §106 Guidance should be reported within the data set.

Available Resources to use while developing a Water Quality Assessment Report:

- ❖ **Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act:**
 - **Appendix A:** Includes a suggested format for developing a Monitoring Strategy divided into Fundamental, Intermediate, and Mature programs, along with descriptions of each required component.
 - **Chapter 4:** Includes detailed information regarding monitoring objectives, monitoring design, the required WQI/parameters, data analysis and data assessment.
 - **Chapter 8:** Describes EPA’s reporting requirements in detail for the awards of CWA §106 grants to Indian Tribes.
- ❖ **STORET Data Template and Website:** www.epa.gov/storet provides a link for tribal water quality programs to handle the data management portion of the assessment report. The website provides access to the national STORET helpline for questions a grant recipient may have regarding the use of STORET.
- ❖ **WQAR Template:** A pilot program that asks tribes to report on their water quality on monitored water bodies. To learn more, visit <http://epa.gov/region09/water/tribal/cwa-reporting.html> and scroll to the bottom.
- ❖ **EPA Region 9 Office / CWA § 106 Assigned Project Officer**

Water Division Tribal Contacts

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