

CWA §106 Water Quality Assessment Report Template Pilot

September 2010

Purpose:

1. To provide information on water quality improvement in tribal waters monitored under the CWA §106 Water Pollution Control program, including where applicable, waters that have been the subject of watershed restoration (e.g., CWA 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation program).
2. To provide a consistent framework for tribes to submit information for their written water quality assessment report so EPA can identify tribal program needs and describe water quality conditions in Region 9 Indian Country.*

Rationale:

Documentation of water quality progress in Indian Country can help tribes and EPA better manage water quality programs. EPA has not yet used the tribal water quality data submitted into the STORET warehouse to document such progress and trends. Tribes can use this template to provide an assessment that will illustrate water quality progress, while fulfilling the CWA §106 reporting requirement.

Benefits:

- Help tribes to identify and justify water quality priorities in Indian Country;
- Help tribes document the need for future CWA funding for water quality programs (e.g. CWA §106, CWA §319)
- Provides National and Regional Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC/RTOC) information to substantiate annual budget request for the CWA programs;
- Help tribes to target and prioritize impaired watersheds for restoration.

In addition, the template:

- Provides EPA with a status of tribal water quality in Region 9;
- Provides a standardized format for submitting information for the tribe's written water quality assessment report as outlined in Appendix A of the CWA §106 Guidance¹;
- Provides relevant statistics to illustrate water quality conditions in Indian Country (Region 9), for example:
 - Percent of water bodies meeting beneficial uses over time.
 - Number of stream miles and lake acres monitored.
 - Parameters/Characteristics being tested.
 - Integration of Water Quality Assessments with grant program funding data.
- Provides water quality information for use in annual accomplishment reports and success stories;
- Helps EPA to identify tribal training needs;

* A written Water Quality Assessment Report is one of three required elements (monitoring strategy, water quality assessment report and water quality data in STORET-compatible format) as outlined in the CWA §106 Guidance. The Tribal Water Quality Assessment Report Template will provide R9 tribes with a means to meet this requirement based on their program's maturity level and availability of data.