

# EPA Water Monitoring Method Approval Processes

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# Water Monitoring Activities

- **Compliance Monitoring**

- Drinking Water

- Samples taken to assess compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

- NPDES

- Samples taken to assess compliance with NPDES regulations

- **Ambient Monitoring**

- All other



# Compliance Monitoring

- **Drinking Water Program**
  - Monitoring requirements specified in regulations
  - Must use EPA approved method (40 CFR 141)
  - Must use certified laboratory
  - No flexibility except as allowed in the approved methods

# Compliance Monitoring

- **NPDES**

- Monitoring requirements specified in permits
- Must use EPA approved method (40 CFR 136)
- Some flexibility allowed as per 40 CFR 136.6

# ATP Process

- **Drinking Water Program**
  - National Approval Required (40 CFR 141.27)
  - Determinations of method equivalency made by HQ
  - Expedited approval process used

# ATP Process

- **NPDES Program**
  - Nationwide Approval (EPA HQ)
    - Rulemaking required
  - Limited Use Approval (EPA Region)
    - Full ATP review (Using HQ protocol)
    - Expedited review (Based on HQ recommendation)

# Ambient Monitoring

- **All Other Monitoring.....**
  - **Regulatory** (Required by EPA Regulation)
    - TMDL
    - 303 (d) Listing
    - Beach Act
  - **Non-Regulatory**
    - Research
    - Coastal Assessment
    - Volunteer Monitoring Efforts



# Ambient Monitoring Method Approval Process

- Quality Assurance Project Plan  
(QAPP)

# Major QAPP Elements

- Title & Approval Sheet
- Table of Contents
- Distribution List
- Special Training
- Problem Definition/  
Background
- Project Description
- Quality Objectives & Criteria
- Secondary Use of Data
- Field Monitoring Requirements
- Analytical Requirements
- Sample Handling
- Testing, Inspection,  
Maintenance, Calibration
- Data Management
- Assessment/Oversight
- Data Assessment
- Documentation & Reporting

# QAPP Elements used to Determine Method Appropriateness

- **Project Task/Description**
  - Intended Use of Data (goals & objectives)
- **Quality Objectives and Criteria for Measurement**
  - Precision
  - Bias
  - Representativeness
  - Comparability
  - Sensitivity
  - Completeness

# QAPP Approval Process

- **Review and Approval by:**
  - EPA Program Representative
  - EPA Quality Assurance Officer
- Note: Some organizations with functioning Quality Systems are delegated QAPP approval authority . NJDEP is one such organization.