To: Davis, Suea[davis.suea@epa.gov]
Cc: Shahriyar, Syed[Shahriyar.Syed@epa.gov]
From: Dwyer, Stacey
Sent: Thur 10/26/2017 3:39:47 PM
Subject: FW: WAR for week starting 10/23/2017

Sue,

Here is the WAR for the Permits Branch. I have highlighted two entries for inclusion into the Division War.

Stacey

From: Shahriyar, Syed
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:06 PM
To: Dwyer, Stacey <Dwyer.Stacey@epa.gov>
Cc: Larsen, Brent <Larsen.Brent@epa.gov>; Shaikh, Taimur <Shaikh.Taimur@epa.gov>; John, Forrest <John.Forrest@epa.gov>; Wooster, Richard <Wooster.Richard@epa.gov>; Davis, Suea <davis.suea@epa.gov>
Subject: WAR for week starting 10/23/2017
Importance: High

Stacey:

Per your request, I'm forwarding the WAR items for our branch.

Please review and mark them accordingly.

I've to leave early today, to take care of my son.

Therefore, please CC Suea for further action(s).

Regards

Syed

**** **WEBINAR WITH LOUISIANA OFFSHORE OIL PORT (LOOP) AND LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (LDEQ):** A webinar was held on October 25, 2017, regarding the draft permit reissuance for LOOP. EPA, LOOP and LDEQ participated in this call/webinar. LOOP provided documents on WET analysis voluntarily conducted during 2017. In addition, LOOP representatives requested Region 6 consider benthos monitoring in lieu of WET. LOOP has indicated that Region 4 (State of Alabama) is using benthos monitoring in permits for the Mobile area. Region 6 is awaiting final documents and will conduct an evaluation. **Stacey Dwyer, 665-6729; Isaac Chen, 665-7364; Silvia Bogdan, 665-2749; Kay Schwab, 665-6635.**

***** **Arkansas Assessment Methodology**: The Arkansas Assessment Methodology has been put out for public notice. EPA does not have approval authority over assessment methodologies; however, EPA ensures that assessment methodologies are in keeping with approved water quality standards. The proposed assessment method for bacteria is not in keeping with the water quality standard, would require an abundance of additional data, and categorize waters not meeting the new data requirement into a category that is reserved for waters that have alternative pollution controls in place rather than the "insufficient information" category. EPA Region 6 plans to provide comments within the comment period. **Selena Medrano, 665-2776.**

EPA TRIBAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMS: EPA staff in Region 6 from Assessment, Listing, and TMDLs and State and Tribal sections as well as staff from EPA headquarters hosted a 3-day training event for tribal members on water quality monitoring methods and analyses. The training hosted around 25 tribal members from Region 6 tribes who were interested in learning about water quality monitoring. The training was held in Norman, Oklahoma on October 18 – 20. Topics were covered in classroom and field demonstration styles as well as hands-on sessions troubleshooting the tribes' equipment to increase the tribe's program capacity in their water monitoring programs. Several topics covered in the training included monitoring strategy, water sample collections, measuring flow in streams, and quality control for collected data. Several of the topics demonstrated were led by staff from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. **Lindsey Griffin, 665-2797; Laura Hunt, 665-9729; Mike Schaub, 665-7314; TeAndra Taylor 665-8346; Taimur Shaikh, 665-7181; Selena Medrano, 665-2776; Tami Sundquist 665-8360; Holly Arrigoni 202-564-4781; Jesse Boorman-Padgett 202-566-2612.**

EPA TRIBAL TRAINING FOR ATTAINS PILOT PROJECT: Tribal Participants will be introduced the Assessment, TMDL Tracking And Implementation System (ATTAINS) for a pilot project intended to assist tribes in tracking the decisions about the quality of their waters. Around 20 different tribes from Regions 5, 6, & 9 will be in attendance as they learn about ATTAINS, data management, and assessment methodologies. The training, hosted by Region 6 Assessment, Listing, and TMDL section and EPA headquarters, will be held on October 16th-18th in Oklahoma. **Taimur Shaikh, 665-7181; Selena Medrano, 665-2776; Tami Sundquist, 665-8360; Laura Shumway, 202-566-2514; Holly Arrigoni, 202-564-4781; Jesse Boorman-Padgett, 202-566-2612; Lindsey Griffin, 665-2797; Laura Hunt, 665-9729; Mike Schaub, 665-7314; TeAndra Taylor, 665-8346.**

EPA/TCEQ LEAN PROJECT: On Monday, October 23, 2017, representatives of the NPDES Permits & TMDLs Branch participated on an introductory conference call with management and staff of the TCEQ to discuss EPA Region 6 (jointly with the TCEQ) LEAN project to streamline the current process for the review of the TCEQ's draft TPDES permits. TCEQ has one of the largest universe of TPDES permits in the nation, and the EPA Region 6 reviews an average of 170 draft TPDES permits annually. However, current process of exchanging and review of permits and timeframes in resolving pending issues may delay the final issuance of TPDES permits. The goal of the LEAN project is to determine the obstacles and implement a more efficient process for permit reviews: **Kilty Baskin, 665-7500; Taim Shaikh, 665-7181.**

R6 PARTICIPATES IN POSTER PRESENTATION AT THE SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY ANDENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY (SETAC) ANNUAL MEETING: The national EPA Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Coordinators will be presenting a poster on the use of WET for water quality assessments, in the annual SETAC meeting in Minneapolis, MN on November 15th. The poster focuses on highlighting the current use of WET testing methods, regional case studies, and the future of WET as a regulatory tool. It discusses new methods being worked on, and international research. **Silvia Bogdan, 665-2749.**

REVIEW COMMENTS PROVIDED TO TCEQ FOR TWO PRE-PUBLIC DRAFT ADDENDUM TMDLS: October 11, 2017, EPA Region 6 received the pre-draft document titled, *Two TMDLs for Bacteria in Aransas River Above Tidal (2004_02) and Poesta Creek (2004B_02)*, from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). October 20, 2017, after review Region 6 provided comments on the draft addendum documents. TCEQ's next step is planned release of the complete WQMP

Update document for public notice in December 2017. The TMDL addendums address E. coli impairment for two assessment units within the original watershed of the approved August 9, 2016 TMDL project for tidal segments of the Mission and Aransas Rivers. **Linda Adams, 665-6546.**

MEETING WITH NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT WATER MONITORING 303(d)/TMDL STAFF: On October 25-26, 2017, members from the ALT section visited with the NMED at their headquarters in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The meeting focused on the State's management of surface water quality programs during FY 17. The discussions included the State's efforts to meet work plan commitments for water quality monitoring and assessment, TMDL development, integrated assessment/reporting in accordance with Sections 303(d) & 305(b), and water quality standards updates. **Laura Hunt, 665-9729; Rich Wooster 665-6473.**

316(b)/STEAM ELECTRIC RULE IMPLEMENTATION CONFERENCE CALL: Representatives of the NPDES Permits & TMDLs Branch participated on the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) conference call Thursday October 26, 2017, to continue ongoing discussions regarding the implementation of the Final Phase II 316(b) Rule (final August 15, 2014 and effective October 14, 2014), and of the revised rule for the Steam Electric Power Generating Plants (Final September 30, 2015, effective January 4, 2016). These calls are scheduled on a monthly basis to provide technical guidance, coordination, and consistency in establishing permit conditions and requirements to entities that are subject to the Final Phase II 316(b) Rule and the revised effluent limitation guidelines (ELGs) for the Steam Electric Power Generating Plant. However, both rules are undergoing litigation. In addition, compliance dates for the revised Steam Electric Power Generating facilities have been postponed (September 13, 2017) until reconsideration of the final rule is complete. **Kilty Baskin, 665-7500.**

MEASURES UPDATES: Headquarters pulled the FY17 numbers for Measures WQ-27 and WQ-28. Those numbers were sent out to the regional offices for verification. Assessment, Listing and TMDL staff are verifying those numbers. Commitments for plans to be completed by states in FY18 were due to be put into the system as of last week. Only one state has not sent in FY18 commitments. **Selena Medrano,665-2776.**