The Environmental Methods Forum (EMF)

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White Paper on Cross-Agency Environmental Measurement

- Presented to STPC at the June 2018 meeting
- Refocus work to address a limited set of high priority Agency needs due to resource constraints
- Recommended a focused standing group to address critical Agency needs in the area of non-regulatory laboratory and field methods (priorities, development, validation, communication/coordination)

EMF Charter Status

- Final draft charter (based on the White Paper) for a focused standing group called the Environmental Methods Forum (EMF) sent to the STPC for concurrence
  - Incorporates feedback received from the STPC on the draft charter
  - Concurrence due **Friday, March 29**

Charter Overview

- Purpose and Scope
- Membership
- Organization
- Operations
  - Meetings
  - Annual Action Plan
  - Workgroups
  - Communities of Practice
  - Product Outreach

Purpose and Scope

- Address consistency and quality in processes for:
  - Prioritizing, developing and validating laboratory methods for non-regulatory purposes
  - Adoption of methods developed by external parties for non-regulatory purposes
  - Field sampling and field methods standardization and quality
  - Effective internal (cross-agency) and external communication and coordination

Membership

- Consists of a Chair (or Co-Chairs) and 10 -12 members from across the Agency
  - Regions, OAR, OCSPP, OECA, OLEM, ORD, OW
- Members are managers:
  - Background in or responsibility for laboratory and/or field measurement operations
  - Able to identify support for Forum activities (e.g., personnel for workgroups)
  - Will serve 2 to 3 year terms (staggered)

EMF Products and Recommendations

- EMF products and recommendations will be presented to the STPC
- STPC will then advise the Science Advisor on whether the products and recommendations should be adopted by the Agency

Progress To Date

- Contract Support for EMF in place (from OSA)
- EMF Face to Face Meeting held last week March 20-21
- CY 2019 Draft Action Plan
  - 2 projects approved at Face to Face Meeting
  - 1 project - Tentative

EMF CY 2019 Projects

- Develop Non-Regulatory Method Validation Guidance
- Stand up Community of Practice for Current Method Development Efforts
- Tentative: Develop Guidance on developing methods for Contaminants of Emerging Concern

Next Steps

- EMF Approval of CY 2019 Action Plan
- Develop charges for approved projects from the Action Plan
- Request STPC approval of charges by May 2019

Questions?

Background: EMF Operations

- Meet quarterly
- Annual Action Plan development
- Workgroups with specific charges to address topics/develop products outlined in the Action Plan
- Communities of Practice may be established for information sharing/discussion of activities
- Product Communication and Training