

Illinois River Watershed Projects

Illinois River Watershed Informational Meeting
September 14, 2010

Quang Nguyen
Randall Rush
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6





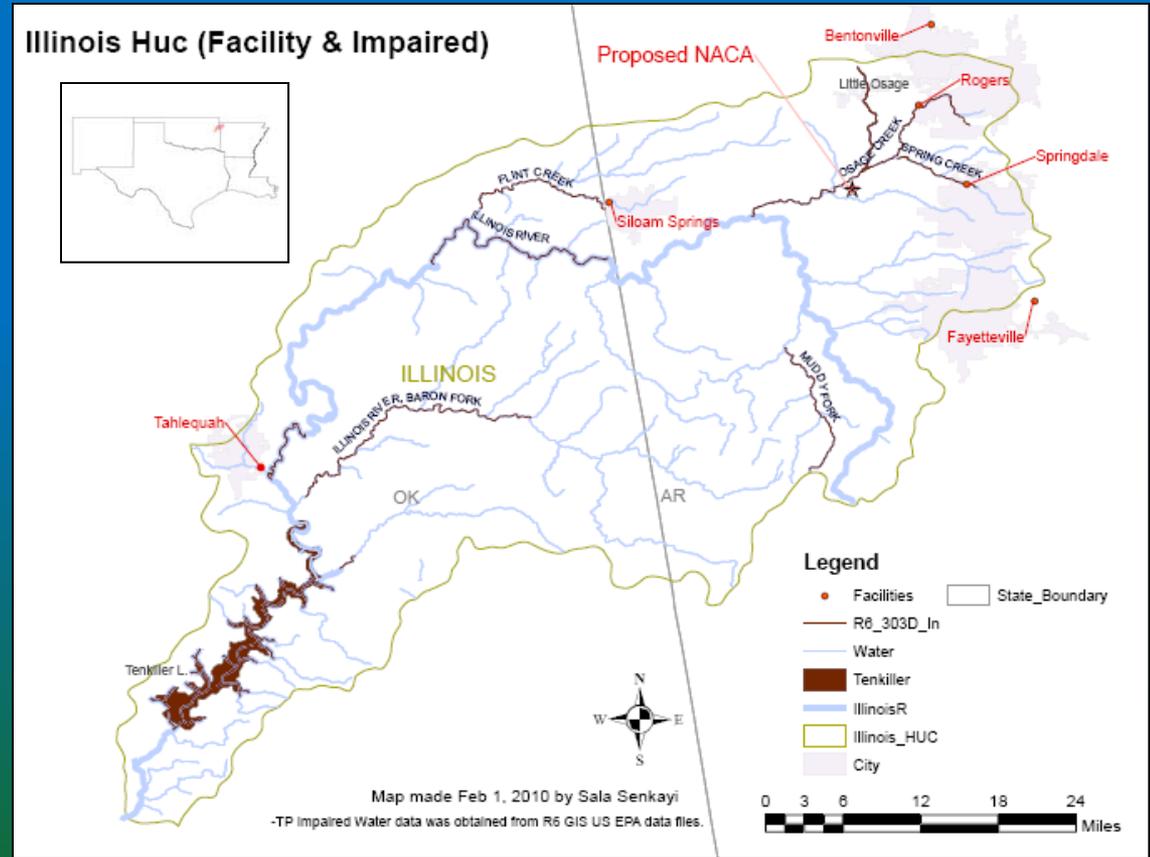
Illinois River Watershed Impaired Waters

Oklahoma

- Impaired Waters
 - Illinois River
 - Illinois River, Barren Fork
 - Flint Creek
 - Lake Tenkiller

Arkansas

- Impaired Waters
 - Osage Creek
 - Spring Creek
 - Muddy Fork





Actions to Restore and Protect IRW

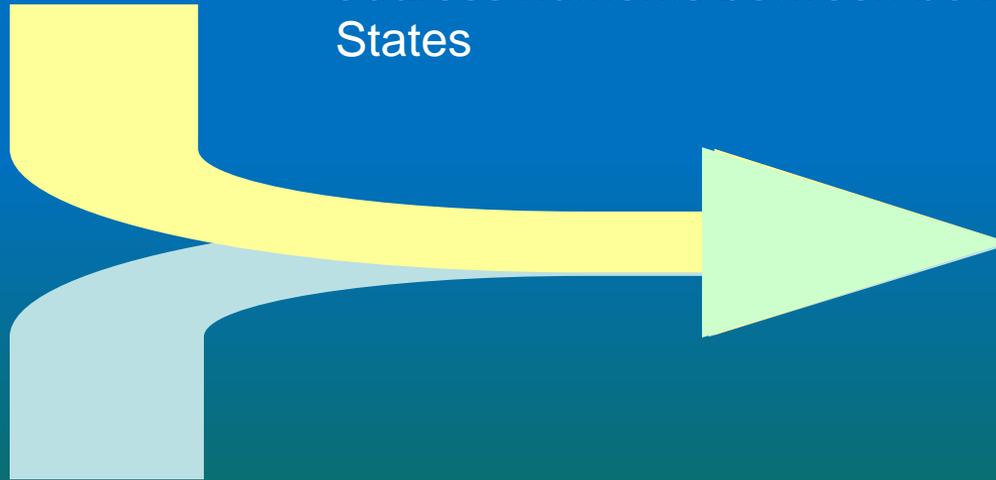
- **Ongoing Upper IRW Watershed Management Plan Development-- Illinois River Watershed Partnership**
- **Ongoing Model and TMDL Development**



How Do We Create Success in the Illinois River Watershed

TMDLS

Provides a basin wide characterization and budget to address nutrients between both States



Comprehensive Plan for the Illinois River Watershed

Watershed Based Plan

Provides road map to on-the-ground implementation activities in Arkansas and Oklahoma



Upper Illinois River Watershed Management Plan

■ Goal:

Plan to restore water quality to the Upper Illinois River Watershed – Non Point Sources

■ Objectives:

- Conduct scientifically based evaluation of conditions
- Strategies for a healthy, productive watershed with specific implementation actions & BMPs
- Utilize adaptive management approach
- Provide support to stakeholders/communities
- Promote stewardship by developing educational and implementation tools, and incentives



Upper Illinois River Watershed Management Plan

- **Timeframe July 2008 – June 2010**
- **Partially funded by EPA through a CWA Nonpoint Source Control grant to the Arkansas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (ANRC)**
 - Sub-award from ANRC to Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP)



Upper Illinois River Watershed Management Plan

■ Next Steps

- EPA views watershed planning as a dynamic and cooperative process
- EPA supports further refinement of recommended implementation activities in 12-digit subwatersheds within Basin
- TMDL will provide load reductions needed to meet water quality standard and may result in recommended revision of the watershed plan
- For consistency, work with Oklahoma as it develops a watershed plan for lower portion of the Illinois River



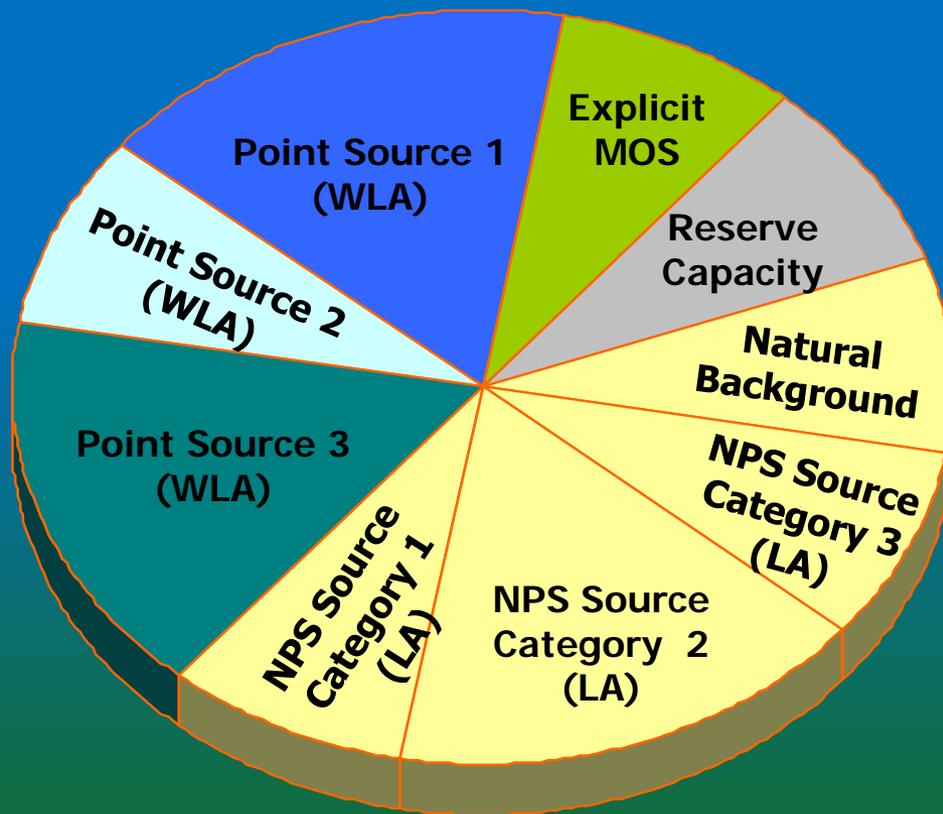
Model and TMDL Development

What is a TMDL?

A calculation of a pollutant load that assures that when implemented, an impaired water will attain and maintain the applicable water quality standard.



TMDL Allocation





Modeling Goals

- Identify sources of nutrients in watershed
- Quantify reductions needed to meet water quality goals
- Tool to guide non-point source and point source implementation





Working With Our Partners

- Partners in Project
 - OK, AR, USGS, NRCS and Tribal Agencies





Stakeholder Involvement

- Jan. 2010 EPA published a request for data in the Federal Register, Tulsa World, and Arkansas Democrat Gazette
- Informational public meetings to provide project updates
 - February 4, 2010
 - September 14, 2010
 - Others TBD
- Input on project deliverables through state agencies.
- Project website:
<http://www.epa.gov/region6/water/npdes/illinoisriverwatershed/index.htm>



Funding Assistance

- **EPA NPS funding assistance for projects within Illinois River, AR**
 - **Agriculture Runoff:**
 - manure transfer, BMP cost share, poultry runoff capture
 - **Urban Runoff:**
 - Fayetteville & Rogers LID; Sager Creek Restoration
 - **Riparian Restoration:**
 - Streambank protection; Demo natural channel design
 - **Monitoring/Modeling/Planning/Education:**
 - Clear Creek Riparian Ed.; Ballard Creek monitoring; Illinois Watershed Plan
 - **26 Projects from 2003-2009;**
Total support CWA 319h: ~\$4,300,000



Modeling Project Team

Project Lead: EPA Region 6 Permits & TMDL Branch, Water Quality Protection Division

- AQUA TERRA Consultants (Prime Contractor)
- Sub-Contractors:
 - Eco Modeling – AQUATOX Developer
 - R. Srinivasan, TAMU – SWAT Developer
 - Dynamic Solutions LLC
 - Tetra Tech – EFDC Developer



Questions

For Further Information

Quang Nguyen
Nguyen.Quang@epa.gov
(214) 665-7238

Randall Rush
Rush.Randall@epa.gov
(214) 665-7107