

QA Strategy Workgroup Conference Call Notes
Wednesday 12/12/02

Attendees

Anna Kelley	Mathew Plate
Chris Hall	Michael Papp
Danny France	Mustafa Mustafa
Don Gourley	Rachel Townsend
Donavan Rafferty	Rayna Broadway
Gordon Jones	Richard Heffern
Jerry Burger	Tom Parsons
Mark Shanis	Tim Hanley
Melinda Ronca-Battista	Tom Parsons

The 22nd EPA Annual National Meeting on Managing Environmental Quality Systems will take place April 14 - 17, 2003 at the Sheraton New Orleans in New Orleans, Louisiana. This four-day conference continues a 22-year tradition of addressing environmental issues through the exploration of scientific and technical advancements in environmental quality systems management. You can find additional information of the conference at:

http://www.alpha-gamma.com/national_conf_announcement.htm

OAQPS has secured room space at the meeting on April 16 and 17 (Wednesday and Thursday) for Ambient Air Program QA presentations and a QA Strategy Workgroup meeting. Presentations will be on the 15-20 minute time period. *If you'd like to give a presentation send Mike Papp an e-mail with a sentence or two on the subject matter.* In addition you can also submit abstracts to the National meeting if you'd like to go in that direction.

Similar to last year, Mike Papp will send a memo to each Workgroup member inviting them to the national meeting. *If you would like me to cc your supervisor, please provide this persons name and address* (if it is different from your address).

CFR Revision Progress

The remainder of the call was devoted to reviewing the Workgroup comments that were submitted to Mike on the CFR revisions that were made based on the 11/13/02 conference call. The comments were placed in a table along with a response on how they were handled. This table was distributed to the Workgroup about an hour before the call. In general, most of the comments were accepted and revised accordingly. The following areas were discussed during the call.

Monitoring Agency- Instead of using the term State, Local, Tribal monitoring agencies, we plan on just using the term "monitoring agency" which will be appropriately defined in Part 58.

SLAMS/NAMS to NCore Level 2 and 3 - Appendix A will reflect PSD and the QA requirements for meeting the objectives of the NCore level 2 and 3 sites. SLAMS/NAMS will globally be changed to NCore levels 2 and 3.

“Non-NCore” Monitoring- The Workgroup thought it would be a good idea to up-front mention that Appendix A covers the PSD and NCore level 1 and 2 minimum data quality requirements and that the data quality requirements for “non-NCore” monitoring would be the responsibility of the monitoring organizations. This might mean that non-NCore data may not be of a quality to be used for “NCore” objectives (i.e., you might not be able to use non-NCore data for NAAQS comparisons).

Quality Assurance Organization (QAO) - Reporting organization was changed to QAO. An additional common factor was added to the definition to include “use of a common QAPP or standard operating procedure. A sentence was also included that mentioned that QAOs are not related to the organization reporting data to AIRS AQS. Discussion ensued on how to handle Tribal monitoring organizations or small local organization within a state that carry more of a QA burden due to having to perform a higher percentage of QA relative to the number of monitoring sites. It was suggested that additional QAO guidance be developed for the Tribes and local organizations.

Adding some roles and responsibilities into CFR. - CFR will include the responsibility of OAQPS to perform data quality assessments based upon the QA information submitted to AQS but will also reference the Redbook that clarifies the roles and responsibilities of HQ, EPA Regions and the monitoring organizations for additional detail.

Graded Approach- A paragraph alluding to the graded approach was included in CFR and seems sufficient. However this section will also reference the Redbook that will include the graded approach document that was developed by the Workgroup. One action item for Mike Papp would be to ensure that Regional QA Managers buy off on this approach for the Ambient Air Monitoring Program.

Technical Systems Audits - There was some discussion about relaxing the EPA Regional requirements for TSAs (changing shall to should). There was some disagreement on this. There was also comment about adding requirements for audits of PSD sites at a more frequent level since these sites have shorter monitoring duration.

Definitions of precision, accuracy and bias- There was some comments about the definitions for these data quality indicators, as well as the lack of information on some of the other traditional indicators (completeness, comparability, representativeness, detectability). We will look for the most recent ANSI/ASQC or ISO definitions for use. We may want to discuss the use of some of the other data quality indicators that we have not addressed. In addition, Melinda Ronca-Battista discussed a NIST article titled “*Guidelines for Evaluating and Expressing the Uncertainty of NIST Measurements Results*” that has some language about uncertainty and errors. Melinda distributed the article to the Workgroup for review.

Mike Papp will make additional revisions to sections 1 through 3.0 based upon conference call suggestions. In general, we will consider these sections complete and move on to section 3.1 for the next call. Mike will schedule a call for sometime around the 1/6/03 time frame.

