

Message

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Subject: RE: Notes from Dec. 5 P&P Co-Chairs Call

Hello and Happy New Year!

Please see a revised version of the P&P call notes, below, which corrects a typo in the date of the Strategic Plan (February 2018) – thanks to Pamela for catching this! Also a reminder we will not have a January call. Talk to you in February!

Andrea Barbery
Office of Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-1397

From: Barbery, Andrea

Sent: Friday, December 29, 2017 3:49 PM

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Subject: Notes from Dec. 5 P&P Co-Chairs Call

Hello,

Draft notes from the December P&P Co-Chairs call, below. Please let me know if you have any corrections. Thanks and Happy 2018!

Andrea Barbery
Office of Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-1397

[Notes from 12/5/17 P&P Co-Chairs Call](#)

FY18-22 Strategic Plan & FY18-19 NPM Guidance

Robin Richardson (OCIR) summarized the status of EPA's Strategic Plan & NPM Guidance development. The comment period for the Draft FY18-22 Strategic Plan concluded at the end of October and the Agency is reviewing those comments. The final Plan will emerge in February 2018, along with the FY19 President's Budget.

The FY18-19 NPM Guidances were published on September 29, 2017. EPA shared draft FY18 region-to-headquarters performance commitment reports with ECOS for state feedback. These draft commitments are for specific performance measures associated with the final FY18-19 NPM Guidances. The draft commitments reflect state performance contributions to the measures. State comments were due to their respective Regions by Dec. 15.

Following the 2-year process, the agency would expect to issue a 2019 addendum in the spring of 2018, and begin early engagement on FY20-21 during the summer of 2018. Across the agency, management is discussing whether that is a reasonable approach, given the transition, FY18 Presbud, and timing. Because we appreciate that the 2-yr process provides opportunities for early engagement, priority setting, transparency, and flexibility, we will propose to pause issuance of the addendum for FY19. We will begin engagement for 20-21 NPM guidances in the summer/early fall of 2018. At the same time, we'll engage states and tribes on the 2019 state commitment setting process. The idea is to pause in FY19 to allow enough time to inform the 20-21 guidances and get us back on track. A meeting of the NPM Guidance-NEPPS workgroup is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 13 to discuss this proposal. OCFO will take state and tribal input to senior leaders for a final decision.

States asked about timing; OCFO clarified that while the agency would not issue an FY19 addendum, the 2-year guidance process will continue, starting up again in Fall of 2018 for early engagement and joint priority setting for the 20-21 NPM Guidances. Region 8 asked how this process would accommodate changes between priorities listed in the guidance and those reflected in the FY18 appropriation. OCFO answered, the NPM guidance is designed to carry out in more detail what's in the Presbud, so there is no plan to revise the NPM guidances to try to make up the differences between the Presbud and the appropriation. OGD added, flexibilities in grants policies allow pen & ink changes as well as negotiating a work plan that would include work in the areas that were zeroed out in the '18 Presbud. States are encouraged to include a term and condition stating such work will only be done if funding is provided. Region 8 suggested states and regions have mechanisms in place to react to budget- and planning-related uncertainties for a while and a forum is needed to share best practices. OCIR commented the NPM-NEPPS workgroup or State Grants Subgroup (or another group run out of OGD) would be a good place for this conversation. The group agreed having a framework to address uncertainties going forward would be helpful. R8 agreed to send a list of questions for such a group to tackle.

NH asked EPA to explain its implementation of the lean management system across the agency. The LMS is a set of practices and tools that supports all members of an organization in identifying and solving problems where they occur. The goal is continuous improvement of the organization to better accomplish its mission. The EPA is implementing the LMS by setting performance measures and targets, streamlining workflows, and conducting regular progress reviews. The agency is using bowling charts and management reviews to ensure people are evaluating processes throughout the agency. The LMS implementation remains in very early stages at EPA. ECOS added, Henry Darwin is implementing the same thing at EPA that he deployed when he was leading Arizona DEQ (and later, all of AZ's executive branch). ECOS has materials from AZ DEQ they are willing to share, if anyone is interested in learning more (contact: [Owen McAleer](#)).

P&P calls for CY2018

The group agreed to continue monthly P&P calls in 2018 on first Tuesdays of the month from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. eastern. Due to the holidays, no call will be held in January. Please keep a look out for a new calendar hold from Andrea Barbery with a new call-in number.

No updates from the **State Grants Subgroup** this month; they will report out on the February 2018 P&P call.

Next Call: Tuesday, February 6, 2018