

**Request for State Initial Input:
State Review Framework Update Ideas
4/14/2022**

Summary

- EPA is soliciting early input from states for improving or updating the State Review Framework.
- **Submissions from individual states or state associations by May 16, 2022, to Beth Ragnauth at ragnauth.elizabeth@epa.gov.**
- EPA-state workgroups will consider all comments received and develop a proposal for SRF updates, which EPA will make available for state review and comment in fall 2022.

Background

The State Review Framework (SRF) is the Agency's program for establishing and maintaining consistent national oversight of state compliance and enforcement programs. The SRF was developed in collaboration with states, and states have been partners in regular efforts to assess and improve the program. State collaboration is coordinated through the national associations of state environmental professionals (i.e., ECOS, ASTSWMO, ACWA, NACAA, and AAPCA).

SRF will begin its fifth round of reviews in federal fiscal year 2024. Between each "round", EPA and states explore options to improve SRF efficiency and effectiveness.

Request for State Input

EPA has formed four EPA-state workgroups (1) CAA, 2) CWA, 3) RCRA, and 4) "Overarching", i.e., policy and process) to collect input and develop proposals for improving SRF. With this request, EPA is soliciting initial ideas from states and EPA regions to improve and enhance SRF for Round 5. Once initial state and EPA ideas are collected and deliberated by the workgroups, EPA will develop a proposal for updating SRF in preparation for Round 5 for review and comment by states.

Feel free to provide input on any aspect of the State Review Framework program. Past SRF updates have resulted in streamlining (such as significant reductions in Elements and Metrics), improvements to the review process, as well as needed updates to reflect new policies and rules, fixes to the data and clarifications to the guidance. During this update, EPA is particularly interested in ideas concerning: 1) How to move the SRF towards actual outcome measurement using the improved compliance rate information from the NPDES e-Reporting rule and the NPCES SNC NCI; and, 2) how SRF can support the focus on overburdened communities.

Please submit your feedback by Tuesday, May 16 to: Beth Ragnauth at ragnauth.elizabeth@epa.gov

Next Steps

- The purpose of this first step is to gather initial input that will help us identify issues and ideas for improvements.
- In the late fall, EPA will provide states with a summary of the ideas we received and a proposal for modifications to the SRF for state review and comment. Final decisions on SRF modifications will be made in winter 2022/2023.
- The work of implementing the modifications (e.g., modifying metrics, data programming, guidance revisions) will take place during the remainder of FY2023. States will have additional opportunities to participate in the development of these modifications during that time.