

TOC Sub-Team for Appendix A Process and Scope Development

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Technical Oversight Committee Meeting, May 14, 2013

During the March 26, 2013 Special Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) meeting, a brief presentation summarized the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). The presentation identified the potential to change water quality and quantity due to multiple and widespread changes within the TSP. The risk of water quality (WQ) exceedances using the current WQ compliance methodologies within Appendix A and modeled flows into Everglades National Park (ENP or Park) was evaluated. This evaluation revealed large uncertainties in WQ, and posed the question of the appropriateness of Appendix A for assessing Park WQ. The question is based on multiple structural and operational changes associated with the TSP, such as the Tamiami Bridge opening, and other regional activities influencing flows to the Park. Together, these actions lead to the relocation of existing flows, and the addition of new flows associated with structural and operational changes. In response, the TOC established a technical sub-team to evaluate the various aspects of the Appendix A methodology in light of the proposed changes to the system. As a first step, the sub-team was tasked with developing an evaluation process and scope for moving forward.

The Appendix A TOC sub-team, composed of technical staff from the State and Federal agencies associated with the TOC, was convened on April 17, 2013. This initial meeting was organized to discuss the process and scope for evaluating the impacts of potential short and long-term changes for determining compliance with WQ standards for the Park as ongoing and future restoration projects are implemented. During this meeting, both goals and objectives were defined for the sub-team as well as basic steps of evaluation needed for Appendix A. For informational purposes the meeting agenda is provided as Attachment 1.

Goals:

To determine the appropriateness of the Settlement Agreement's Appendix A as a means of evaluating inflow WQ for the Park. If any changes to Appendix A methodology are required, the sub-team will undertake a technical evaluation to identify and evaluate such changes.

Objectives:

- List items and estimated significant timelines for activities associated with Park inflows (e.g., CEPP, Tamiami Bridge, G-3273, Modified Waters Deliveries [MWD], etc.).
- Evaluate if immediate changes are required for sampling locations (near term vs. long-term).
- Evaluate if the inherent assumptions of Appendix A are still valid moving forward. (S-333 flows, water supplies, etc.). Evaluate and determine relevant data pre and post changes.
- Consider data uncertainty and confidence limits.
- Identify the basic components of compliance methodology (e.g., load vs. concentration, structure vs. ambient locations, ecological impacts, temporal scale, spatial scale, etc.).
- Consider a process for adaptation as future changes are made to the regional water management system.

Basic Steps:

- *Needed for all examples* – Up-to-date and complete information on projects from project-specific individuals (i.e., project managers, engineers, etc.) from all available agencies is required.
- *Example: Tamiami Bridge*
 - o What is being undertaken?
 - Timeline
 - Description
 - Changes in flows
 - Dependencies on other projects.
 - o Identify commonalities to previous projects.
 - o Identify challenges to monitoring (i.e., flow uncertainty, structural difficulties)

- Surrogate appropriateness with current system and after projects are implemented (i.e., S-333)
 - Does the relationship between S-333 and S-334 change?
 - Can we accurately monitor flow below the Tamiami Bridge?
- Include all current operations conditions and constraints.
- Determine if near-term data collection efforts to provide insight into future changes are possible.
 - Consideration of existing monitoring efforts.
- If a new methodology is developed, both old and new methodologies will be evaluated for precision, accuracy and comparability.
 - Robustness and adaptability are major considerations
- Identify agency resource constraints to support additional monitoring.
- Identify when water flows start to change.
- Identify adaptive protocols where applicable.
 - i.e., G-3273 test conditions during drought.
 - If A then B scenarios.
- Identify potential impacts to WQ due to future operations and structural changes.
 - Impacts to WQ based on velocities from S-333 under certain future operational conditions.
 - Data Needs:
 - L-29 cross sections and sedimentation data
 - Data available from L-29 FDOT short term stage relaxation of the L-29 FDOT stage constraint due to high water levels in WCA-3A.
 - Identify potential impacts to WQ due to new structures (e.g., S-356)
- Determine what new information the TOC needs to assess compliance.
- Identify both temporal and spatial scales of changes.
- Identify the time period in which changes are needed (i.e., near vs. long term).
- Recognize natural variations/changes (e.g., climate change, system stabilization with CEPP flows, distribution and timing, etc.)

- Identify other similar circumstances in other states or regions.

Intermediate Steps (Post Process Development):

- Identify the cost and resource needs across all agencies.
- Identify human resources for background information, etc.

Items for Sub-Team Review:

- Identify sampling locations (Current then MWD, CEPP, etc.).
- Evaluate TAMBR culvert monitoring and modifications needed after construction of the Tamiami Trail one-mile bridge
- Determine if “point of discharge” is appropriate for assessing WQ (i.e., end of pipe versus ambient).
- Develop, if appropriate, interim steps for adaptable monitoring for both near and long term.
- Maintain protection of designated use.
- Evaluate if short-term changes in system require Appendix A changes (i.e., recognition of projects planned and underway).
- Review all available data with regard to state standards and the Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) designation (conditions reasonably expected under pre and post restoration activities).

Items Outside of Sub-Team Review:

- Evaluation of matters in State and Federal law.

Attachment 1:

April 17, 2013 Meeting Agenda

Agenda Appendix A – Process and Scope Development

Date:	4/17/2013		
Time:	0900 – 1200 EST		
Location:	Conference Call: (888) 670-3525, Passcode: 4677588762# SFWMD: B-1 2A Bridge Conference Room		
Meeting Manager:	FDEP		
Attendees Invited:	<u>FDEP:</u>	Paul Julian	Lori Wolfe
	<u>SFWMD:</u>	Garth Redfield	Stuart Van Horn
		Pam Lehr	Sherry Scott
		John Raymond	Matahel Ansar
	<u>USACE:</u>	Mark Shafer	Sean Smith
	<u>NPS:</u>	Nick Aumen	Donatto Surratt
	<u>US FWS:</u>	Melissa Martin	Kyle Douglas-Mankin
	<u>DOI Consultants:</u>	Bill Walker	Bob Kadlec
<u>US EPA:</u>	Dan Scheidt		

0900 - 0905	Introduction
0905 – 0930	Define Goal (Reason for its undertaking)
0930-1015	Define Objectives (Purpose of the process)
1015-1115	Identification of Basic Steps (Each step = 1 action)
1115 - 1145	Process Development/Resource Needs
1145 – 1200	Review Action Items/Set Next Meeting Date/Conclude Meeting

