

Recommendations for Assessing the Quality of the Nation's Waters

- Make use of technological advances
 - telemetered gauging stations
 - Electronic data gathering and submission
 - Gather real time data
 - Field testing
- Better partnering in our monitoring efforts
- Use models to extrapolate data, but validate the models
- Work towards consistency in data

Recommendations for Assessing the Quality of the Nation's Waters

- Balance state needs against national assessment objectives
- EPA needs utilize state monitoring data for its probabilistic monitoring "snap-shot" and NOT take the funds from the states for it
- Monitoring and assessment should be dynamic and evolve over time
- Sometimes "B" work is OK

Recommendations for Assessing the Quality of the Nation's Waters

- Databases matter
- Work to have the data accessible and useable to other agencies and the public
- Don't allow decision-making to be procrastinated due to the belief that "more data" is always necessary
- Share in gathering of data along state and region boundaries (example, Bear River)

Recommendations for Assessing the Quality of the Nation's Waters

- Hydrology matters: In Utah in 2006, 50% to 60% of the loading occurred within a 2-week period
- Sometimes weekly and monthly timescales underestimate pollutant loads that can only be captured on an hourly basis
- Be selective in what data we gather
- Better data = better decisions

Surface Water Recommendations

- Develop strategies to define the basic data needs that will provide the best information for the most people
- Stakeholders should work to agree on a common goal and then gather the data to approach the goals
- Demand data from permit holders for compliance monitoring
- Disseminate data among state and federal partners

Surface Water Recommendations

- A national database repository is not feasible. Portals for accessing the data are
- Data must be used to move to higher levels of performance not just to measure activity
- Focus on water quality not just water quality data
- EPA's "Know Your Watershed" program makes water quality information "real" to the public

Surface Water Recommendations

- Facilitate public access to information
- Develop common data collection and data management protocols
- First determine what's important
- Budget constraints will drive reprioritization

Ground Water Recommendations

- There is a realization that GW is taking a back seat to surface water
- EPA has driven a national surface water strategy. None exists for GW mainly because it's a state not federal issue
- Emerging contaminants should be monitored more closely as to their effect on GW
- In the area of GW we need to be more political and catastrophic to compete for \$

Ground Water Recommendations

- Develop risk-based approaches to protect GW
- Reclaiming poor quality GW should be evaluated as better and lower cost technology becomes available
- GW should be specifically included in the WGA's "Next Steps" report