

## **OCFO TECHNICAL GUIDANCE FY 2022-2023 NATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDANCE**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer's (OCFO) *Technical Guidance for the FY 2022-2023 National Program Guidances* provides instructions and milestones for the development of the National Program Guidances (NPGs) that are issued by EPA's five major National Program Offices—Air and Radiation; Water; Land and Emergency Management; Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention; Enforcement and Compliance Assurance—along with the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR), and the Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA). The NPGs are issued on a two-year cycle with an optional addendum in the second year to address significant changes.

The NPGs communicate program priorities, strategies, key activities, and measures for EPA and guide grant work planning, consistent with the FY 2022 President's Budget and EPA's Strategic Plan. *Note: FY 2022 is a transition year. It is the last year of current Strategic Plan (FY 2018-2022) and the first year of the next Strategic Plan (FY 2022-2026).* The FY 2023 Addendums to the FY 2022-2023 NPGs will provide National Programs the opportunity to make adjustments related to the new strategic plan. We will maintain flexibility and adjust timeframes as necessary.

The FY 2022-2023 NPG process includes a few important changes from the FY 2020-2021 process. These changes reflect OCFO and OCIR's 2019 assessment of the NPGs and recommendations approved at the December 2019 Environmental Management Council meeting. Specifically:

- National Programs will lead early engagement (Regions led early engagement for development of the FY 2020-2021 NPGs); and
- OITA's NPG will reference key program priorities and tribal provisions in each of the other NPGs, to serve as a primary NPG resource for tribes. Also, the NPG template now includes a new section focused on tribal work.

### **II. MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE FY 2022-2023 NATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDANCE PROCESS**

#### **A. Early Engagement with States, Tribes, and Territories**

- NPMs will lead early engagement focused on state, territory, and media-specific associations, the National Tribal Caucus, tribal partnership groups, and other relevant organizations to inform development of the NPGs.

**Timeframe for Early Engagement:** June – October 2020

**Early Engagement Summary:** By November 13, 2020, each NPM will submit their completed [Summary of Early Engagement](#) to OCFO ([Beth Burchard](#) and [Kathryn \(Blair\) Budd](#)) for posting on the [National Program Guidance website](#).

**B. Consultation and Coordination with Federally Recognized Tribes**

OCFO will notify federally recognized tribes that the Agency is available for consultation on the FY 2022-2023 NPGs through the end of the external comment period. Additional information about consultation and coordination with tribes can be found on EPA's [Tribal Consultation Opportunities Website](#).

**C. Alignment of National Program Guidances and Grant Work Planning**

National Program Offices will include a focused discussion on increasing the flexibilities offered through Performance Partnership Agreements (PPAs) and Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs). NPMs will clearly identify [PPG-eligible grants](#) to inform grant work planning by states, tribes, and territories.

In developing the NPGs and grant guidances, National Program Offices also should reaffirm their commitment to the use of EPA Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) to better understand and address shared environmental priorities of EPA and tribes and use that understanding to guide EPA actions and decision-making.

**D. FY 2022 National Program Guidance Measures**

National Program Offices and regions will review their current NPG measures as the starting point for engaging with states, tribes, and territories to identify FY 2022 measures. These measures help us assess progress toward planned results in protecting human health and the environment. Programs and regions will continue to include NPG measures in their monthly bowling chart reports, as appropriate.

**III. FORMAT AND CONTENT OF DRAFT AND FINAL GUIDANCES**

The Section 508-compliant [Format and Content Template](#) is available on the NPG SharePoint site and provides instructions for developing FY 2022-2023 NPGs.

**IV. REVIEWS**

The agency will provide opportunities for internal and external comments on draft NPGs and will hold conference calls with the states and territories, and equivalent outreach to tribes during the external comment period. See Section VI. Key Milestones, for the review schedule.

## **A. Internal Agency Review**

Prior to the external comment period, OCFO will post draft FY 2022-2023 NPGs for internal review on the [National Program Guidance SharePoint Site](#). Comments should be submitted using the [Comments Template](#) posted on the SharePoint site.

## **B. External Review**

The draft FY 2022-2023 NPGs will be available on the [National Program Guidance website](#) for a 45-day external comment period. Comments should be submitted using the Comments Template that will be posted on the [National Program Guidance website](#).

- During the comment period, National Program Offices will hold national teleconference calls with states and territories, and equivalent outreach to tribes to provide an overview of the process for commenting on the draft FY 2022-2023 NPGs and discuss key changes.

## **C. Response to Comments**

National Program Offices will use the § 508-compliant [Response to Comments Template](#) to respond to comments by providing a brief explanation of how comments were addressed in the final FY 2022-2023 NPGs. The Response to Comment documents will be posted on EPA's [National Program Guidance website](#) with the final NPGs.

## V. KEY MILESTONES

The following table contains a planned timeline for developing the FY 2022-2023 National Program Guidances. OCFO will update this schedule as necessary.

Target Date	National Program Guidance Development
<b>June – October 2020</b>	NPMs solicit input from states and tribes on joint priority-setting to inform development of the NPGs.
<b>November 13</b>	NPMs provide OCFO with a summary of (1) the early engagement process used and (2) the early input received from states and tribes. The summaries will be posted on the <a href="#">NPG website</a> .
<b>January 2021</b>	OCFO notifies tribes of: (1) the opportunity to request consultation with the programs on their draft NPGs, concurrent with the 45-day comment period; and (2) the details of an informational teleconference for tribes during the consultation and comment period.
<b>January 22</b>	Draft FY 2022-2023 NPGs due to OCFO for internal review.
<b>January 22 – February 3</b>	Internal EPA review of draft FY 2022-2023 NPGs. Guidances will be available on the <a href="#">NPG SharePoint Site</a> . Comments due to appropriate NPM and OCFO contacts by <b>February 3</b> .
<b>February 17</b>	Revised draft FY 2022-2023 NPGs due to OCFO for external review.
<b>February 19</b>	OCFO posts draft FY 2022-2023 NPGs on the <a href="#">NPG website</a> for external review, following release of the FY 2022 President’s Budget.
<b>February 22 – April 7</b>	External comment period on the draft FY 2022-2023 NPGs begins <b>February 22</b> .  State/ECOS/NPM conference calls and national teleconference with tribes.  External partners provide comments to appropriate NPM and OCFO contacts by <b>April 7</b> .
<b>May 7</b>	Final FY 2022-2023 NPGs and Response to Comments due to OCFO.
<b>May 14</b>	OCFO posts final FY 2022-2023 NPGs on the <a href="#">NPG website</a> .

## VI. KEY CONTACTS

Key contacts for the NPGs are located on the [National Program Guidance website](#).