

CWA SECTION 106 TRIBAL GUIDANCE REVISION PROJECT STATUS #6

COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED UNTIL OCTOBER 14

EPA Office of Water July 2022

Background

On January 13, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated consultation and coordination with Tribes to seek input on recommended changes to the 2007 Section 106 Tribal Guidance. EPA then established a Section 106 Tribal Guidance Revision work group, made up of EPA headquarters and regional staff and 24 tribal volunteers, to assist in revising the 2007 Guidance. The Section 106 Tribal Guidance Revision work group developed draft text based on the initial EPA recommendations and tribal feedback provided through the consultation and coordination process.

What is happening?

EPA is extending the comment period on the revised Draft CWA Section 106 Tribal Guidance for an additional 60 days. The comment period will remain open until October 14, 2022. This extension will ensure our tribal partners have the opportunity to provide substantial and meaningful input on the revised Guidance.

For more information about EPA's revision process and to view and download the draft revised Guidance, visit the <u>Draft CWA Section</u> 106 Tribal Grant Guidance Web site.

EPA is specifically requesting feedback on:

- Additional flexibilities EPA should consider
- Inclusion of information on ITEK
- Tools and technical assistance EPA should provide to support tribal data flow
- If any content is overly- or insufficiently-detailed
- Other feedback on individual chapters

EPA welcomes any relevant case studies and pictures, including about Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

How to Comment

You can provide comments any one of three ways.

- (1) Submit your comments online using the Response Form
- (2) Email your comments to EPA using this email address:

Draft_Section_106_Tribal_Guidance@epa.gov

(3) Mail your comments to EPA at the address below:

CWA Section 106 Tribal Program U.S. EPA 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW (MC 4201M) Washington, DC 20460

Contact Information

For questions, please contact Robyn Delehanty, EPA's official representative for this consultation and coordination opportunity.

Delehanty.Robyn@epa.gov (202) 564-3880

For More Information

Tribes may access consultation information on EPA's <u>Tribal Consultation Opportunities</u> <u>Tracking System</u> (TCOTS).

Goals for the Tribal Guidance Revision

- Develop clear, comprehensive, updated, and succinct language that is relevant and applicable to Tribes
- Describe the Section 106 program and provide context around the CWA generally
- Describe the benefits of water quality program development and implementation
- Provide practical guidance in program implementation
- Provide consistent messaging on national program requirements to help Tribes more effectively negotiate work plans with EPA