NEW HAMPSHIRE (REGION 1)

A Snapshot of New Hampshire's TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Water Division www.des.nh.gov/wmb/tmdl
TMDL Program Structure/Placement	Housed in Watershed Management Bureau, alongside WQSs and Section 319 programs

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters		5,211
Number of Causes of Impairment		6,960
Top Five Causes of Impairment	1. Mercury 2. pH 3. Pathogens 4. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion 5. Metals (other than mercury)	
Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually		has varied greatly (*i.e.*, from 1-5 from 2000 to 2004, 20-160 from 2005-2007, and 5,238 in 2008)
Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA)		5,504
Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007		20/23/160
2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date)		8/30/2008
Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues		1.5

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs?	N
Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)	Y

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters?	Y
Example(s)	--Bacteria impairments associated with CSOs covered under enforceable individual NPDES permits or administrative orders --Bacteria caused by illicit connections where the community is actively pursuing elimination of the connection --Dioxin in fish tissue caused by a paper mill discharge covered under the NPDES permit program; the source of the dioxin has since been eliminated

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program	$200,000
Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding	federal 106 funds; occasional 104(b)(3) funds; one-time highway funds (for chloride TMDLs)

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required? WLAs from TMDLs for WWTFs are incorporated into NPDES permits; NPDES General Stormwater permits require compliance with TMDLs; where applicable, TMDLs are used in the Section 319 NPS program to obtain restoration funding

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

--use of EPA's contractors has helped NH to significantly increase annual TMDL output; EPA contractors are currently working on a statewide bacteria TMDL that should result in over 390 TMDLs

--inclusion of detailed implementation plans in the TMDL report that qualify for 319 funding has helped educate stakeholders and expedite implementation

TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

--Chloride TMDLs (expecting approval in 2008)

--Beach bacteria TMDLs (detailed implementation plans that qualified for 319 funding)

--Northeast Region Mercury TMDL (prepared by the New England States, New York, and NEIWPCC)—this TMDL addressed all fresh surface waters in NH that are listed as impaired due to a statewide fish consumption advisory that was issued because of elevated levels of mercury in fish tissue

Links to NH TMDLs:
http://www.des.nh.gov/wmb/tmdl/nhstatus.htm.

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. lack of funds
2. lack of staff and sometimes expertise (depending on the TMDL)
3. in the past, getting buy-in early from EPA on TMDL methodology and sticking to that commitment occasionally resulted in some delays; this has not been the case lately

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. lack of resources or time to prepare detailed implementation plans as part of TMDLs that are eligible for 319 funding
2. lack of staff to oversee implementation of TMDLs
3. lack of funds to implement pollution control measures to achieve TMDLs, and sometimes lack of local buy-in to TMDL recommendations