



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Certification Program External Review

Certification Program Advisory Committee

Harrisburg, PA

March 11, 2015

Tom Wolf, Governor

John Quigley, Acting Secretary

▶ EPA Guidelines

- Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Final Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems* (1999)
- EPA's Memorandum: *Conducting Internal and External Reviews on State Operator Certification Programs* (2009)

➤ Certification Program Reviews

- Internal Program Review (every 3 years)
 - Performed within DEP
 - 2011-2013 review submitted to EPA in June 2014
- External Program Review (every 5 years)
 - Purpose: to provide feedback on program implementation and strategic planning
 - Performed through CPAC
 - Most recent report completed in January 2011

External Review Elements

- Staffing
- Budget
- Exam Reviews
- Compliance Rate Determination
- Regulation Review

▶ External Review Elements (cont'd)

- Enforcement
- Status of Certified Operators and Trends
- Training and Testing
- Renewals
- Database Management

▶ External Review Elements (cont'd)

- Outreach
- Stakeholder Involvement
- State Regulation Changes
- Strategic Planning
- Primacy Agency Delegation and Changes

➤ CPAC's Previous Ranking

- Top six ranked elements:
 - Training and Testing
 - Status of Certified Operators and Trends
 - Outreach/Stakeholder Involvement
 - Budget
 - Enforcement
 - Regulations

➤ Recommendations

- DEP's recommendations for the current external review:
 - Resurvey stakeholders
 - Enforcement
 - Budget
- CPAC's recommended elements for review?

▶ Proposed Timeline

- March 11 – identify priority elements
- May 28 – DEP provides updates to CPAC on priority elements
- July 22 – review draft external review report
- Additional meetings?
- December 10 – present findings to the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators



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Thank you.

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Certification Section