

Charge Questions WaterSentinel (WS)Program & Standard Analytical Methods (SAM) Document

WS Program Documents

(The following questions correspond to specific WS documents that EPA provided to the HSAC, as indicated by the underscored text.)

1. System Architecture Document: What, if any, key additional elements to a contaminant warning system—beyond the five proposed components of (i) contaminant-specific monitoring, (ii) water quality monitoring, (iii) public health syndromic surveillance, (iv) consumer complaint tracking, and (v) physical security monitoring—should EPA consider incorporating into the WaterSentinel system architecture?
 - a. Please comment on EPA’s general approach of integrating multiple monitoring and surveillance strategies to improve the reliability and coverage of the system, as opposed to a reliance on different (e.g., direct monitoring of high priority contaminants) or fewer information streams (e.g., solely water quality indices).
 - b. Please comment on the emphasis of sustainability, including dual-use application and cost-benefit, in the design of the contamination warning system?
 - c. Please comment on using contaminant selection as a reasonable and appropriate approach in developing the design basis? What issues and potential limitations should EPA consider with the reliance on initial detection of “contamination,” rather than of specific contaminants, in the system design?
2. Online Water Quality Monitoring: Based on the current understanding of water quality sensor response to specific contaminants, and the state of the science for event detection systems, what additional considerations or potential limitations should EPA consider in the design and testing of this component of the pilot?
3. Timeline Analyses: What, if any, refinements to the incident timeline analysis would better support the proposed contaminant warning system concept of operations?
4. Contaminant Selection: What additional considerations could EPA review in the approach for identifying and prioritizing contaminants for inclusion in the WaterSentinel baseline list.
5. Consequence Management: Given the importance of consequence management to the contamination warning system, what additional issues and challenges should EPA consider in its strategy for developing a consequence management plan?
6. Event Detection Systems (EDS): What, if any, refinements could improve the process for evaluating, selecting, and field testing an EDS for the WaterSentinel program, and of what additional challenges should EPA be cognizant in its use of EDSs in the program design?

SAM Document

1. Is the approach undertaken in developing the SAM document technically sound? Could it be improved for future SAM update?
2. Is the disclaimer language contained in the SAM document sufficient to address the limitations and uncertainties in the methods?
3. Are there any other comments or advice that the SAB HSAC Review Panel wishes to provide with regard to ways that the SAM document can be improved to help to facilitate its application?