Area Wide Optimization Program

Individual Program Background Information 2019

Name of Agency: EPA Region III

Official Recognition of AWOP

Please provide the AWOP start date and describe any official recognition of AWOP in agency newsletters, web pages, awards programs, annual meetings, etc.

EPA Region III launched its AWOP in 2003.

Official Adoption of AWOP Goals

Please describe when and how AWOP goals were adopted by your agency and communicated to the water systems.

In January 2003 the Region III AWOP goals were adopted at a regional multi-state kickoff meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In attendance were representatives from drinking water programs in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia, alongside representatives from EPA TSC. The individual states are responsible for communicating AWOP goals to their water systems. Similarly, Region III has direct implementation authority for drinking water systems in the District of Columbia. Annually since 2013, Region III communicates its AWOP goals to these water systems through an annual monitoring and reporting guidance package provided to each system.

National Optimization Goals adopted by your PWSS Program – Check all that apply:

(refer to Attachment I for descriptions of the NOLT optimization goals.)

Water Treatment Plants

Microbial (Turbidity): Raw Water____ Individual Settled__√_ CFE_√__ IFE__√_
Post BW w/FTW_√__ Post BW wo/FTW__√_ Disinfection (CT) _√__

DBPs (TTHM/HAA5): Plant Effluent__√_ Enhanced Coagulation_√ (RAA of performance ration >1.1)__ Disinfection__√_

Chloramine Application: Ammonia Control_√__ Dosing (Chlorine & Ammonia) _√__

Distribution Systems

Individual Site DBPs _√__ Long Term System DBPs__√_ Tank Operations____
Secondary Disinfection, Free Chlorine __√__
Secondary Disinfection, Chloramines (monochloramine, Ammonia & Nitrite) __√_

Modifications to the national goals or other optimization goals utilized by your Agency:
Please describe any modified AWOP goals and/or any additional optimization goals adopted by your agency and communicated to the water systems.

N/A.

Description of *Current* AWOP Team Members and Responsibilities

Please provide the name, position/title, description of AWOP duties and approximate FTE that each team member spends on AWOP. Also indicate who serves as the AWOP team lead/point of contact.
Example: Nevel O. Meter, District Engineer, PBT trainer, ~ 0.3 FTE

(Note that if you submitted this information in 2017, that information is being provided and if there are no changes, simply indicate "no change" in this section.)

1. AWOP Team Leader: Alysa Zirilli, DCDI Team Leader, 0.2 FTE
2. Susan Yi, Environmental Engineer, 0.1 FTE
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Description of *Former* AWOP Team Members:

Please provide the name of former AWOP team members, and their reason for leaving the team. This information is for historical purposes and also to support networking as AWOP continues to expand.

(Note that if you submitted this information in 2017, that information is being provided and if there are no changes, simply indicate "no change" in this section.)

1. No change
2.
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Inventory of State-Wide Treatment Facilities[1]	Number
Rapid rate filtration treatment plants[2,3]	2
Utilizing static settling without tubes or plates	2
Utilizing static settling with tubes or plates	0
Utilizing sludge blanket clarification (upflow, pulsator)	0
Utilizing contact adsorption clarification	0
Utilizing sludge recirculation (including ballasted clarification)	0
Utilizing DAF, or other alternative clarification process	0
Utilizing direct/in-line filtration	0
Utilizing packaged filtration (package plants)	0
Slow sand filter plants	0
Diatomaceous earth filter plants	0
Membrane treatment plants	0
Bag or cartridge filtration plants	0
Primary disinfectant	
Free chlorine	2
Chloramines	0
Ozone	0
UV	0
Secondary disinfectant	
Free chlorine	0
Chloramines	2

[1]Limited to surface water treatment plants (includes surface, GUDI, blended sources).
[2]All surface water treatment plants, except cartridge, membrane and slow sand.
[3]When a plant utilizes multiple treatment processes or configurations identified below, please include them all in this inventory, e.g., a package plant that utilizes a CAC will be included as a rapid rate plant using CAC and packaged filtration.

AWOP Vision:

Please describe the vision for your AWOP

The Region III AWOP performs two distinct AWOP roles: regional facilitator for the states in our AWOP, and direct implementation authority for public water systems in the District of Columbia.

As the regional facilitator, our overall AWOP goal is to achieve optimized performance at surface water treatment plants by maximizing a state's limited resources to best protect public health. While originally developed to address microbial contaminants, AWOP has expanded beyond the original tools and is an ever-changing and ever-growing program that now addresses microbial contaminants, disinfection byproducts, and data integrity at surface water systems, including its distribution system. One of our Region III non-AWOP states has a forward-looking interest to incorporate ground water systems into the optimization program as an impetus to join AWOP, which we continue to discuss.

Our own long term vision for the direct implementation program includes advocating adoption of distribution system goals by our direct implementation systems; investigating the development of a

status component for these systems; and obtaining additional training for regional AWOP staff as opportunities arise (e.g.: CPE, microbial PBT, etc.).

Status Component Implementation:

Please describe status component activities that are implemented in your agency, e.g., (are water systems ranked according to public health risk and how is this information used; how is water system data integrity ensured):

Our direct implementation program oversees six public water systems. Of those six, there are only two water treatment plants, both owned by the same water system; as such we do not have a status component to our AWOP. Nonetheless, we are in the very early stage of preliminarily exploring the potential idea of developing some type of status component or ranking system for all six systems at an undetermined point in the future.

Targeted Performance Improvement (TPI) Implementation:

Please list all activities that are implemented as TPI activities in your state, e.g., CPEs, PBT, Enhanced Sanitary Surveys, technical assistance, other):

As part of our direct implementation authority we host a series of workshops for our public water systems in the District of Columbia. Recent workshops include proper sampling techniques, regulation implementation, and water outage tabletop exercises. Our office has also given presentations about all hazards water resiliency training and has produced a video about chlorine meter calibration.

As a regional facilitator for the Region III AWOP, our TPI also involves supporting our multi-state AWOP network and encouraging additional interested states to join the network.

AWOP Maintenance Component Implementation:

Integrate

Please check the following areas where AWOP has been integrated into the PWSS Program:
Plan Reviews__√__ Permitting_____ Capacity Development_____ Operator Training_____
Technical Assistance__√__ DWSRF Prioritization_____ Enforcement_____ Sanitary Surveys____ Other(identify)_____

Enhance

Please describe any AWOP enhancements that have been implemented in your program. One example could include modifying status component criteria

Region III has incorporated AWOP goals in monthly reviews of turbidity data from treatment plants under our direct implementation authority.

Sustain

Please describe any activities that you implement to sustain your agency's AWOP. Some examples could include efforts to promote and incentivize AWOP (e.g., publish regular newsletter, awards program, AWOP participation = higher ranking for grant/loan funding, etc.).

Region III AWOP staff have met with new drinking water management to discuss outcomes of regional meetings and discuss future implementation strategies.

Lessons Learned:

Please list "lessons learned" that you feel would be helpful to other programs, e.g., how to build and maintain internal support, how to integrate AWOP into your PWSS program, etc). If you are new to AWOP, please list a question or concern you'd like to know more about.

We continue to witness the value of an AWOP program that extends beyond regional borders. We now have two non-Region III states in our AWOP, with another two that have become increasingly engaged. Our discussions always center on the benefits to systems large and small that can come from optimizing processes in multiple categories, from treatment to data integrity to distribution system management. One of the most important messages we emphasize is that AWOP concepts are universally appealing and mutually beneficial.

Attachment I: Optimization Goals Adopted by the NOLT

Category	Goal	Applies to	Description
Microbial	Minimum Data Monitoring Goal Raw Water Turbidity	Rapid Rate Filtration Plants	— Record maximum daily raw water turbidity.
Microbial	Individual Sedimentation Basin Performance and Monitoring Goals	Rapid Rate Filtration Plants	— Settled water turbidity ≤ 2 NTU in 95% of readings when the annual average raw turbidity is > 10 NTU. Optimization is based on the daily maximum values recorded from all readings. — Settled water turbidity ≤ 1 NTU in 95% of readings when the annual average raw turbidity is ≤ 10 NTU. Optimization is based on the daily maximum values recorded from all readings. — Record individual sedimentation basin effluent turbidity readings at intervals of 4-hours or less if taking grab samples, or 15 minutes or less for continuous monitoring.
Microbial	Individual and Combined Filter Performance and Monitoring Goals	Rapid Rate Filtration Plants	— Combined filter effluent turbidity ≤ 0.10 NTU in 95% of readings. Optimization is based on the daily maximum values recorded from all readings. — Individual filter effluent turbidity ≤ 0.10 NTU in 95% of readings (excluding 15-minute period following filter backwash). Optimization is based on the daily maximum values recorded from all readings. —Post backwash individual filter effluent turbidity for filters <u>without</u> filter-to-waste capability: Maximum individual filter effluent turbidity following backwash ≤ 0.30 NTU and achieve ≤ 0.10 NTU within 15 minutes. —Post backwash individual filter effluent turbidity for filters <u>with</u> filter-to-waste capability: Minimize individual filter effluent turbidity during filter-to-waste period and record maximum value. Return the filter to service at ≤ 0.10 NTU. — Record individual and combined filter effluent turbidity readings at intervals of 1-minute or less for continuous monitoring.
Microbial	Disinfection Performance and Monitoring Goals	Rapid Rate Filtration Plants	—Meet CT requirements to achieve inactivation of *Giardia* and viruses plus a system-specific factor of safety. — Record disinfectant residual, temperature, and pH at maximum daily flow for CT calculations.
Disinfection By-Product	Plant Effluent Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) Performance and Monitoring Goals	Surface Water and Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water Plants	—System Specific Targets: Could be a discrete value or range that is based on a running annual average. Recommended goal value/range should be 30% to 50% of long term LRAA goals (e.g., 20-30 ppb for TTHM, 15-20 ppb for HAA5). —Collect quarterly TTHM and HAA5 samples at the plant effluent and distribution system compliance sites.
Disinfection By-Product	Enhanced Coagulation Performance and Monitoring Goals	Surface Water and Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water Plants	—Meet Stage 1 D/DBP Rule TOC removal requirements for enhanced coagulation, which are based on source water alkalinity and TOC levels, or an alternative compliance criterion, as a running annual average (RAA) of the performance ratio (actual TOC removal/required TOC removal) plus a factor of safety of 10% (or performance ratio ≥ 1.1). —Collect monthly total organic carbon samples for raw and treated water (only applies to parent systems).
Disinfection By-Product	Disinfection Performance and Monitoring Goal	Surface Water and Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water Plants	—Meet CT requirements to achieve inactivation of *Giardia* and viruses plus a system-specific factor of safety. —Record disinfection residual, temperature, and pH at maximum daily flow for CT calculations (only applies to parent systems).

Distribution System	Disinfection Byproducts Performance and Monitoring Goals	Parent and Consecutive Water Systems that Utilize any Secondary Disinfectant	—Individual Site Goal: Quarterly Maximum Locational Running Annual Average TTHM/HAA5 values not to exceed 70/50 ppb. —Long-Term System Goal: Average of Maximum Locational Running Annual Average TTHM/HAA5 values not to exceed 60/40 ppb (the average of the last 8 quarters cannot exceed 60/40 ppb). —For systems in compliance with the TTHM and HAA5 MCLs, collect quarterly DBP samples at all compliance locations; for systems not in compliance, collect monthly samples.
Free Chlorine Distribution System	Disinfection Performance and Monitoring Goals	Parent and Consecutive Water Systems that Utilize Free Chlorine as a Secondary Disinfectant	—Maintain ≥ 0.20 mg/L free chlorine residual at all monitoring sites in the distribution system, at all times. —Monitoring should be performed at least monthly, but more frequently at critical times (i.e., summer months). —Sample locations should include bacteriological and DBP compliance sites, all distribution system entry points (e.g., plant effluent, consecutive system connections), all tanks (preferably while draining), and identified critical sites base on investigative sampling (minimum of one critical site in each quadrant of the system, four sites total).
Plants that Utilize Chloramine	Disinfection: Ammonia Control Performance and Monitoring Goals	Parent and Consecutive Water Systems that Utilize Chloramine as a Secondary Disinfectant	—Maintain a detectable free ammonia residual in the plant effluent ≤ 0.10 mg/L as NH3-N. —Monitor free ammonia at <u>least</u> once per day in the plant effluent. • The monitoring frequency may be adjusted based on the variability observed over an extended period of time. • Free ammonia may be monitored in the source water periodically (e.g., once per week) to assess variability.
Plants that Utilize Chloramine	Operational Guideline Chlorine and Ammonia Dosing	Parent and Consecutive Water Systems that Utilize Chloramine as a Secondary Disinfectant	—Maintain a chlorine-to-nitrogen mass ratio between 4.5:1 and 5.0:1 (or chlorine-to-ammonia mass ratio between 3.7:1 and 4.1:1), which should result in a detectable free ammonia in the plant effluent that is ≤ 0.10 mg/L as NH3-N.
Chloramine Distribution System	Disinfection: Monochloramine and Nitrification-Related Parameters Performance and Monitoring Goals	Parent and Consecutive Water Systems that Utilize Chloramine as a Secondary Disinfectant	—Maintain ≥ 1.50 mg/L monochloramine residual at all monitoring sites in the distribution system, at all times, to provide a disinfection barrier against both microbial contamination and nitrification prevention. —Monitor monochloramine, free ammonia, and nitrite in the distribution system and at the entry points (to establish a baseline). • Monochloramine and free ammonia should be monitored at <u>all sample locations</u>. • Nitrite should be monitored at sample locations where monochloramine is ≤ 1.50 mg/L; nitrate may also be monitored, to further assess nitrification. • Sample locations should include bacteriological and DBP compliance sites, all distribution system entry points (e.g., plant effluent, consecutive system connections), all tanks (preferably while draining), and identified critical sites base on investigative sampling (minimum of one critical site in each quadrant of the system, four sites total). • Monitoring should be done at least monthly, but more frequently at critical times (e.g., summer months).
Distribution System	Operational Guidelines Tank Operations	Parent and Consecutive Water Systems that Contain Storage Tanks (any secondary disinfectant)	—Maintain an average turnover time < 5 days; or establish and maintain a water turnover rate at each storage facility. —Maintain good mixing (i.e., Performance Ratio ≥ 1) at all times; for tanks where the PR cannot be calculated, adequate mixing (i.e., uniform water quality) should be confirmed by alternate means (e.g., tank profiling/water quality sampling).