

2018 Transition Year for IR

- 2018 SD submitted everything possible in ATTAINS in addition to the IR document
- In the future envision ATTAINS will be the complete mechanism for submittal
- Hope by 2020 will be fully functional
 - Should be able to pull specific parts of the IR out of ATTAINS rather than the entire report
- Redesigned ATTAINS for the IR is a great concept especially with all the capabilities
- For 2018, EPA had a giant wish list for what ATTAINS should be able to do resulting in missed deadlines resulting in states just having the capability of inputting assessment decisions along with assessment unit information
- 2018 goals did not include report functionality, i.e. 305(b), 303(d) delisted reports or the GIS module
- In the end SD worked through most of the issues (things below may have already been addressed for states that have not yet submitted)

Challenges

- EPA timelines for ATTAINS – grossly underestimated
 - Very limited capabilities at rollout
 - Timeline goals changed – first priority was assessment and everything else was less of a priority (reports, uploading files, GIS,
 - Led to great uncertainty as to what could be done in ATTAINS vs what we would need to do on our own to meet April 1 deadline as that was priority set by Secretary
 - Timelines projected by EPA were cutting it too close to deadline so still submitted report outside of ATTAINS in usual fashion
 - Looking back it was a good decision as issues have not been resolved
 - Parameter updates/corrections/additions took multiple months
 - Seemed to be overwhelmed with getting everything done that adding simple things like sodium adsorption ratio took months
 - EPA solicited suggestions for improvements but because so focused on basics improvements may take awhile

Challenges cont.

- Many components or reports not functional, complete, or correct - biggest issues faced by other states
 - Delisting report – reported everything that changed from Category 5 AND Category 4a (should be just changes from Category 5)
 - 305(b) report – needs improvement on substance AND format (didn't contain everything it should and export format made it difficult to even use)
- EPA/RTI folks working on ATTAINS are great at IT stuff but would have been helpful to also have some IR experts (IR info was misinterpreted or overlooked)

Efficiencies

- EPA staff (Dwane Young/Shera Reems) and RTI staff VERY willing/available to help!!!
 - Impressed with customer service and willingness to provide one-on-one guidance with many phone calls, conference calls, and skype calls!!

Surprises – none noted