ATTAINS: A Training on Entering Actions

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June 2, 2022

Actions

Actions are reports or plans completed with the goal of attaining or maintaining water quality.

Common Actions include:

- TMDLs
- Protection Approaches
- Restoration Approaches

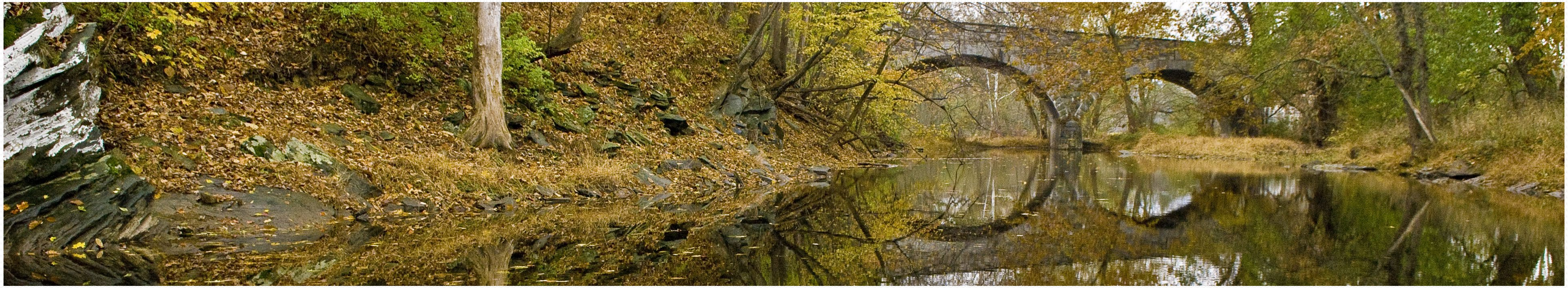
Access Levels

State

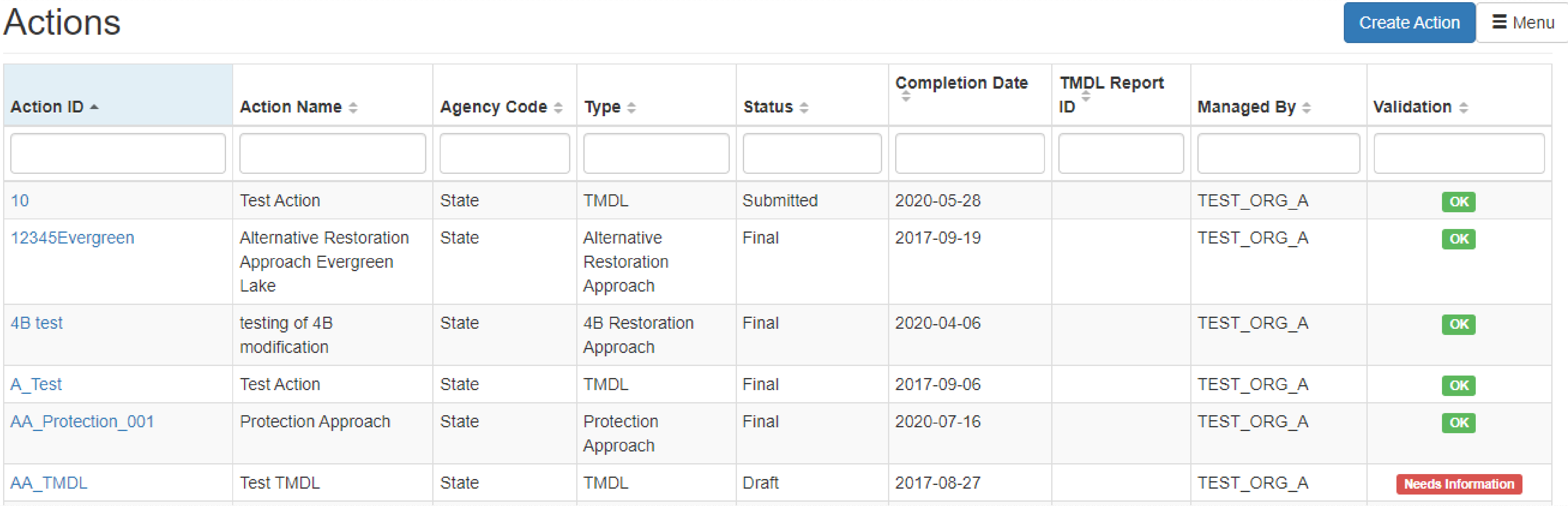
- Data Entry or Administrator for Actions
- State can edit the Draft status Action managed by State
- State submits the Action to EPA

EPA

- Administrator or Reviewer for Actions
- EPA can edit Draft, Submitted (aka "State Final Action"), or Modify Status
- EPA can return a state-submitted Action
- For TMDLs: Once Final ("EPA Final Action"), only EPA Reviewer can edit an Action by putting it in "Modify" status



Actions Screen



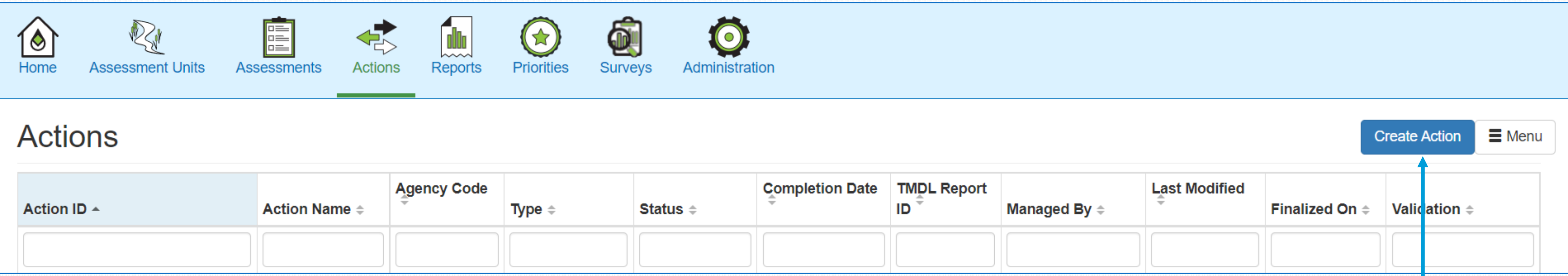
Actions

Action ID ▲	Action Name ⇕	Agency Code ⇕	Type ⇕	Status ⇕	Completion Date ⇕	TMDL Report ID ⇕	Managed By ⇕	Validation ⇕
10	Test Action	State	TMDL	Submitted	2020-05-28		TEST_ORG_A	OK
12345Evergreen	Alternative Restoration Approach Evergreen Lake	State	Alternative Restoration Approach	Final	2017-09-19		TEST_ORG_A	OK
4B test	testing of 4B modification	State	4B Restoration Approach	Final	2020-04-06		TEST_ORG_A	OK
A_Test	Test Action	State	TMDL	Final	2017-09-06		TEST_ORG_A	OK
AA_Protection_001	Protection Approach	State	Protection Approach	Final	2020-07-16		TEST_ORG_A	OK
AA_TMDL	Test TMDL	State	TMDL	Draft	2017-08-27		TEST_ORG_A	Needs Information

How to Create Actions

Start the New Action

Actions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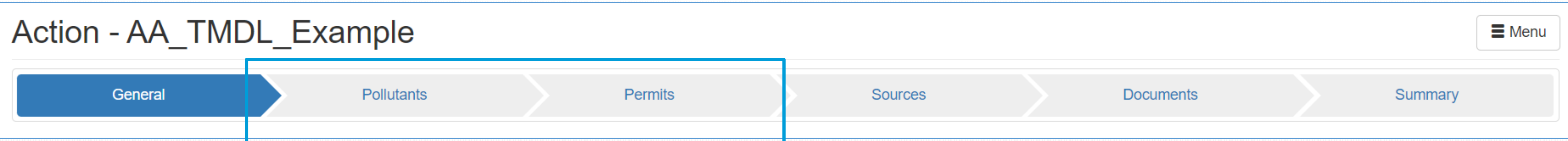
Actions

Action ID	Action Name	Agency Code	Type	Status	Completion Date	TMDL Report ID	Managed By	Last Modified	Finalized On	Validation

Differences

TMDL


Action - AA_TMDL_Example
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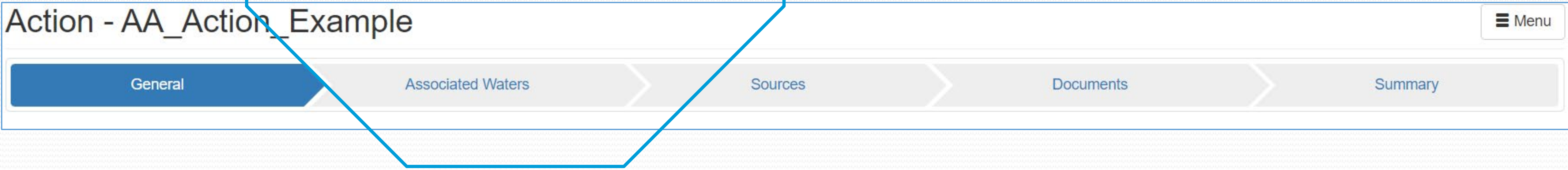
Non-TMDL Actions


Action - AA_Action_Example
≡ Menu
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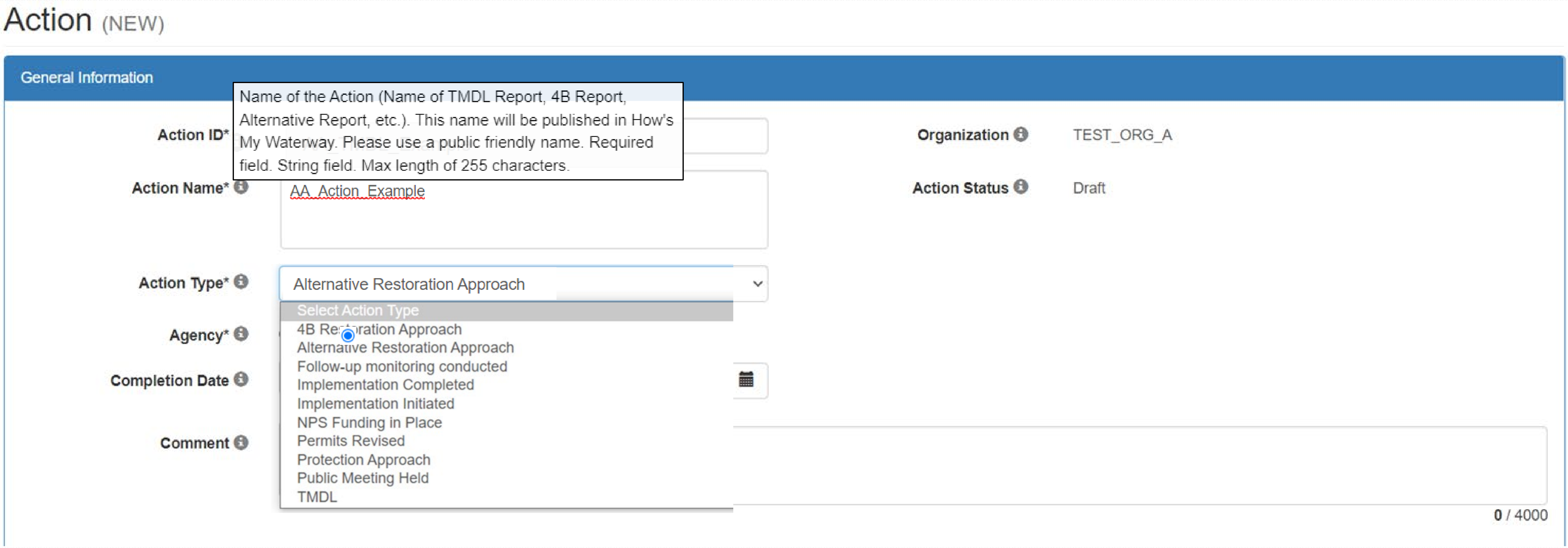
Non-TMDL – General Information

Actions



Action (NEW)

General Information

Name of the Action (Name of TMDL Report, 4B Report, Alternative Report, etc.). This name will be published in How's My Waterway. Please use a public friendly name. Required field. String field. Max length of 255 characters.

Action ID*

Action Name* AA_Action_Example

Action Type* Alternative Restoration Approach

- Select Action Type
- 4B Restoration Approach
- Alternative Restoration Approach
- Follow-up monitoring conducted
- Implementation Completed
- Implementation Initiated
- NPS Funding in Place
- Permits Revised
- Protection Approach
- Public Meeting Held
- TMDL

Agency*

Completion Date

Comment

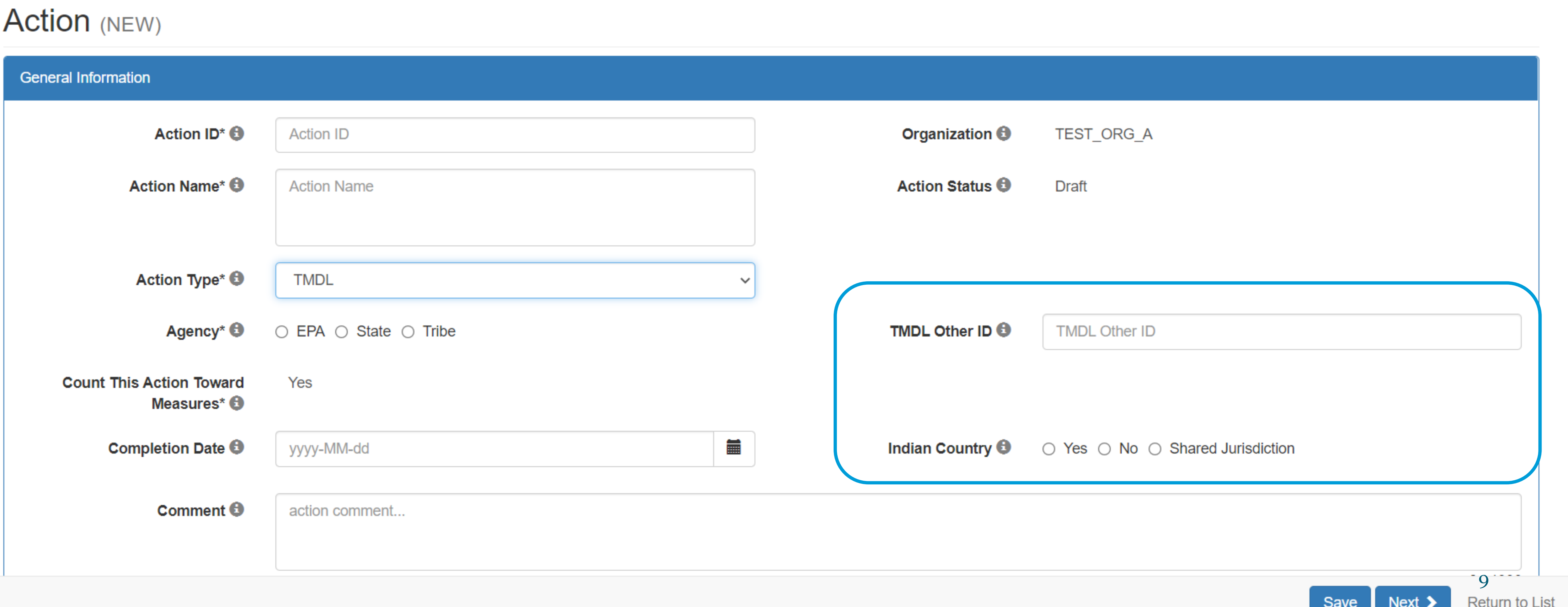
0 / 4000

Organization TEST_ORG_A

Action Status Draft

TMDL – General Information

Actions



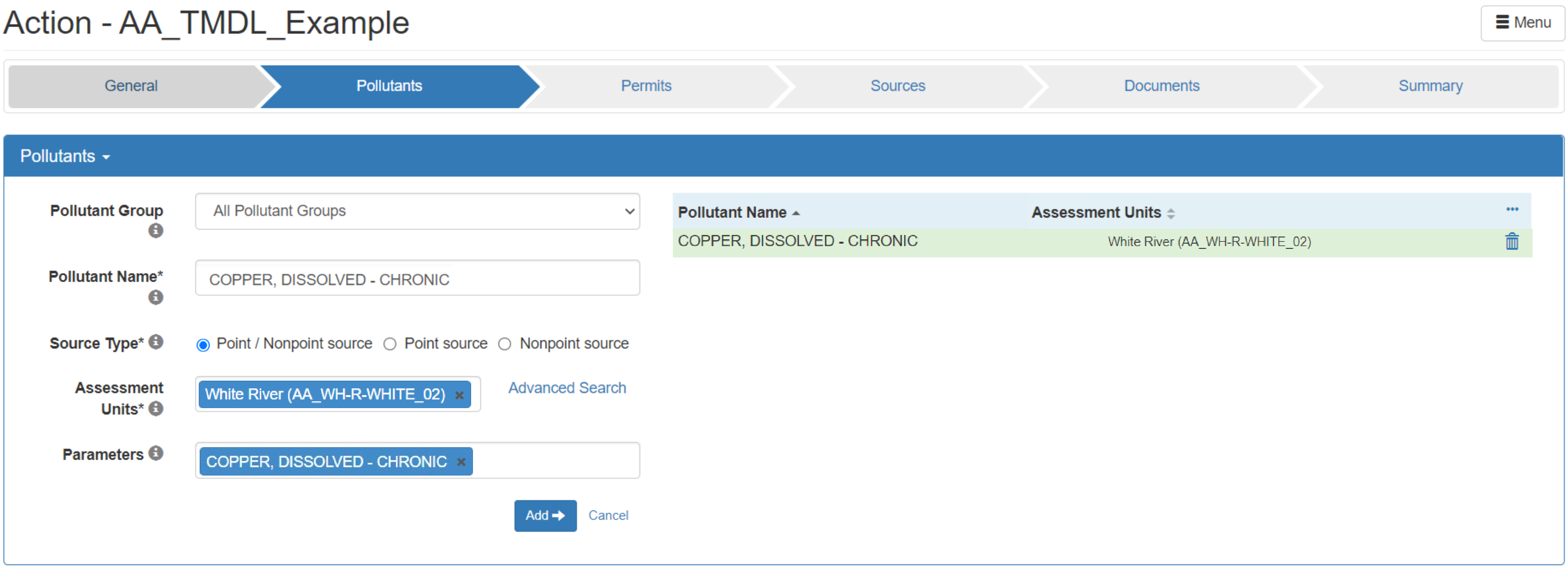
Action (NEW)

General Information

Action ID*	Action ID	**Organization**	TEST_ORG_A
Action Name*	Action Name	**Action Status**	Draft
Action Type*	TMDL		
Agency*	○ EPA ○ State ○ Tribe	**TMDL Other ID**	TMDL Other ID
Count This Action Toward Measures*	Yes		
Completion Date	yyyy-MM-dd	**Indian Country**	○ Yes ○ No ○ Shared Jurisdiction
Comment	action comment...		

TMDL - Pollutants

Pollutants



Action - AA_TMDL_Example

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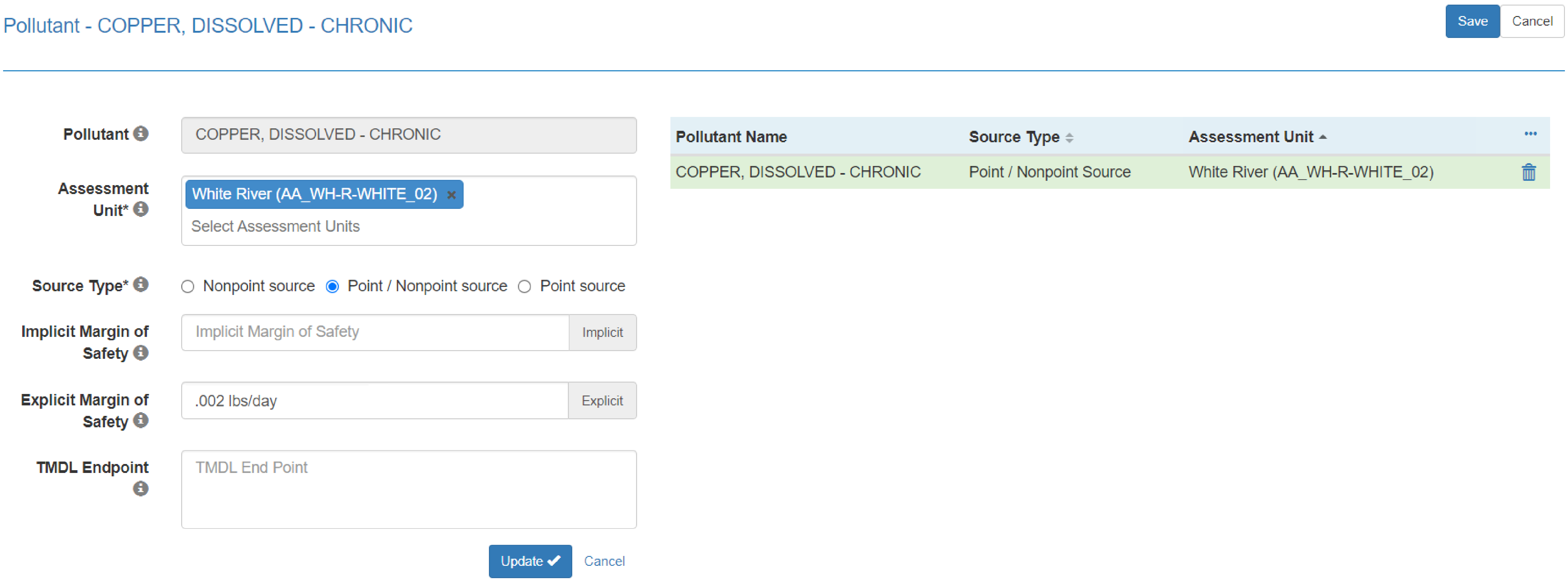
Pollutant Group	All Pollutant Groups
Pollutant Name*	COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC
Source Type*	● Point / Nonpoint source ○ Point source ○ Nonpoint source
Assessment Units*	White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_02)
Parameters	COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Pollutant Name	Assessment Units
COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC	White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_02)

TMDL

Pollutants



Pollutant - COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Pollutant ℹ COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Assessment Unit* ℹ White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_02) ×

Select Assessment Units

Source Type* ℹ ○ Nonpoint source ● Point / Nonpoint source ○ Point source

Implicit Margin of Safety ℹ Implicit Margin of Safety | Implicit

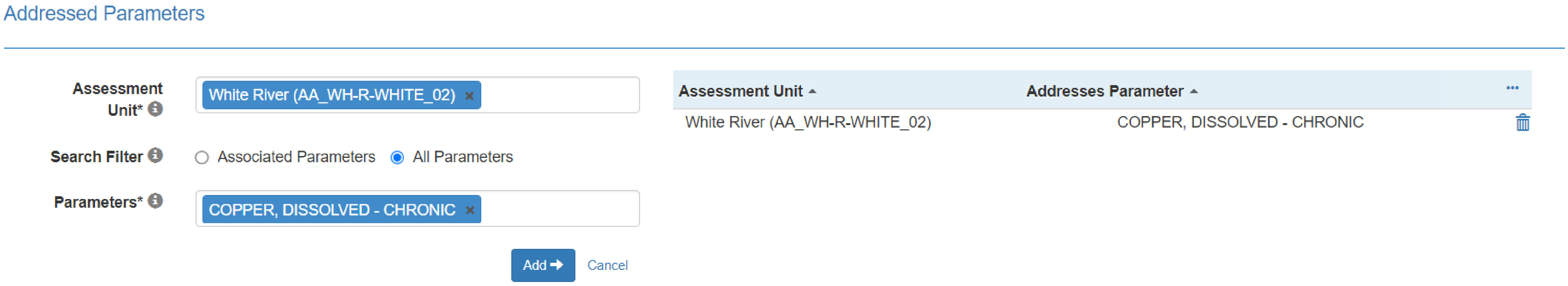
Explicit Margin of Safety ℹ .002 lbs/day | Explicit

TMDL Endpoint ℹ TMDL End Point

Pollutant Name	Source Type	Assessment Unit	•••
COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC	Point / Nonpoint Source	White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_02)	🗑

TMDL

Pollutants



Addressed Parameters

Assessment Unit* White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_02)

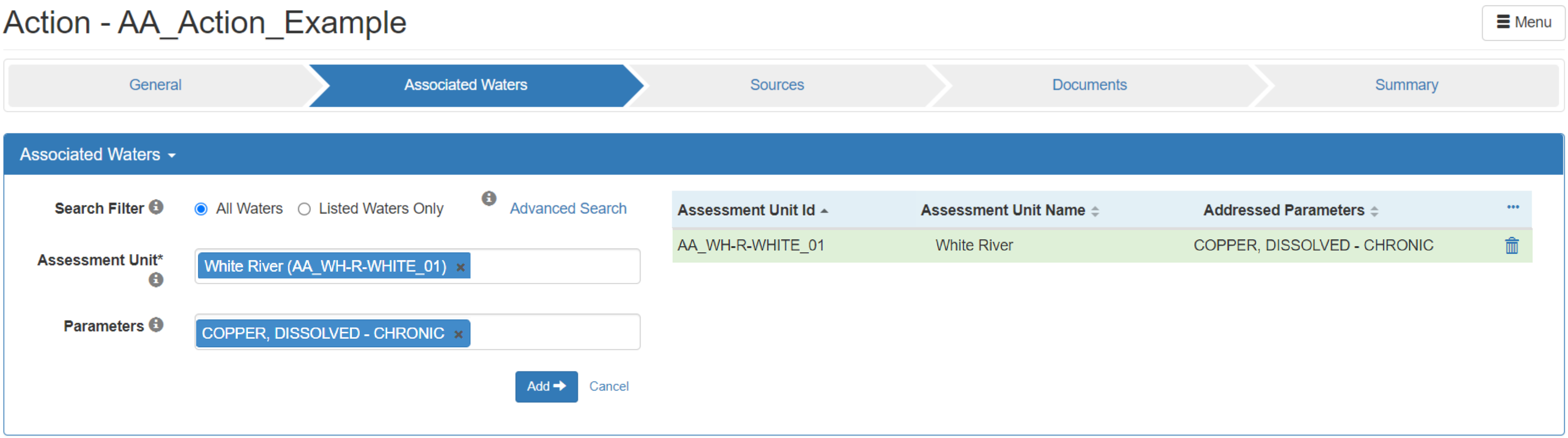
Search Filter ○ Associated Parameters ● All Parameters

Parameters* COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Assessment Unit	Addresses Parameter
White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_02)	COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Non-TMDL – Associated Waters

Associated Waters



Action - AA_Action_Example

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Associated Waters ▾

Search Filter ● All Waters ○ Listed Waters Only

Advanced Search

Assessment Unit*: White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_01) ×

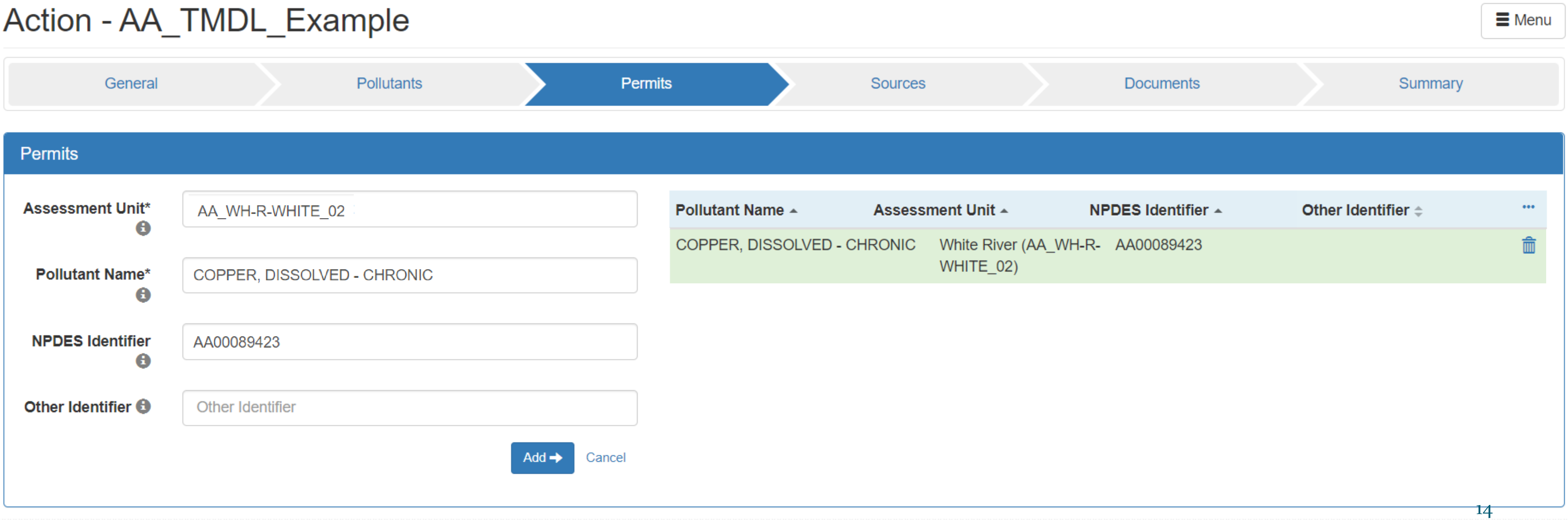
Parameters: COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC ×

Add ➔
Cancel

Assessment Unit Id	Assessment Unit Name	Addressed Parameters
AA_WH-R-WHITE_01	White River	COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

TMDL - Permits

Permits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Cancel

Action - AA_TMDL_Example

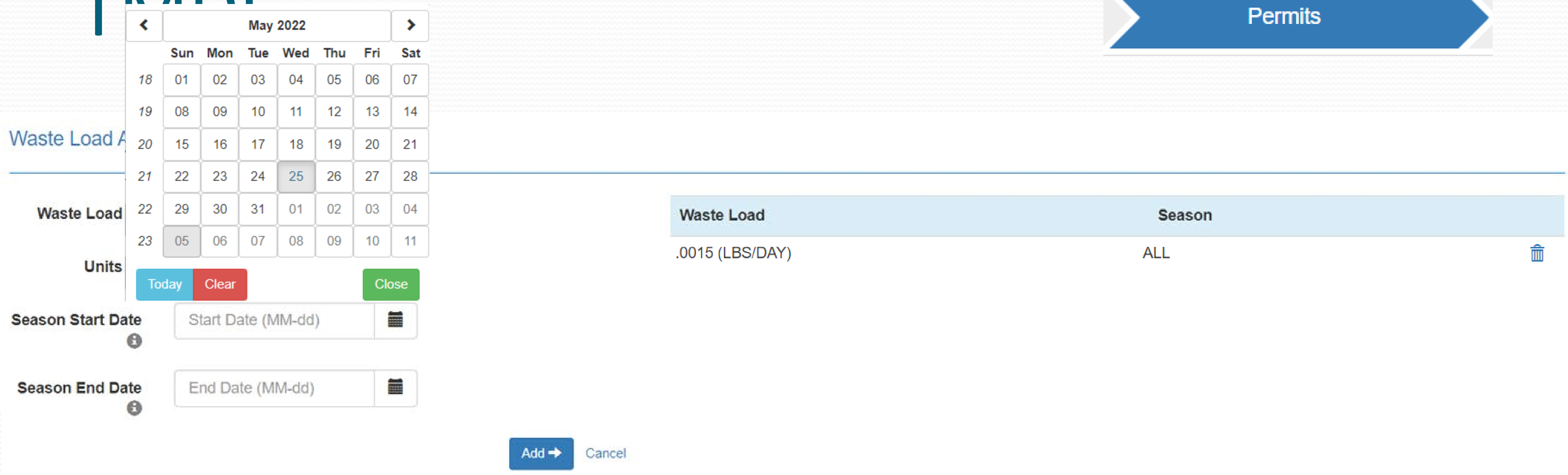
Permits

Assessment Unit*	AA_WH-R-WHITE_02
Pollutant Name*	COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC
NPDES Identifier	AA00089423
Other Identifier	Other Identifier

Pollutant Name	Assessment Unit	NPDES Identifier	Other Identifier
COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC	White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_02)	AA00089423	

TMDL

Permits



May 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
19	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
22	29	30	31	01	02	03	04
23	05	06	07	08	09	10	11

Waste Load A

Waste Load

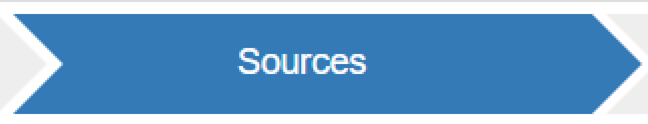
Units

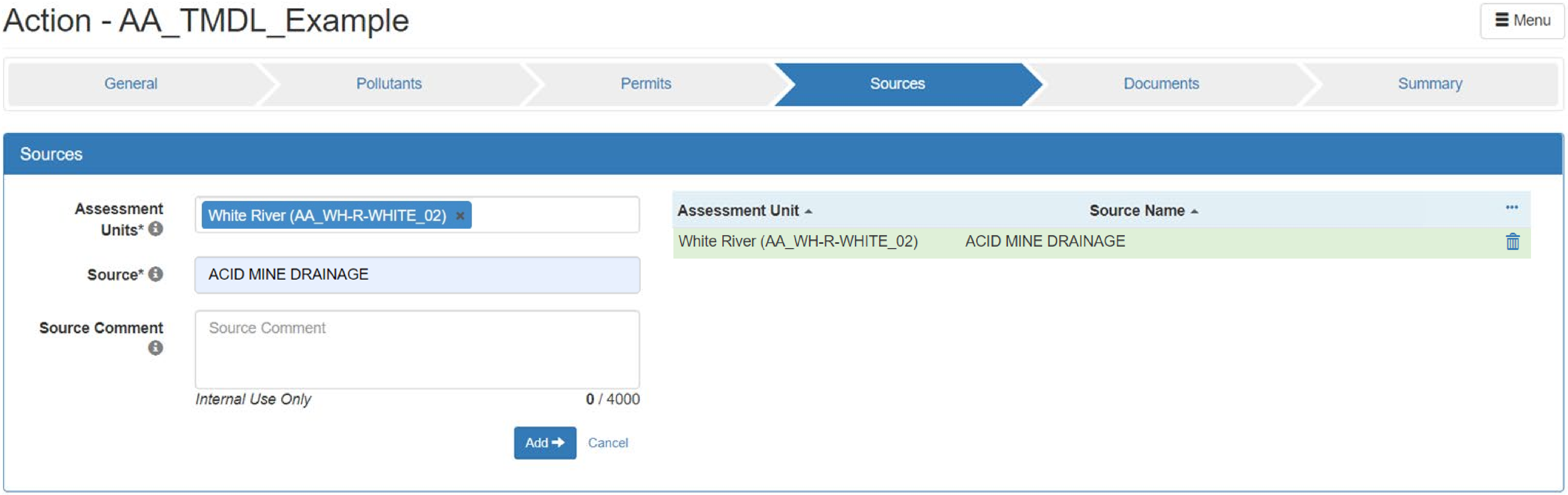
Season Start Date: Start Date (MM-dd)

Season End Date: End Date (MM-dd)

Waste Load	Season
.0015 (LBS/DAY)	ALL

All Actions – Sources

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Action - AA_TMDL_Example

Sources

Assessment Units* ℹ: White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_02) ×

Source* ℹ: ACID MINE DRAINAGE

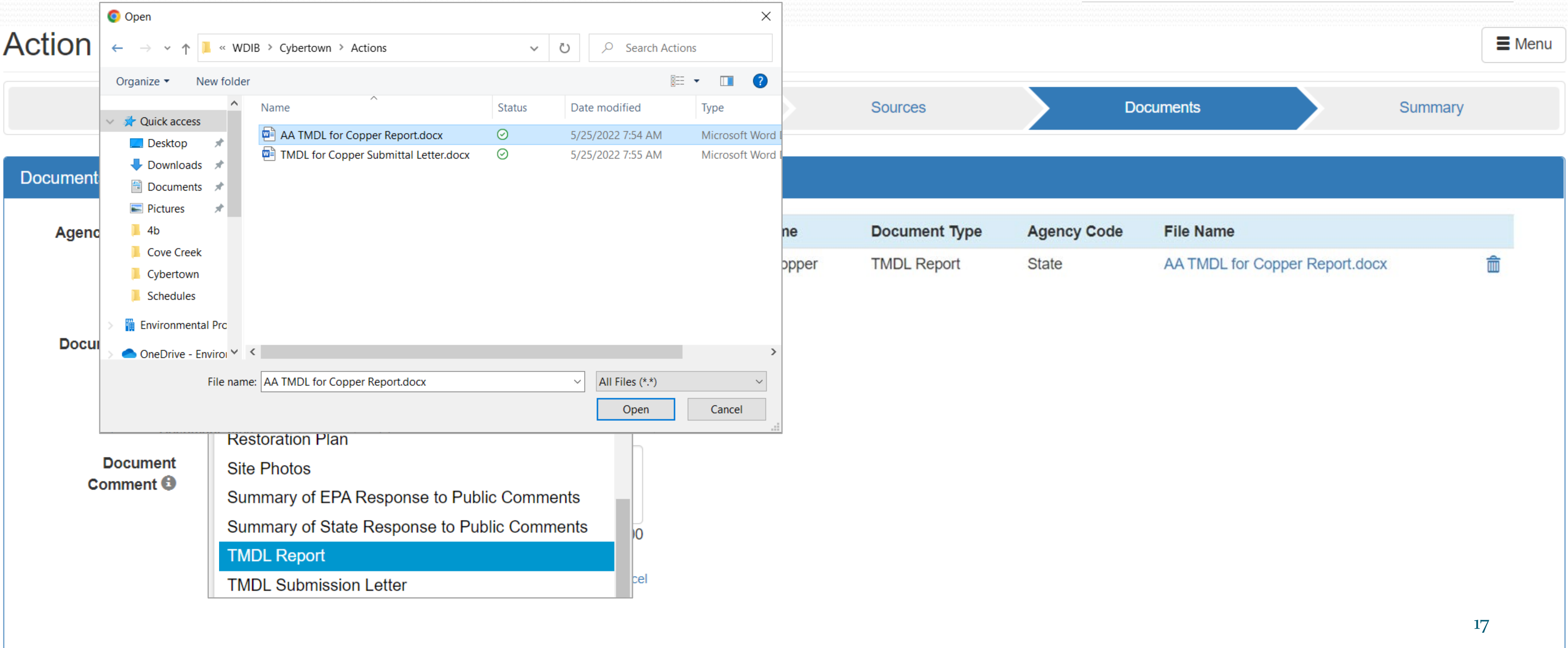
Source Comment ℹ: Source Comment

Internal Use Only **0** / 4000

Assessment Unit ▴	Source Name ▴
White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_02)	ACID MINE DRAINAGE

All Actions – Documents

Documents



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Pictures
4b
Cove Creek
Cybertown
Schedules
Environmental Pro
OneDrive - Enviro
Open
Cancel
Restoration Plan
Site Photos
Summary of EPA Response to Public Comments
Summary of State Response to Public Comments
TMDL Report
TMDL Submission Letter
Document Comment ℹ
cel

Name	Status	Date modified	Type
AA TMDL for Copper Report.docx	✓	5/25/2022 7:54 AM	Microsoft Word
TMDL for Copper Submittal Letter.docx	✓	5/25/2022 7:55 AM	Microsoft Word

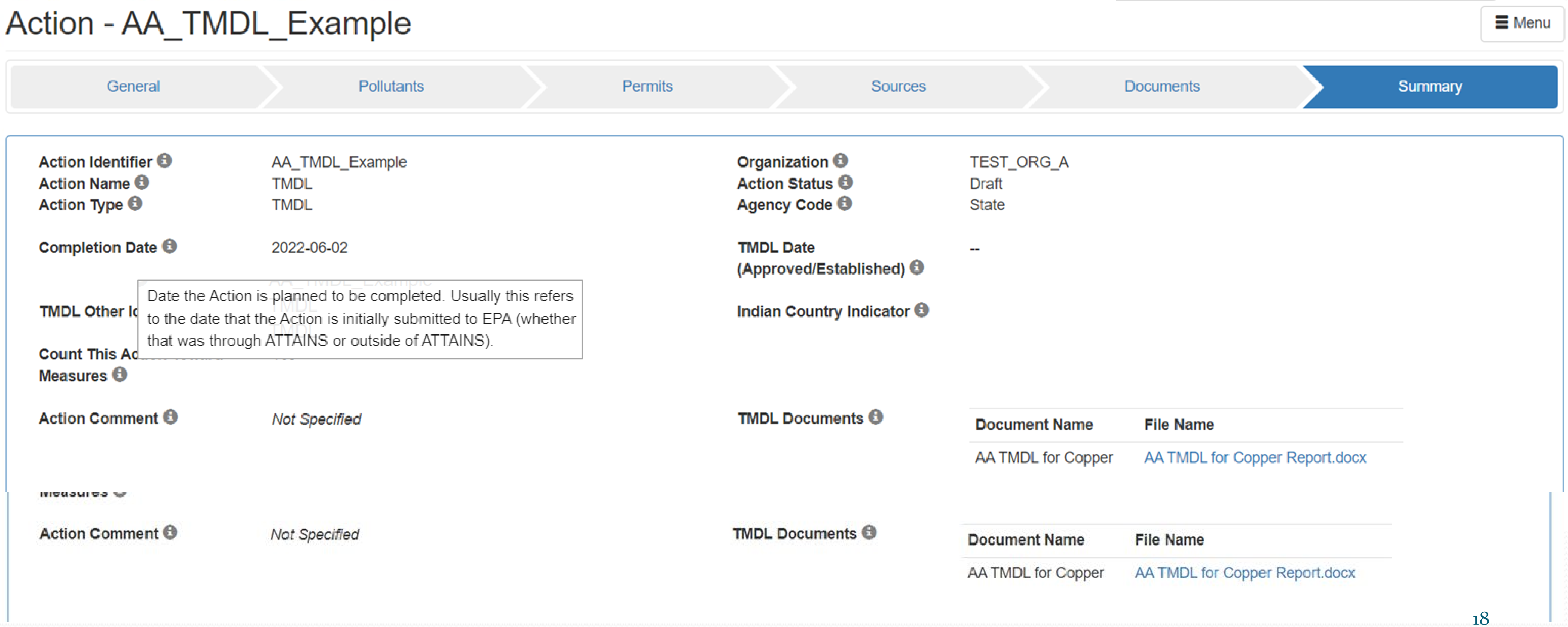
File name: AA TMDL for Copper Report.docx

All Files (*.*)

ne	Document Type	Agency Code	File Name
opper	TMDL Report	State	AA TMDL for Copper Report.docx

TMDL Action Summary

Summary



Action - AA_TMDL_Example

Action Identifier AA_TMDL_Example
Action Name TMDL
Action Type TMDL

Completion Date 2022-06-02

TMDL Other Id

Count This Ac
Measures

Date the Action is planned to be completed. Usually this refers to the date that the Action is initially submitted to EPA (whether that was through ATTAINS or outside of ATTAINS).

Action Comment *Not Specified*

Organization TEST_ORG_A
Action Status Draft
Agency Code State

TMDL Date (Approved/Established) --

Indian Country Indicator

TMDL Documents

Document Name	File Name
AA TMDL for Copper	AA TMDL for Copper Report.docx

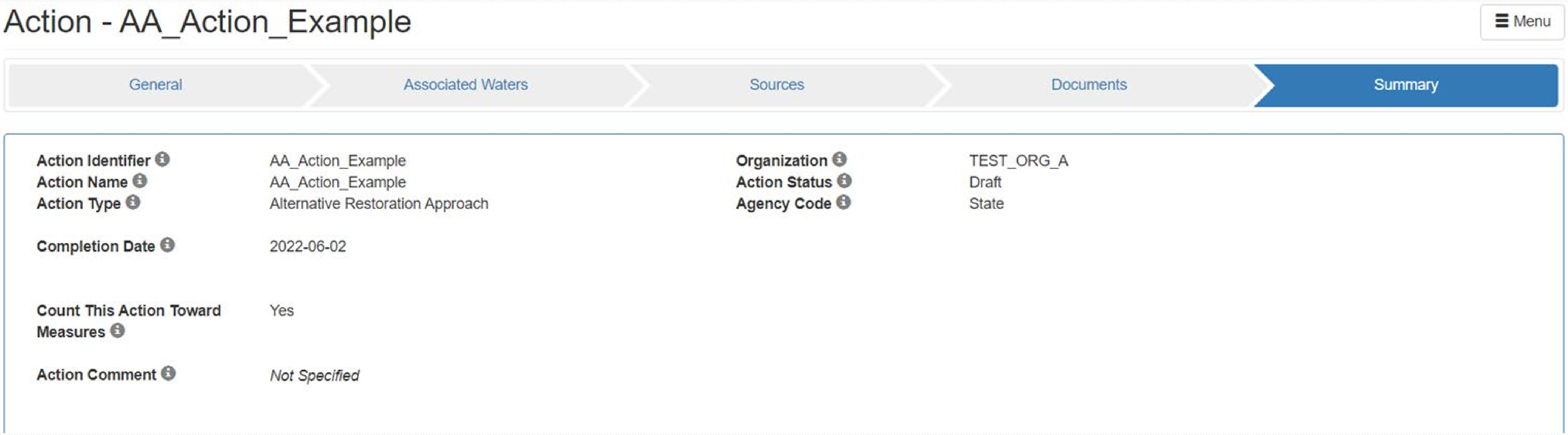
Measures

Action Comment *Not Specified*

TMDL Documents

Document Name	File Name
AA TMDL for Copper	AA TMDL for Copper Report.docx

Non-TMDL Action Summary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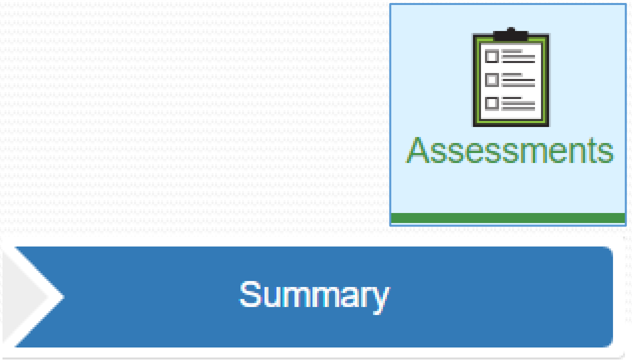
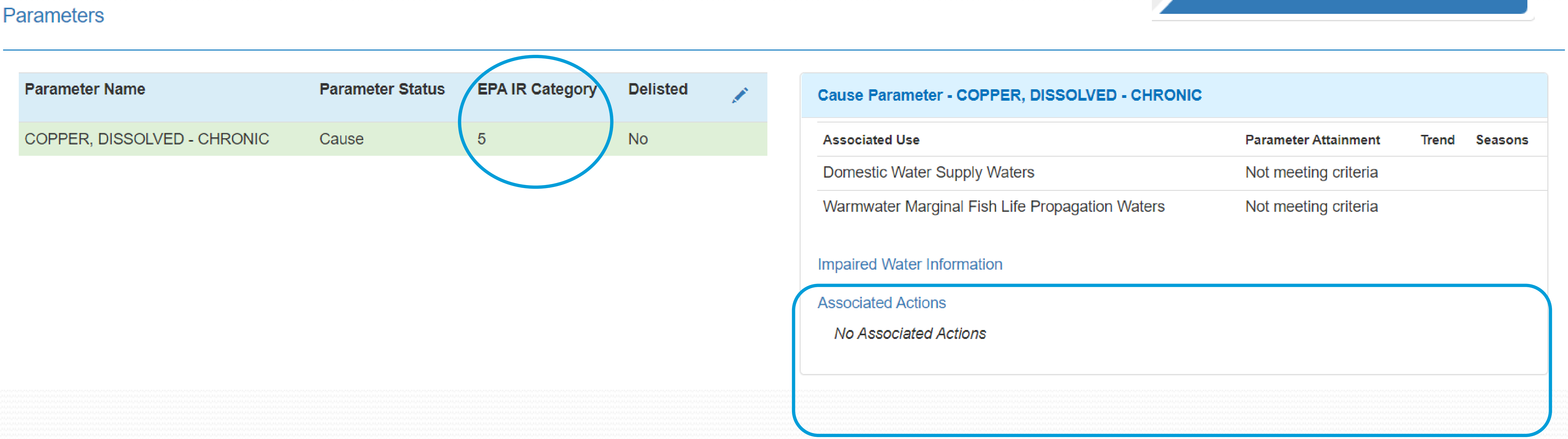
Action - AA_Action_Example

Action Identifier	AA_Action_Example	**Organization**	TEST_ORG_A
Action Name	AA_Action_Example	**Action Status**	Draft
Action Type	Alternative Restoration Approach	**Agency Code**	State
Completion Date	2022-06-02		
Count This Action Toward Measures	Yes		
Action Comment	*Not Specified*		

How to Associate the Action

Assessments Summary




Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Status	EPA IR Category	Delisted
COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC	Cause	5	No

Cause Parameter - COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Associated Use	Parameter Attainment	Trend	Seasons
Domestic Water Supply Waters	Not meeting criteria		
Warmwater Marginal Fish Life Propagation Waters	Not meeting criteria		

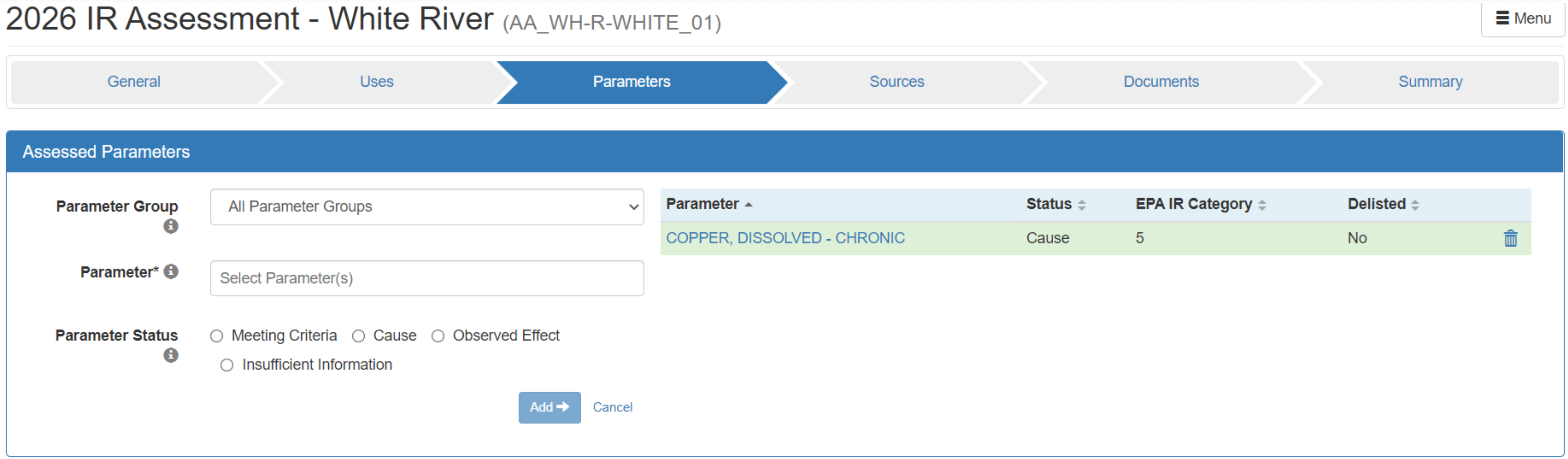
Impaired Water Information

Associated Actions

No Associated Actions

Parameters

Assessments



2026 IR Assessment - White River (AA_WH-R-WHITE_01)

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Assessed Parameters

Parameter Group: All Parameter Groups

Parameter*: Select Parameter(s)

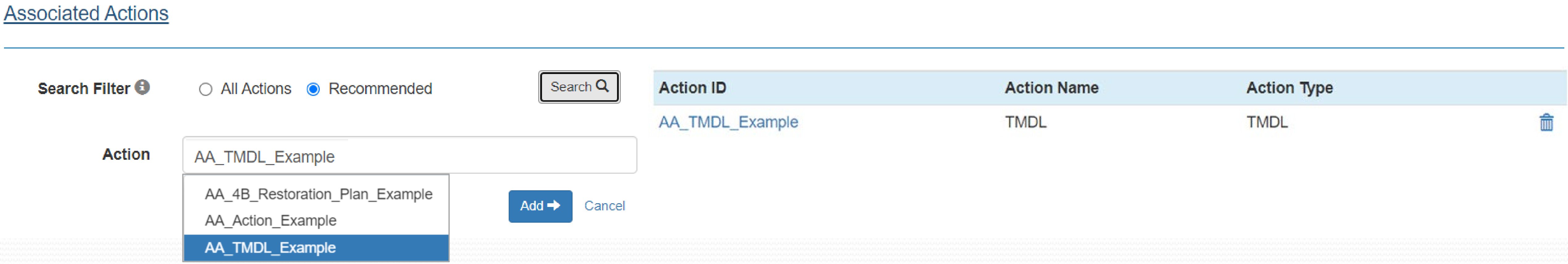
Parameter Status: ○ Meeting Criteria ○ Cause ○ Observed Effect ○ Insufficient Information

Add ➔
Cancel

Parameter ▲	Status	EPA IR Category	Delisted
COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC	Cause	5	No

Associated Actions

Parameters



Associated Actions

Search Filter

○ All Actions ● Recommended

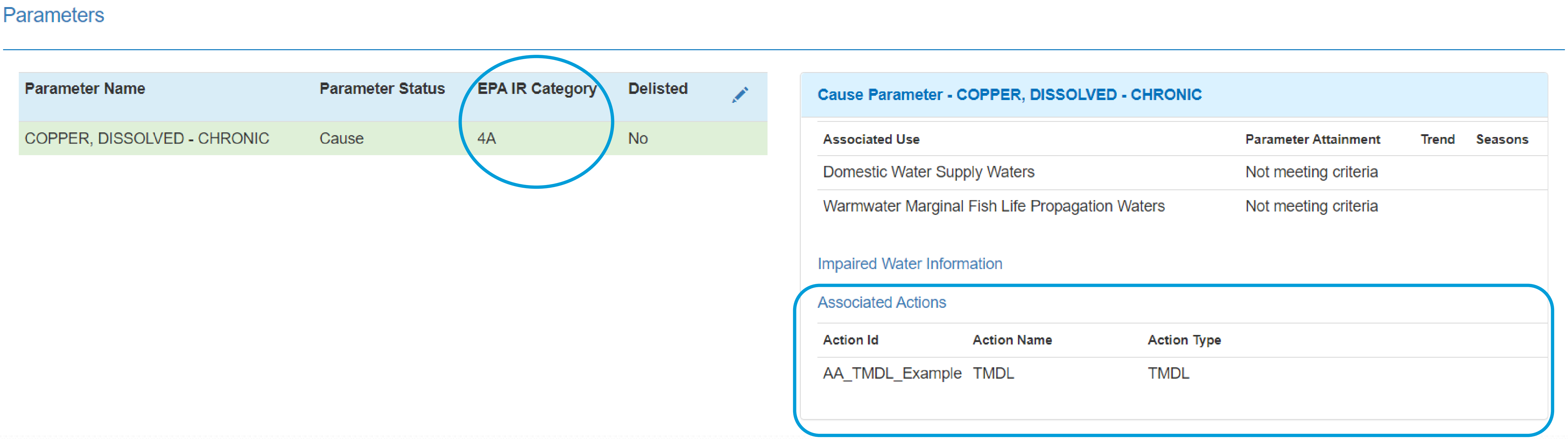
Search

Action: AA_TMDL_Example

AA_4B_Restoration_Plan_Example
AA_Action_Example
AA_TMDL_Example
Add
Cancel

Action ID	Action Name	Action Type
AA_TMDL_Example	TMDL	TMDL

Assessments Summary



Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Status	EPA IR Category	Delisted
COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC	Cause	4A	No

Cause Parameter - COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Associated Use	Parameter Attainment	Trend	Seasons
Domestic Water Supply Waters	Not meeting criteria		
Warmwater Marginal Fish Life Propagation Waters	Not meeting criteria		

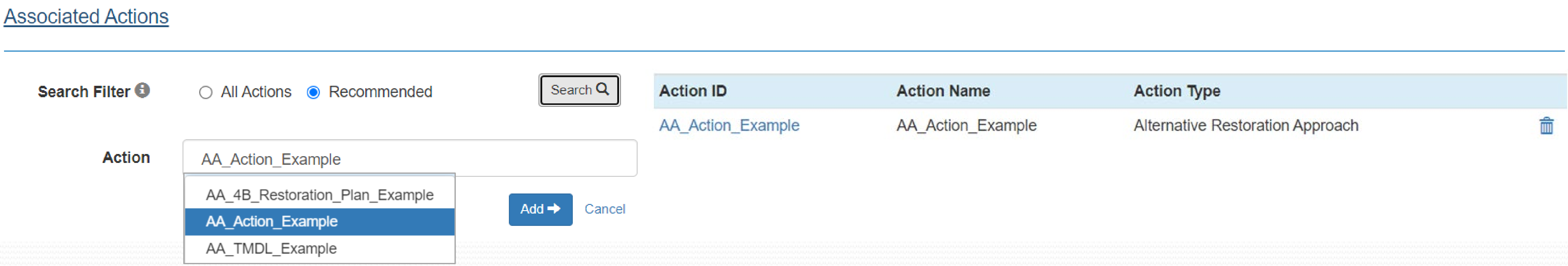
Impaired Water Information

Associated Actions

Action Id	Action Name	Action Type
AA_TMDL_Example	TMDL	TMDL

Associated Actions

Parameters



Associated Actions

Search Filter ○ All Actions ● Recommended

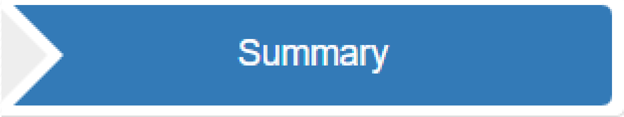
Search

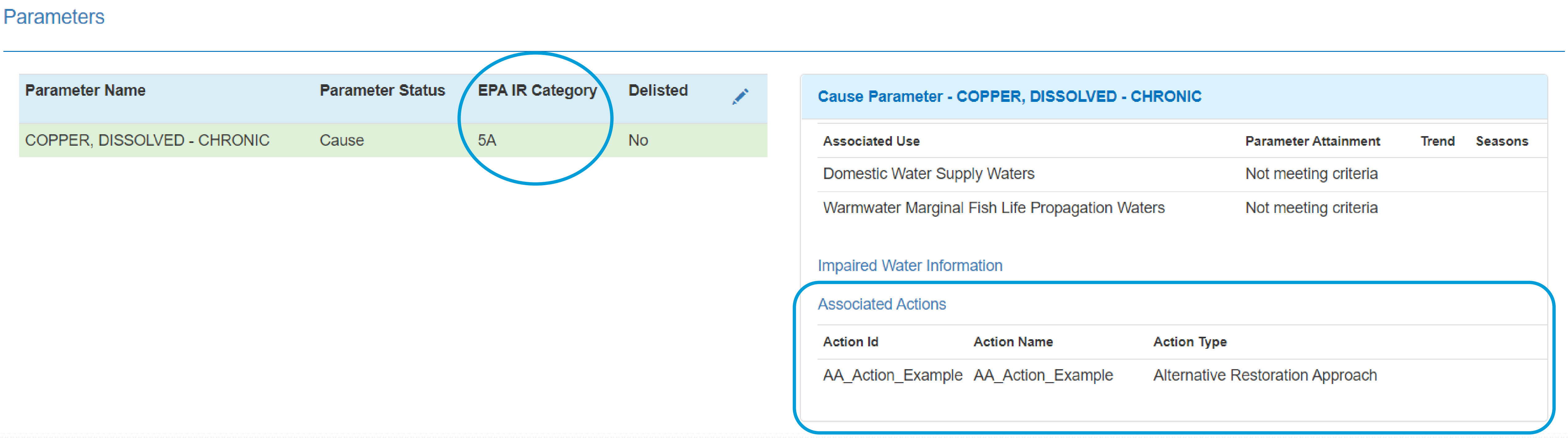
Action AA_Action_Example

AA_4B_Restoration_Plan_Example
AA_Action_Example
AA_TMDL_Example
Add
Cancel

Action ID	Action Name	Action Type
AA_Action_Example	AA_Action_Example	Alternative Restoration Approach

Assessments Summary





Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Status	EPA IR Category	Delisted
COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC	Cause	5A	No

Cause Parameter - COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Associated Use	Parameter Attainment	Trend	Seasons
Domestic Water Supply Waters	Not meeting criteria		
Warmwater Marginal Fish Life Propagation Waters	Not meeting criteria		

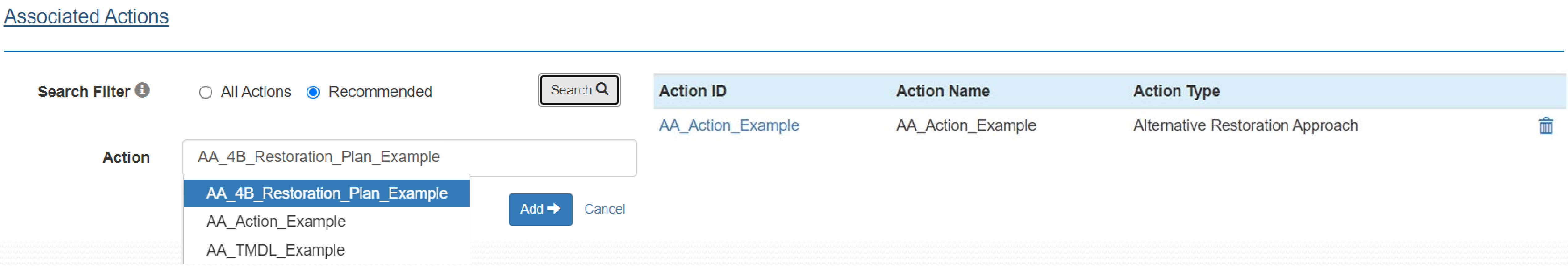
Impaired Water Information

Associated Actions

Action Id	Action Name	Action Type
AA_Action_Example	AA_Action_Example	Alternative Restoration Approach

Associated Actions

Parameters



Associated Actions

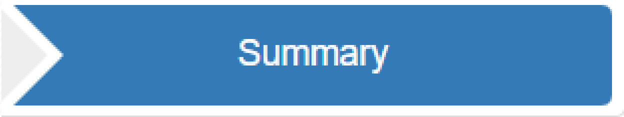
Search Filter ○ All Actions ● Recommended

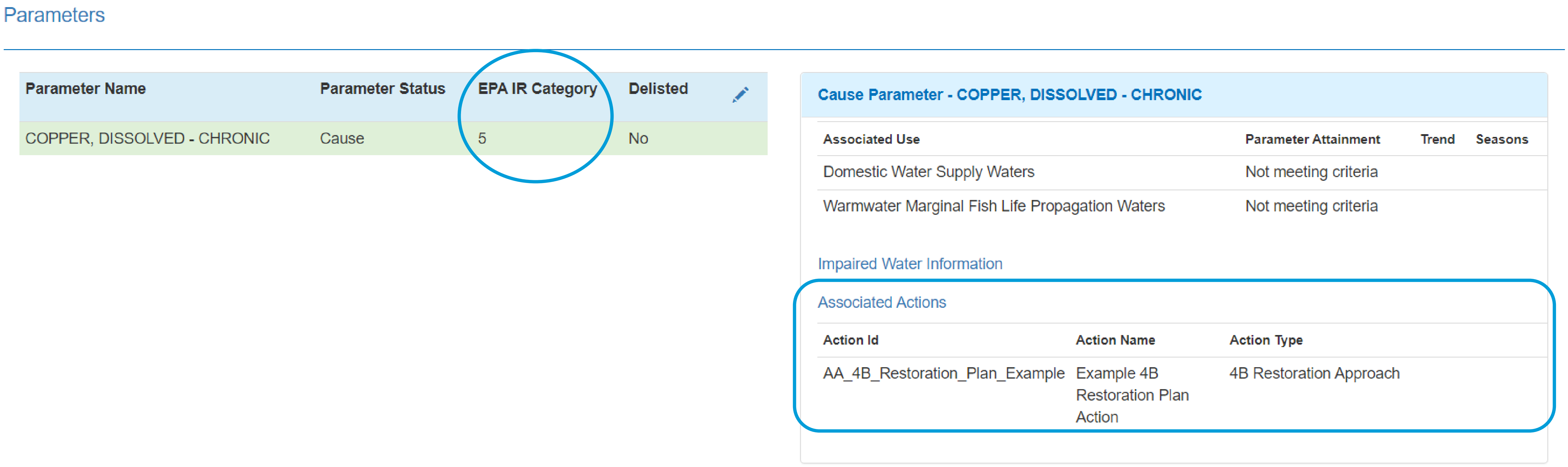
Action AA_4B_Restoration_Plan_Example

- AA_4B_Restoration_Plan_Example
- AA_Action_Example
- AA_TMDL_Example

Action ID	Action Name	Action Type
AA_Action_Example	AA_Action_Example	Alternative Restoration Approach

Assessments Summary





Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Status	EPA IR Category	Delisted
COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC	Cause	5	No

Cause Parameter - COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Associated Use	Parameter Attainment	Trend	Seasons
Domestic Water Supply Waters	Not meeting criteria		
Warmwater Marginal Fish Life Propagation Waters	Not meeting criteria		

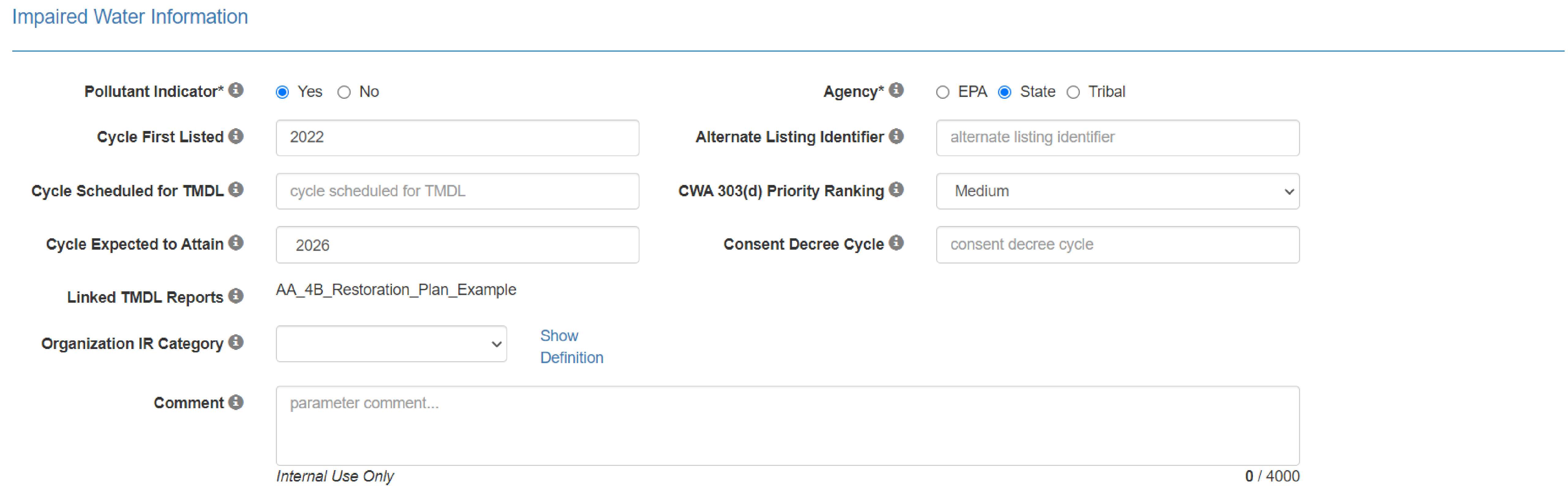
Impaired Water Information

Associated Actions

Action Id	Action Name	Action Type
AA_4B_Restoration_Plan_Example	Example 4B Restoration Plan Action	4B Restoration Approach

Impaired Waters Information

Parameters



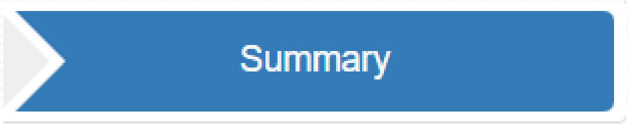
Impaired Water Information

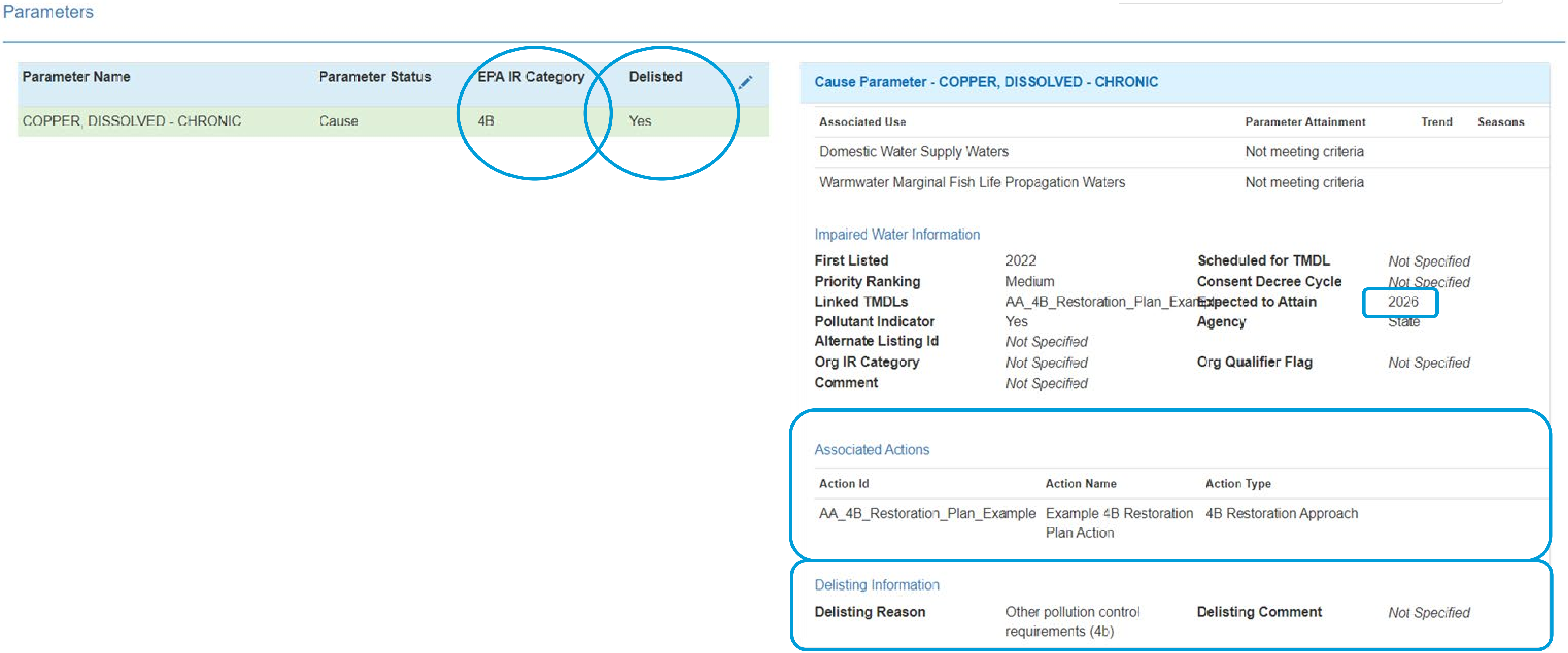
Pollutant Indicator*	● Yes ○ No	**Agency***	○ EPA ● State ○ Tribal
Cycle First Listed	2022	**Alternate Listing Identifier**	alternate listing identifier
Cycle Scheduled for TMDL	cycle scheduled for TMDL	**CWA 303(d) Priority Ranking**	Medium
Cycle Expected to Attain	2026	**Consent Decree Cycle**	consent decree cycle
Linked TMDL Reports	AA_4B_Restoration_Plan_Example		
Organization IR Category	Show Definition		
Comment	parameter comment...		

Internal Use Only

0 / 4000

Assessments Summary





Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Status	EPA IR Category	Delisted
COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC	Cause	4B	Yes

Cause Parameter - COPPER, DISSOLVED - CHRONIC

Associated Use	Parameter Attainment	Trend	Seasons
Domestic Water Supply Waters	Not meeting criteria		
Warmwater Marginal Fish Life Propagation Waters	Not meeting criteria		

Impaired Water Information

First Listed	2022	**Scheduled for TMDL**	*Not Specified*
Priority Ranking	Medium	**Consent Decree Cycle**	*Not Specified*
Linked TMDLs	AA_4B_Restoration_Plan_Exam	**Expected to Attain**	2026
Pollutant Indicator	Yes	**Agency**	State
Alternate Listing Id	*Not Specified*		
Org IR Category	*Not Specified*	**Org Qualifier Flag**	*Not Specified*
Comment	*Not Specified*		

Associated Actions

Action Id	Action Name	Action Type
AA_4B_Restoration_Plan_Example	Example 4B Restoration Plan Action	4B Restoration Approach

Delisting Information

Delisting Reason	Other pollution control requirements (4b)	**Delisting Comment**	*Not Specified*

Action Batch Upload

User Interface vs. Batch Upload: When to Use Each Option

What You Want to Do	Recommended Option
Add one new Action or edit a couple of things on an existing Action	Use the forms in the User Interface. The User Interface walks you through the data elements that are needed and gives you faster feedback as you make the edits
Add New Actions (lots of data for a single Action or for multiple new Actions)	Use the appropriate Batch Upload template (TMDL Action or Non-TMDL Action). The Batch Upload Template works best when you are entering lots of similar data from scratch
Edit Existing Actions (generally if you need to edit more than a few things on an Existing Action or need to edit multiple Existing Actions at one time)	Filter the actions module for the Actions you want to edit. Export Filtered Actions. (It is best to filter for one specific type of Action at a time). Save a copy of the export files as a backup. Then **edit the export files** and re-upload those. Do not copy and paste the existing data to the Batch Upload template because you may mis-copy data. Just use the Batch Upload Template as a reference for the required fields and the allowed domain values.

Important Notes

- The Export Actions functionality combines TMDLs and Non-TMDLs in the same files. Some columns and files apply to TMDLs that do no apply to Non-TMDL Actions. The export will also include Actions from all Statuses.
- For State/Territory/Tribal Users: Actions Batch Upload can only be used to upload Actions in “Draft” Status.
- For EPA Users: Actions Batch Upload can be used to Upload Actions in “Draft”, “Submitted” (a.k.a., “State Final Action”), or “Modify” status. However, Batch Upload **cannot** be used to change the status of an Action.
- **Assessment Unit IDs must already exist** for the Organization before they can be used in an Actions Batch Upload Template.

TMDL vs Non-TMDL Template

TMDLs have different requirements from Non-TMDLs (4B, Alternative, Protection Approach Actions)

Tab or File Name	TMDL Template	Non-TMDL Template
Actions	✓	✓
Pollutant	✓	
Load Allocation	✓	
Permit	✓	
Parameter	✓	✓
Source	✓	✓

Action Batch Upload Templates

Batch Upload: Update

- Appends data to existing Action ID
- Does not delete entire rows of data within the Action
- Will overwrite corresponding data fields for previously populated data
  - If an Optional field was previously populated in the file for that Action, then it needs to be included in the upload. Otherwise, it will be overwritten with blanks.

Existing Data	Upload file Using UPDATE	Results in ATTAINS
TMDL_01 has 1 Pollutant: • Fecal Coliform	TMDL_01 has 2 Pollutants: • Total Suspended Solids (TSS) • Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	TMDL_01 ends up with 3 Pollutants • Fecal Coliform • Total Suspended Solids (TSS) • Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)

Batch Upload: Replace

- Deletes entire rows/tabs of data from existing Action ID for any Action ID in the files
- Replaces that data with ONLY the data in the upload files
  - All required files and previously populated optional files must be uploaded simultaneously, or it will delete the data from ATTAINS for missing files

Existing Data	Upload file Using REPLACE	Results in ATTAINS
TMDL_01 has 1 Pollutant: • Fecal Coliform	TMDL_01 has 2 Pollutants: • Total Suspended Solids (TSS) • Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	TMDL_01 ends up with 2 Pollutants • Total Suspended Solids (TSS) • Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) • (Fecal Coliform is deleted because it was not in upload file.)

Batch Upload: Warnings vs. Errors

- Warnings

  - Will allow you to proceed with upload
  - Must be addressed before Action is Submitted or Finalized

- Errors

  - Must be fixed before upload can continue

Batch Upload Demonstration

Action Reports Demonstration

TMDL Summary and Actions Summary Reports

Additional Information

- ATTAINS User Interface (login to Production ATTAINS): https://attains.epa.gov/attains/login
- ATTAINS Public Website contains background information: https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/attains
- The ATTAINS Upload Data page provides various resources and instruction documents for registered ATTAINS users: https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/upload-data-resources-registered-attains-users
- Additional resources for the “Actions Module”: https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/upload-data-resources-registered-attains-users#actions-module
- Latest Batch Upload Templates: https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/upload-data-resources-registered-attains-users#batch-upload-templates

Questions

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