

Reviewing the Nontidal Water Quality Monitoring Program Nontidal Network Sampling and Data Management

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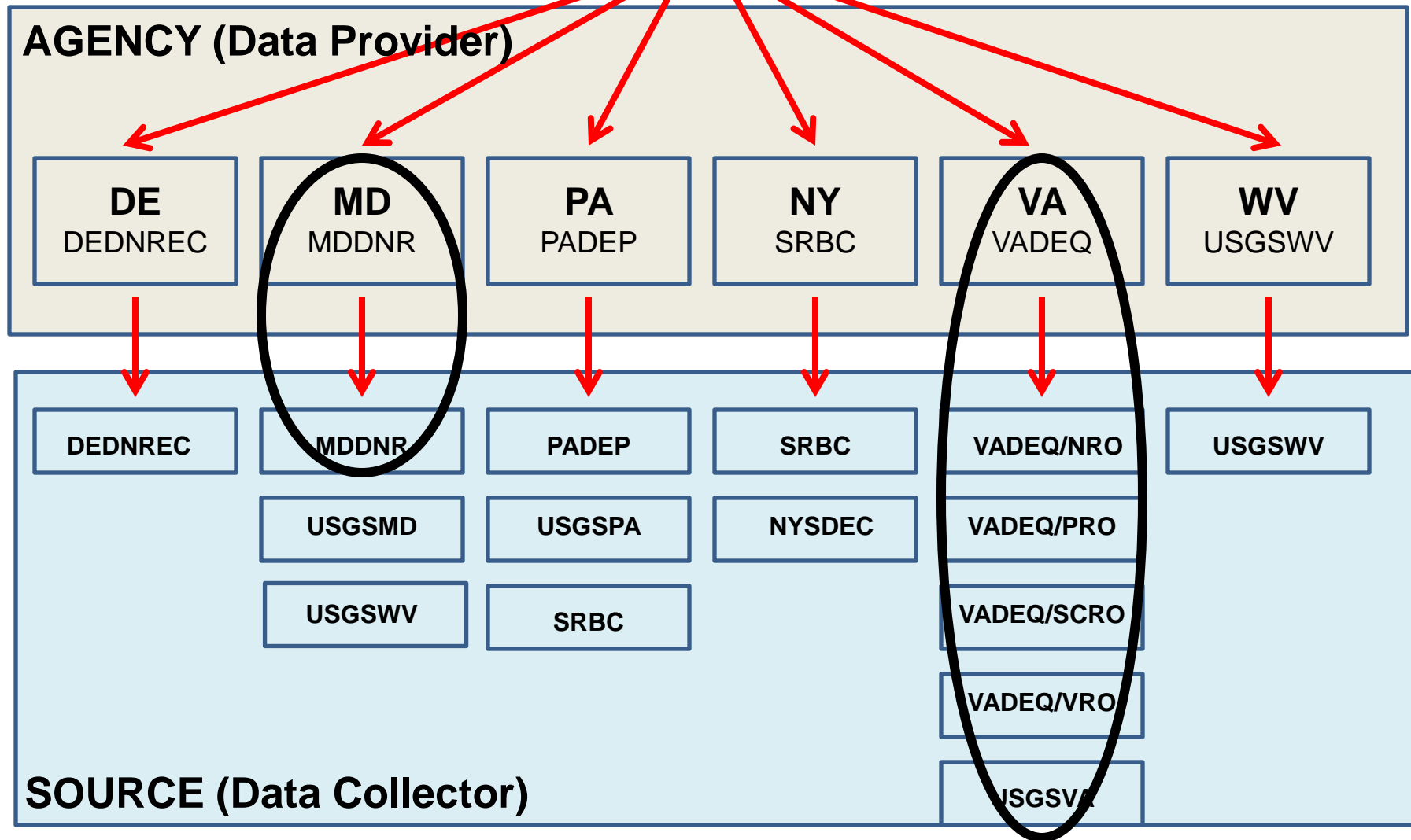
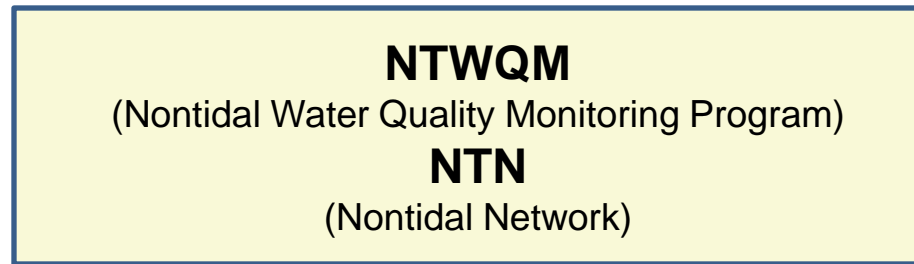
Introduction

- NTN collaboration has been successful since 2004
 - \$2 million more from EPA grants over the last 2 years
 - 30+ new sites and upgrades = 120+ total sites at the end of 2012
- Maturing of the NTN led to reviews and the additional funds
 - MRAT
 - EO
 - EPA Federal audits
- FAST process initiated to improve data management. Meets recommendation #1 for enhancing the NTN as identified in MRAT:

“Maintain the continuity and increase stewardship of the current CB nontidal water-quality network (NTN) and its data -- *the historical investment is substantial and is crucial to maintain. **We must improve management of the data and make it more accessible to the science and management communities.***”
- An additional benefit to FAST process: identified areas within NTN sampling and data management that requires further review by the NTWG

Objectives of FAST_DUET_ESAR

- Annually obtain NTWQM Program NTN Project monitoring data
- Annually construct fully reviewed, qualified, and standardized NTN Project water quality and ancillary (meta) data databases
- Provide efficient access to these databases to CBP partners for internal and or external use
- Annually address the following fundamental questions for the NTN Project at the Data Collector through Program-Wide levels:
 - what is the purpose of the monitoring being conducted?
 - what is monitored?
 - where is monitoring conducted?
 - when is monitoring conducted?
 - how is monitoring conducted?
 - who is conducting monitoring?
 - what is the quality of the monitoring data
 - do the monitoring data meet monitoring data requirements?



NTN Project Guidance Next Steps

- Sampling procedures
 - Expected event types and frequency
 - Additional interim sampling (i.e. during droughts)
 - Field Blank and Field Split replicate sample frequencies/procedures
 - Stream sampling equipment
 - Exact monitoring station locations (i.e. routine vs. alternate)
 - Auto sampling and continuous monitoring procedures
- Update and clarify documentation for sampling procedures
 - Coding of all of the above procedures in DUET
 - Update current NTN Guidance as necessary
- Standardize DUET submittals
 - WQ and Metadata
 - Parameter consistency checks
 - Coding of possible biased data

Where do we go from here ?

- Prioritize low hanging fruit and most important actions to be resolved
 - Before end of fiscal year?
 - Meeting?
- Identify long-term and short-term actions to be dealt with through the NTWG
 - Add to NTWG 2012 and 2013 work plan and assign people to action teams to execute the work