



U.S. EPA 2013 Program Evaluation of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

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Presentation Goals

- ▶ **Set the stage—summarize EPA Program Evaluation (PE) process**
 - ▶ **Provide preliminary findings for current review**
 - ▶ **Next steps**
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EPA Program Evaluation Process

- ▶ **Impetus for PE**
- ▶ **PE Goals**
 - Determine CCMP implementation progress
 - Determine eligibility for S.320 funding
- ▶ **Logic model framework**
- ▶ **Evaluates major elements of CCMP implementation:**
 - Program management practices
 - Ecosystem status and trends work plan core elements
- ▶ **Self-reporting**
- ▶ **EPA PE Team review**

PE Review Team

- ▶ **EPA Headquarters Lead**
- ▶ **EPA NEP Coordinator – Rhonda Evans**
- ▶ **NEP Director, ex officio Team Member – Troy Rice, Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program**
- ▶ **Team members bring:**
 - **NEP-specific knowledge, Region-specific ecosystem and policy issues**
 - **Experience, technical knowledge, insight of another NEP Director**
 - **Knowledge of EPA national policy issues, perspective about NEP-wide CCMP implementation**

PE Benefits

- The final PE Findings letter reflects agreement reached by PE team members about progress made by the NEP in CCMP implementation, and provides a pass/fail rating to the NEP.
- Once an NEP receives a PE Findings letter, the EPA Region can translate the challenges and areas needing improvement identified in that letter into tasks listed in the work plans contained in annual assistance agreements.

Uses of the Program Evaluation:

- I recognize that the Program Evaluation process requires a lot of work by the NEPs. So what are the uses of the Program Evaluation that justify all this effort?
- The PEs highlight the environmental results of NEP efforts. These results help to demonstrate how NEP actions contribute to improvements in water quality and the condition of living resources.
- The PEs fosters an in-depth dialogue between EPA and the NEP about progress made and about challenges that need to be addressed.
- The PEs provide an opportunity for stakeholders and partners to show EPA their on-the-ground projects, which support CCMP implementation.
- Information from PE reviews about lessons learned are transferred to other NEPs and other watershed programs, and inform EPA strategies for advancing Clean Water Act goals.
- It is possible that during a PE, an issue is identified that indicates that an NEP is not meeting the terms of its cooperative agreement and could thereby serve as a basis for withholding annual funding from a Program