



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WATER QUALITY
STANDARDS ACADEMY

----- *INTRODUCTORY COURSE* -----

Washington, D.C. Training Course Announcement

December 12 - 16, 2011

To be held at the
Sheraton Crystal City Hotel
1800 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

Course Description

The Water Quality Standards Academy is an, introductory course designed for those with limited experience with Water Quality Standards (six months to one year). Those with more experience may benefit from the course as a refresher. This is a comprehensive and highly structured course that introduces participants to all aspects of the Water Quality Standards program, including the interpretation and application of the Clean Water Act's Water Quality Standards requirements and the Water Quality Standards regulation. This includes: water body designated uses; development of water quality criteria (including human health, aquatic life, nutrient biological, and recreational); antidegradation policies; implementation; State/Tribal standards adoption and EPA review. A description of the training modules typically presented during the course appears on page 2 of this application packet.

The course is conducted over a five-day period. This session will be held at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel located in Crystal City/Arlington, VA. The session will begin on Monday, December 12, at approximately 9:00 a.m. and will end at approximately 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 16, 2011.

Application

The course is offered free of charge; however, **you must apply to attend.** Either apply online at:

<http://www.glec-online.com/form.htm>

or complete the form provided in this announcement and mail or fax it to EPA's contractor at the following address:

Water Quality Standards Academy Coordinator
c/o Great Lakes Environmental Center
1295 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43212
-OR-
FAX it to (614) 487-1920

Applications are due by **Monday, October 17, 2011.**

PLEASE DO NOT APPLY MORE THAN ONCE.

Please note that because seats in the course are very limited, EPA reserves the right to accept applications based on a balanced mix of participants from different types of organizations.

Due to the large amount of material to be covered during the course, participants **MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL TIMES.** Your application does **NOT** guarantee your attendance. **YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOUR APPLICATION TO ATTEND THE TRAINING COURSE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED.**
PLEASE DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL EPA CONFIRMS YOUR ATTENDANCE IN WRITING.

Participants are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and other expenses. Information about hotel availability follows. Please observe cutoff date for course registration.

A block of sleeping rooms has been reserved at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel at the U.S. government per diem rate for Arlington, VA. Please reserve your room by **November 21, 2011** before the block is released.

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
DECEMBER 2011 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS ACADEMY**

DESCRIPTION OF MODULES TYPICALLY PRESENTED

<p>Introductions and Participant Expectations Introduces the course, instructors, and participants. Addresses participant expectations.</p> <p>Overview of EPA, the Clean Water Act, and the Water Quality Standards Program Presents an overview of the course, the roles of EPA, States and Tribes in the development of Water Quality Standards, a discussion of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and an overview of Water Quality Standards and their implementation.</p> <p>Waters of the U.S. Provides an overview of what is a “water of the U.S.” and what waters may not be covered under the Clean Water Act.</p> <p>Designated Uses Covers State and Tribal designated use classifications, what designated uses are required, when and how designated uses can be revised, and the distinction between designated and existing uses.</p> <p>Use Attainability Analyses Provides a basic understanding of the role of Use Attainability Analyses in revising designated uses, explains when a Use Attainability Analysis is required, and discusses some examples.</p> <p>Human Health Criteria Discusses the components of and calculation of EPA’s criteria recommendations to protect human health for both carcinogens and non-carcinogens. Introduces fish tissue criteria and fish consumption advisories.</p> <p>Aquatic Life Criteria Discusses how EPA develops criteria recommendations for the protection of aquatic life, and summarizes site-specific modification procedures.</p> <p>Biological Criteria Provides an overview of the biocriteria program, including the development of biocriteria and the use of biological information in water quality programs.</p> <p>Nutrient Criteria Provides an overview of the development of EPA’s numeric nutrient criteria, other defensible ways of developing criteria, and the application of State/Tribal nutrient criteria in Water Quality Standards.</p> <p>Bacteria Criteria Provides an understanding of EPA’s current water quality criteria for bacteria and information on the relationship between the water quality criteria and the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000.</p>	<p>Antidegradation Policy Requirements Provides an understanding of how State/Tribal antidegradation policies help protect existing water quality.</p> <p>Tools for Achieving Standards Provides a summary of the alternative Water Quality Standards tools that States and Tribes can use (i.e. variances, compliance schedules, etc.) when standards cannot be attained immediately.</p> <p>Economic Considerations Provides a basic understanding of when and how it is appropriate to consider economic factors within the Water Quality Standards process and how to evaluate decisions based on a finding of substantial and widespread economic and social impacts.</p> <p>Mixing Zones Defines and outlines EPA’s recommendations and published guidance for State/Tribal mixing zone policies.</p> <p>Water Quality Standards Submittal and Approval Process Describes the administrative process by which EPA reviews State and Tribal adopted Water Quality Standards. Discusses the types of approvals possible and Federal Water Quality Standards promulgation procedures.</p> <p>401 Certification Provides an overview of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and how States and Tribes can use it in reviewing federal permits/licenses that authorize a discharge to waters of the U.S.</p> <p>Implementation of Water Quality Standards Presents the process by which adopted Water Quality Standards are implemented: monitoring and assessment, Total Maximum Daily Loads, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program.</p> <p>Water Quality Standards on Tribal Lands Provides information on the requirements for Tribes to administer the Water Quality Standards program.</p> <p>Wrap-Up Determines if participant expectations of the training course were met. Seeks to obtain feedback on the usefulness of the course and suggestions for improving the Academy.</p>
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DECEMBER 2011 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS ACADEMY**

**APPLICATION AND
OTHER LOGISTICAL INFORMATION**

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

You **MUST** apply for the course by either applying online at: <http://www.glec-online.com/form.htm> or completing the attached form. Apply online or return the form by **Monday, October 17, 2011** to EPA's contractor at the following address:

**Water Quality Standards Academy Coordinator
c/o Great Lakes Environmental Center
1295 King Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212
FAX: (614) 487-1920**

Telephone applications will NOT be accepted.

You will be notified in writing as to whether or not your application to attend the training course has been accepted.

DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL EPA CONFIRMS YOUR ATTENDANCE IN WRITING.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: If you need special accommodations at this training (including wheelchair access), you should contact Great Lakes Environmental Center at (614) 487-1040 at least five business days before the training so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

HOTEL INFORMATION AND COURSE LOCATION:

You are responsible for making your own travel and hotel arrangements.

Course Location:

Sheraton Crystal City Hotel
1800 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

Across the street from the Crystal City Metro station.
(Yellow and Blue Lines)
MetroBus 23A, C 16H, Arlington Transit 91

A block of sleeping rooms has been reserved at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel at the U.S. government per diem rate for Arlington, VA. Please reserve your room by **November 21, 2011** before the block is released and the room price increases. To reserve a sleeping room, call the hotel/conference center at:

Tel: 703-486-1111 or 1-888-627-8209
Use Code: EPA WQSA to get the conference rate

Parking is available at the hotel for approximately \$18/day self and \$24/day valet.

Driving Directions: Bringing an automobile into the area is strongly discouraged. Please use the Metro system. Parking is available at some Metro stations but may be limited and require advance registration.

Metro Directions: Take the Blue or Yellow line to Crystal City Station. Up the escalator and turn left at the top, then continue straight across 18th Street. Turn right and cross under Jefferson Davis Highway, and the Sheraton is on the left (entrance is on Eads Street).

Airport Shuttle: The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel provides a complimentary shuttle from Reagan National Airport to the hotel.

There is also a Metro Station at Reagan National Airport.

Taxi Information:

One way taxi fare from Ronald Reagan National Airport is approximately \$10 (10-15 min).

One way taxi fare from Dulles Airport is approximately \$75 (50-60 min).

Metro Directions from Reagan National Airport: Take the Blue or Yellow line to Crystal City Station. Up the escalator and turn left at the top, then continue straight across 18th Street. Turn right and cross under Jefferson Davis Highway and the Sheraton is on the left (entrance is on Eads Street). Fare is approximately \$1.50-\$2.00 (10-15 min). The Crystal City Metro stop is approximately one block from the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel.

Shuttle Bus/Metro Directions from Dulles Airport: Take the Washington Flyer Bus to the West Falls Church Metro stop (approximately \$8 per person, 40 minute drive). Then take the metro via the Orange line to the Rosslyn station (sixth stop). Transfer to the Blue line and take it to the Crystal City Station. Up the escalator and turn left at the top, then continue straight across 18th Street. Turn right and cross under Jefferson Davis Highway and the Sheraton is on the left (entrance is on Eads Street).

Train/Metro Directions from BWI Airport (Baltimore): Please go to: www.metroopensdoors.com (rail and bus).

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DECEMBER 2011 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS ACADEMY**

APPLICATION FORM

RETURN TO EPA'S CONTRACTOR AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Water Quality Standards Academy Coordinator
c/o Great Lakes Environmental Center
1295 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43212

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE DECEMBER 12-16, 2011
COURSE MUST BE RECEIVED BY **MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011**

OR FAX TO: (614) 487-1920

I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS ACADEMY
TRAINING AT THE SHERATON CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL IN ARLINGTON, VA
(December 12-16, 2011)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organizational Affiliation: _____

Organizational Office/Division: _____

Address: _____

EPA Region (1-10, HQ or Other): _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, AS THEY WILL HELP YOUR INSTRUCTORS PREPARE THEIR MATERIALS

Number of years' experience with Water Quality Standards? Please check one that applies:

_____ 0-6 months _____ 6 months to 1 year _____ 1-3 years _____ 3 years or more

What are your *expectations* of this course? _____

Do you have any *specific questions* about Water Quality Standards and implementation that you would like addressed during the course?

EPA WILL CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE IN WRITING BEFORE THE START OF THE COURSE. REMEMBER: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR OWN HOTEL AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL EPA'S CONTRACTOR:

Water Quality Standards Academy Coordinator
Great Lakes Environmental Center
(614) 487-1040