



# EPA SIP Lean Effort Overview

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Session at EPA Region 4 & Jimmy Johnston, Deputy Director at Tennessee  
Department of Environment and Conservation

State & Local Air Director's Meeting  
June 6, 2018

# SIP Processing Improvements

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- ❑ **High priority** continues to be reducing the SIP backlog and improving SIP processing times
- ❑ **Trends in SIP processing**
  - ❑ Historic backlogged SIPs reduced by 80% (between October 2013 and March 2018)
  - ❑ Total pending SIPs reduced by 20% (between October 2013 and March 2018)
- ❑ **SIP management improvement efforts ongoing**
  - ❑ SIP management plans continue to provide opportunities for EPA regional offices and states to engage on setting SIP action priorities
  - ❑ EPA emphasizing early engagement with air agencies
  - ❑ Continued commitment to providing timely guidance on SIP development issues
  - ❑ EPA maintaining emphasis on internal SIP processing improvements
    - ❑ Significant IT investments (SPeCS)
    - ❑ National use of lean to improve SIP review process

# SIP Lean Priority Area

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- ❑ SIP lean event held in February 2018 focused on both EPA process and state process – and included participants from 3 states and a local area.
- ❑ Goal of SIP lean event was to develop process and tools that would enable EPA to eliminate the backlog and process SIPs within CAA timelines, by 2022.
- ❑ Timely action on SIPs is a priority for EPA, as reflected in EPA's recently released Strategic Plan for FY2018 – 2022 and the Agency's Reform Plan

# Key Principles of Revised Process

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- ❑ Early engagement with air agencies during SIP development process
- ❑ Early feedback from EPA on approvability issues and/or concerns with draft submission
- ❑ Regular communications to ensure EPA is taking action on air agency priorities and/or SIPs that are most important
- ❑ Internal improvements – use of electronic systems and other methods to improve efficiency
- ❑ Standard work – use of more standard work across regional offices in terms of templates, checklists, etc...



# Benefits of a Lean Management System for SIPs

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- Reduce rework
- Early feedback on potential issues
- Faster action on SIPs once submitted to EPA
- Greater regulatory certainty

# Next Steps

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- ❑ Internal work to develop resources, tools, and internal training needed to effectuate new process
- ❑ Tools includes products that would support EPA early engagement with air agencies
- ❑ EPA is also looking at the current pending SIPs (backlogged and not) and evaluation options for handling those in a manner consistent with lean management
- ❑ EPA will provide air agencies with regular updates and anticipates that there will be opportunities for air agency input on specific tools/resources as they are developed
  - ❑ EPA has developed a “Fact Sheet” to give overview of SIP lean project
- ❑ Initial implementation steps focus on internal improvements to EPA processes

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# Questions and Comments

