



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Office of Air Monitoring

Florida PQAO: Roles & Responsibilities and Air Monitoring Goals

March 22, 2016





Objectives

- PQAO
 - o Definition
 - o Requirements
- Agency Roles & Responsibilities
- Florida's Air Monitoring Goals





What is a PQAO?

“A primary quality assurance organization is defined as a monitoring organization or a coordinated aggregation of such organizations that is responsible for a set of stations that monitors the same pollutant and for which data quality assessments can logically be pooled.”

– 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix A



Five Common Factors of a PQAO





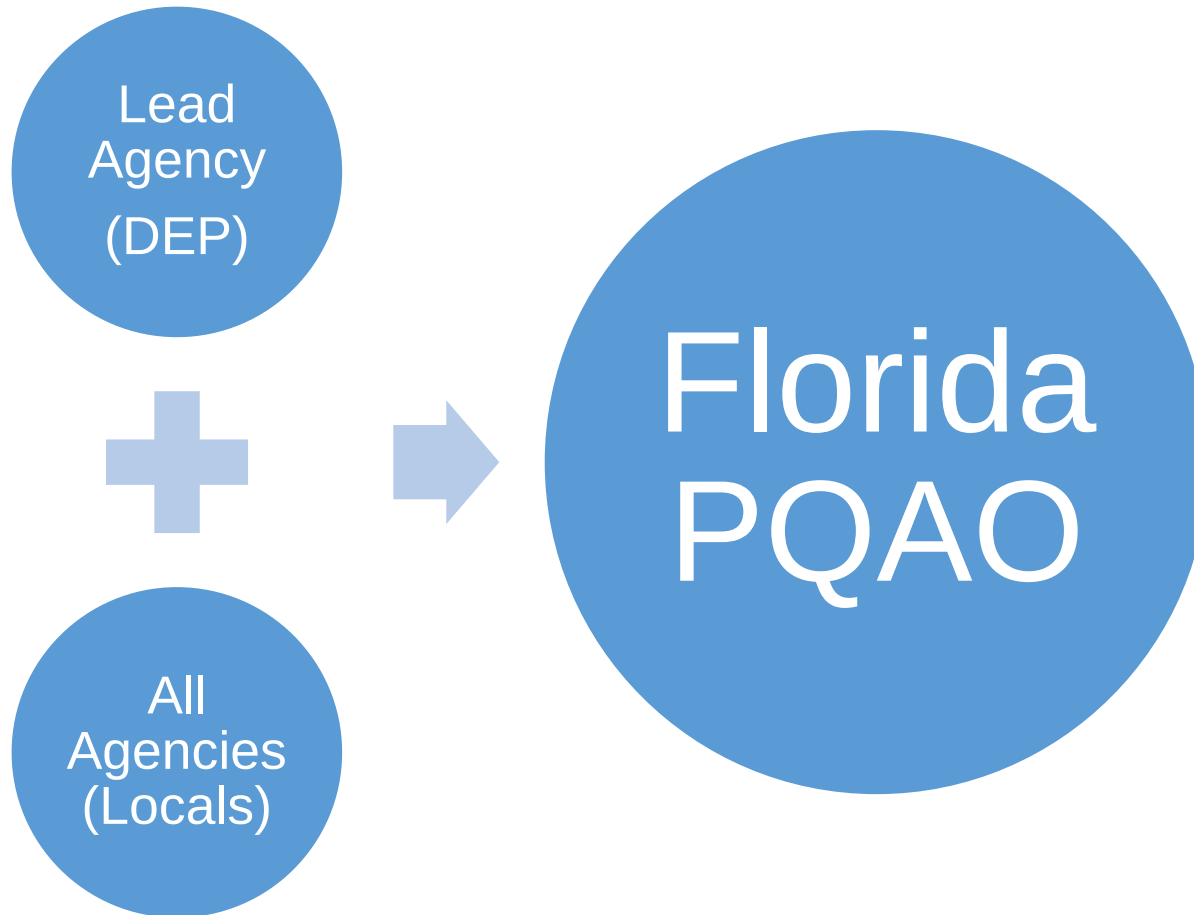
Florida PQAO

- Florida DEP's Office of Air Monitoring – Lead Agency
- 9 Local Program Agencies
 - Broward County
 - City of Jacksonville
 - Hillsborough County
 - Manatee County
 - Miami-Dade County
 - Orange County
 - Palm Beach County
 - Pinellas County
 - Sarasota County





Roles & Responsibilities





Roles & Responsibilities: Field Operations & Procedures

- Adopt and implement Florida's Quality Management Plan (QMP)
- Adopt and implement statewide SOPs and forms
- Attend and participate in statewide meetings, trainings, and other opportunities provided by the PQAO
- Consider, recommend, and review updates to SOPs and forms and also provide feedback





Roles & Responsibilities: Quality Assurance Documents & SOPs

- Adopt and implement Florida Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) and statewide SOPs and associated forms
- Agree to make available to Florida DEP a record of quality assurance related documents (i.e. SOPs, training plans, etc.) being utilized in your ambient air monitoring network
- Review quality assurance documents and SOPs on an established schedule and notify Florida DEP of any proposed changes or corrections





Roles & Responsibilities: Calibration Facilities & Standards

- Utilize Florida DEP's Standards Laboratory for certification, calibration and verification services or provide the name of the facility being used





Roles & Responsibilities: Quality Assurance Organization

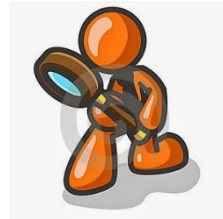
- Review and verify pollutant-specific parameters on an annual basis that are included in the Florida PQAO
- Participate in performance audits
- Participate in laboratory audits
- Participate in EPA required technical system audits
- Review and verify data quality against Florida PQAO or EPA established acceptance criteria prior to submittal to AQS





Roles & Responsibilities: Quality Assurance Organization

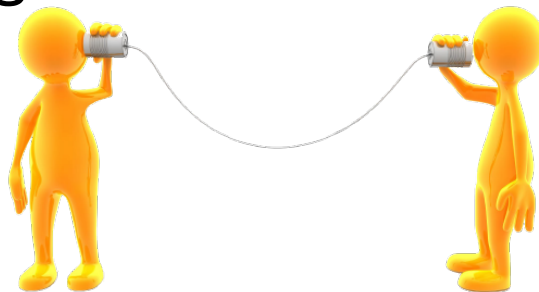
- Review agency data on a quarterly basis to verify accuracy and completeness
- Utilize a statewide corrective action process to report instrument malfunctions, operational problems, and/or any items needing corrective action or investigation
- Adhere to the Statewide Air Monitoring Data Handling and Data Validation SOP (DEP18-22)
- Validate data prior to submission to Florida DEP for upload to AQS; and communicate to Florida DEP when data have been altered or modified after it has been submitted





Roles & Responsibilities: Management, Laboratory & Headquarters

- Communicate all site changes (i.e. openings, closures, relocations) prior to planning and implementing these changes
- Provide timely sample return and proper documentation of field sample collection activities (i.e., chain-of-custody, sample collection dates and times, etc.)
- Participate in PQAO monitoring meetings and teleconferences





Florida DEP

Roles & Responsibilities

- Maintain and disseminate a QMP, QAPPs, SOPs, and other quality assurance documents
- Provide updates/revisions to the quality assurance documents
- Provide adequate training on key air monitoring fundamentals related to operations, maintenance, quality assurance/quality control, and data management procedures
- Facilitate regular meetings/teleconferences
- Provide timely certification, calibration, and verification services that meet or exceed 40 CFR Part 58 requirements via the Quality Assurance Standards Laboratory upon request



Florida DEP Roles & Responsibilities

- Conduct performance evaluation audits
- Conduct annual siting evaluations
- Inform an agency immediately if an instrument or analyzer is found to be outside of acceptable limits and conduct a re-audit to verify the corrective action
- Conduct technical systems audits
- Provide procedures and criteria for data acceptability and corrective action determination
- Perform annual certification of data
- Participate in the review and update of the annual network plan



Florida's Air Monitoring Goals

- Continue to improve data quality & legal defensibility of these data
- Reduce overall air monitoring costs
- Solidify our one PQAO-ness
- Improve efficiencies by removing redundancies
- Maintain effectual working relationships across agencies
 - o Regular communication and interaction
 - o Training opportunities





Goal: Improve Data Quality

- Finalizing statewide SOPs and adhering to those SOPs
- Utilizing standardized forms
- Utilizing a statewide data validation process
- Implementing automated and wireless technology statewide





Goal: Maintain Effective Communication

- Monthly Data Validation Teleconferences
- Quarterly Air Monitoring Teleconferences
- Cooperative efforts/input on statewide processes
- Timely notification of network changes
- Training opportunities





Florida: A Single PQAO

- Standardized SOPs and quality assurance documents
- Standardized procedures
 - Field operations
 - Data validation
 - Laboratory





Outcomes

- High quality, legally defensible air monitoring data
- Improved efficiency
- Consistency of practices and procedures
- Reduced overall air monitoring costs





Questions?

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