

Colorado's Approach for Nutrients Management and Operator Training

ACWA Nutrients Permitting Workshop
June 6, 2018



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Overview

- Colorado's nutrients management approach
- Voluntary incentive program
- Mentoring program approach
- Facility inventory





Colorado's nutrient management approach



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Colorado's original nutrient strategy

Technology based regulation

- Tech based effluent limits
- Enhanced stormwater controls
- Voluntary nonpoint source controls
- Monitoring requirements

Traditional clean water act approach

- Interim numeric values
- Focus on protecting classified uses
- Applied to streams above discharges

EPA action on Colorado's nutrient package

- Approved chlorophyll 'a' criteria
- Approved with recommendations total phosphorus and total nitrogen criteria for lakes
- No action on total phosphorus and total nitrogen criteria for rivers and streams



Colorado's revised nutrient strategy

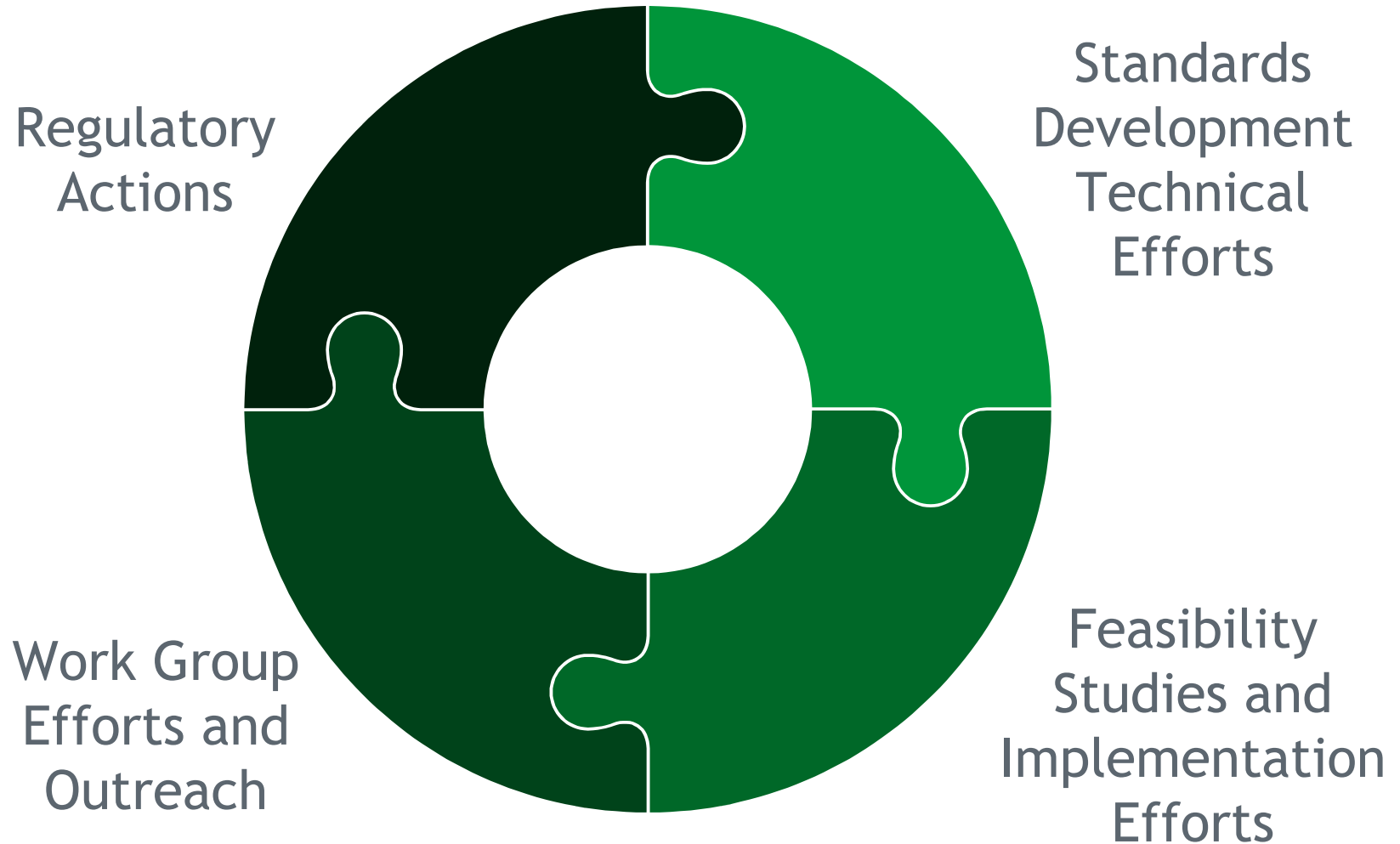
Technology based regulation

- Tech based effluent limits
- Enhanced stormwater controls
- Voluntary nonpoint source controls
- Monitoring requirements
- *Voluntary incentive program*

Traditional clean water act approach

- Focus on protecting classified uses
- Applied to streams above discharges
- *Applied to a prioritized set of lakes*
- *Applied to protect municipal water supplies*

10-year water quality roadmap



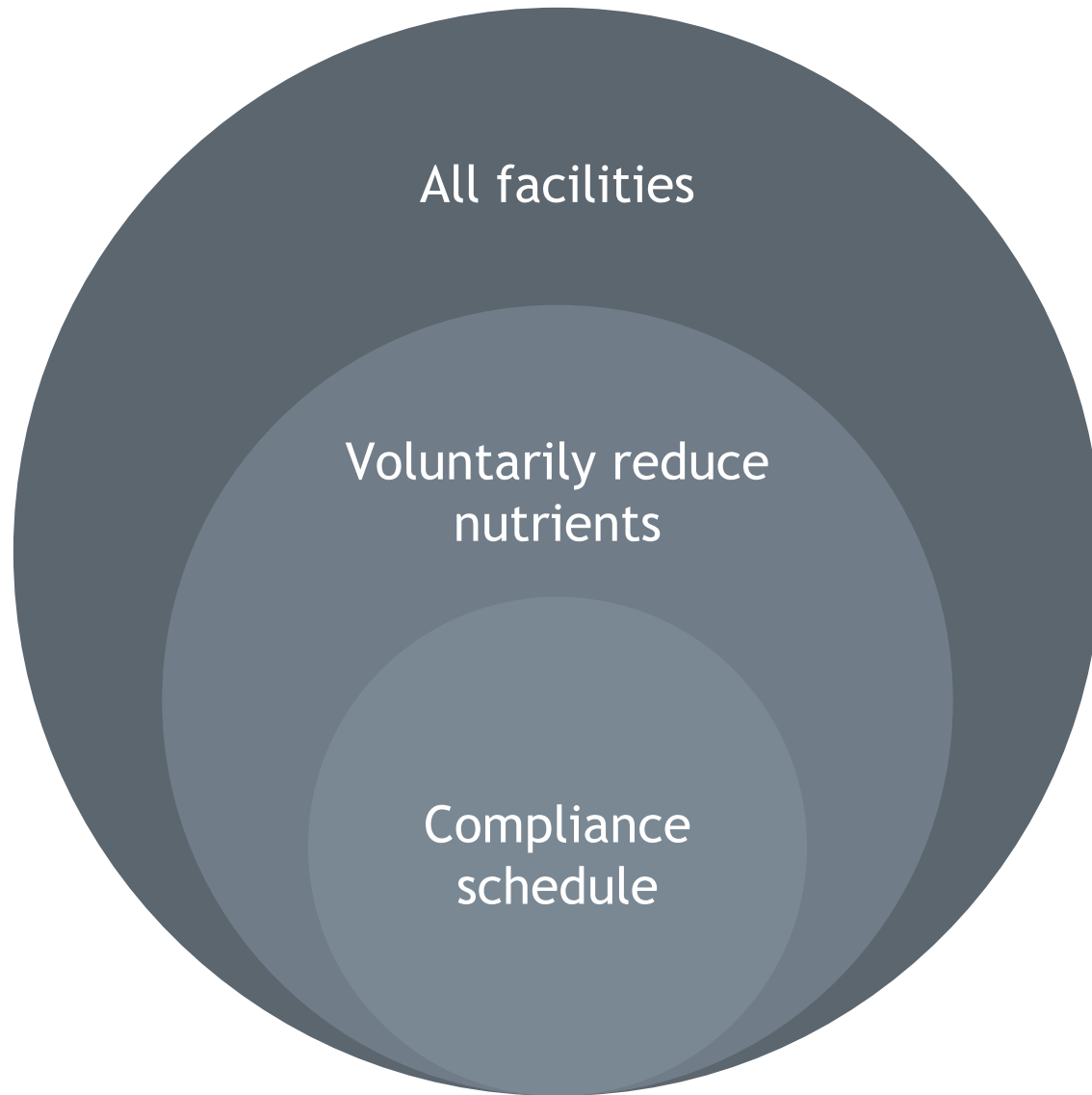


Voluntary incentive program



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Overview of incentive program



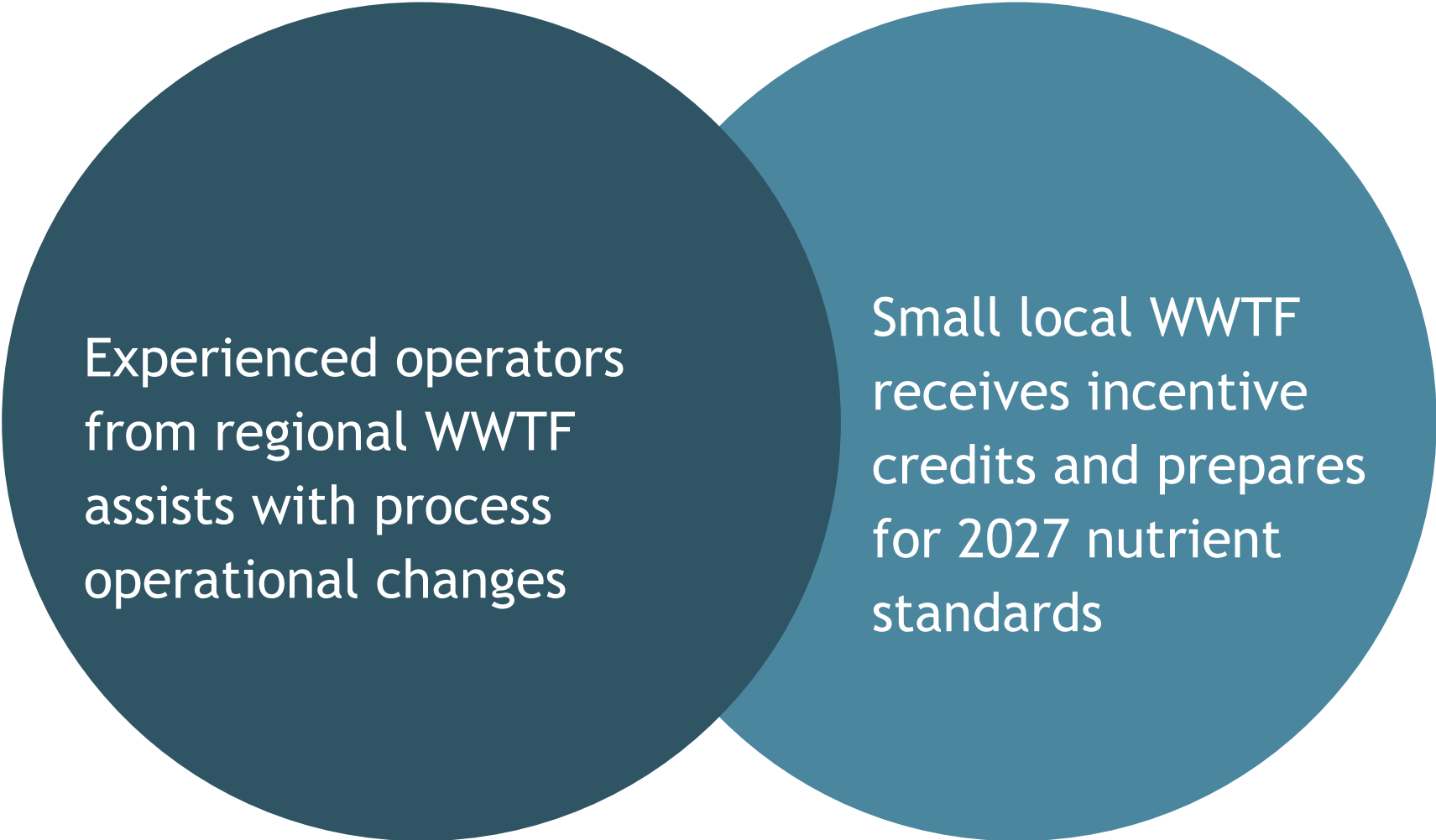


Mentoring program approach



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Mentoring program intent



Experienced operators
from regional WWTF
assists with process
operational changes

Small local WWTF
receives incentive
credits and prepares
for 2027 nutrient
standards

Program Partners

MENTORS

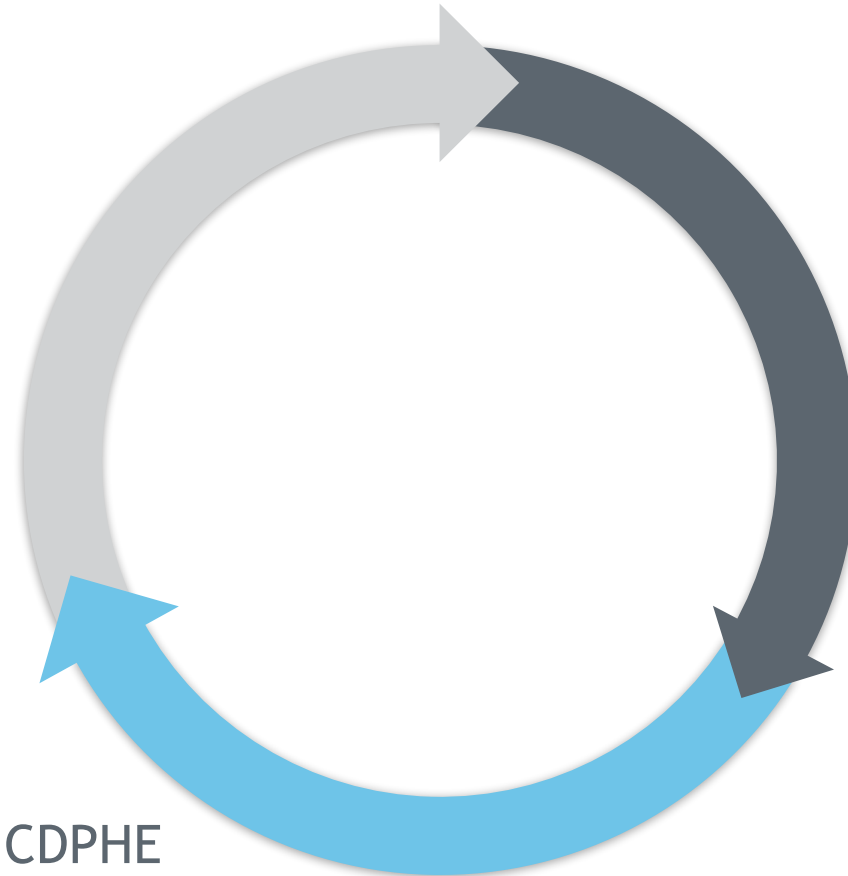
- Records review
- Site visit
- Site visit report
- Ongoing assistance
- Feedback to CDPHE

MENTEES

- Gather records
- ORC participation
- Commit to implementation schedule
- Feedback to CDPHE
- Pay it forward

CDPHE

- Develops templates
- Coordination
- Design capacity



Mentoring program goals

- Volunteer Mentors
 - Training Units for Operator(s)
- Participant Mentees
 - Training Units for Operator(s)
 - Opportunity to participate in V.I.P.
 - Ongoing assistance
- Water Quality Improvement
- Knowledge sharing/relationship building



Rollout and status

Getting the word out

Regional
roadshow

Direct
outreach to
facilities

Implementation

In progress,
target pilot by
July 2018

Developing
forms and
templates

Preliminary feedback

- Liability to mentors
- Risk/unintended impacts to other processes
- Misperceiving constructive criticism
- Operator workload concerns
 - Time limitations
 - Too few operators
- Outside of concerns - operators highly interested
- Six responses from roadshow
 - 3 mentors and 3 mentees
 - Initial location challenges



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Inventory project

Inventory project overview



Domestic WWTF
capacity and
treatment

Receiving
stream data

Permit
compliance
data snapshot

Service area
population and
financial data

Inventory project goals

- Determine Colorado's domestic WWTF universe
- Provide platform to query data
- Identify facilities likely to experience compliance challenges
- Proactively troubleshoot potential issues
 - treatment solutions
 - regulatory solutions
 - funding solutions



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Questions