

# **CWA/MPRSA Differences**

## **Tab C**

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**Key Words: Testing, Evaluation, Lines-of-Evidence, Weight-of-Evidence**

## **Definitions**

### **Testing**

**Specific procedures which generate biological, chemical, and/or physical data to be used in evaluations. The data are usually quantitative, but may be qualitative, such as taste, odor, color, organism behavior, etc.**

## **Definitions**

### **Evaluation**

**The process of judging data. Objective or subjective factors (or both) are used in a consistent and logical fashion to reach a decision.**

## **Definitions**

### **Control Sediment/Water**

**A sediment from the area where the test organisms were collected or cultured. For water-column tests, water in which the organisms were held or cultured is used. The control serves as a check on the health of the organism and validates the test results.**

## **Definitions**

### **Reference Sediment**

**A sediment which reflects disposal site conditions except previous dredged material disposal. It is the point of comparison for interpreting benthic bioassay results.**

## **Dredged Material Evaluation Manuals**

- **Tiered testing and evaluation**
- **“Reason to believe”**
- **Testing procedures for water column**
- **Computer models for mixing**
- **Testing for benthic toxicity and bioaccumulation**
- **Case-specific evaluations**
- **Statistical tools, QA/QC and data interpretation**

## **Tiered Approach**

- **Uses resources effectively**
- **Best professional judgement**
- **Not sequential**
- **Lines of Evidence/Weight of Evidence**
- **Documentation required**

## **Regional Flexibility**

- **Contaminants of concern**
- **Frequency of testing/evaluation**
- **Sampling scheme**
- **Reference site**
- **Species selection**
- **Data interpretation**
- **Special local considerations**

## **MPRSA/CWA Evaluation Differences**

### **MPRSA**

**Water Quality Criteria**  
**Mixing Specified**  
**Exclusions Restricted**  
**Reference Comparison**  
**Bioassays Mandatory**  
**Trace Contaminants**  
**No Physical Isolation**  
**Disposal Site Designation**  
**Inflexible/absolute prohibitions**  
**1977 Regulation (criteria)**

### **CWA**

**Water Quality Standards**  
**Mixing Variable**  
**Exclusions Broad**  
**Disposal/Ref Comparison**  
**Bioassays Optional**  
**No Trace Contaminants**  
**Physical Isolation**  
**Disposal Site Specification**  
**Reasonably Flexible (State Oversight)**  
**1980 Regulation (Guidelines)**