

National Air Quality Training Program Next Steps

Roadmap Briefing:
SBEAP Meeting

Innovative Programs & Outreach Group (IPOG),
OAQPS, US EPA
September 8th, 2020

OAQPS Training Program Overview

- Roadmap for future of air quality training program
- New air quality curricula
- Prioritizing - which trainings to develop first?
- Replacing APTI-Learn with a new Learning Management System (LMS)

Underlying Challenges – New Resources

- Underlying Challenges:
 - Understaffed – since 2014 Training Team had 1-2 FTEs
 - Insufficiently connected to stakeholders – both internal & external
 - Antiquated LMS
 - Outdated model for training delivery
 - Able to produce 1 new training every 2 years
- New Resources:
 - 9 FTE plus supervisor
 - Procuring new LMS

Roadmap for Future Training

- FY 20-21: Rebuild online training program infrastructure
 - Rebuild partnerships with stakeholders
 - Stakeholder-driven curricula
 - Replace APTI-Learn with new LMS
 - Move training development in-house
 - Produce 4-5 trainings per year
- FY 22 and beyond: Produce Training – both online & classroom
 - In FY 22 and beyond we will produce up to 20 courses/year
 - This output requires partnership with all stakeholders
 - Improve distance learning capacity
- Embrace continual improvement

Redesigning Air Quality Curricula

Ignoring the existing course material, we engaged with OAQPS, the EPA Regions, states, locals, and tribal air agencies to identify the learning objectives necessary to educate the next generation of air professionals.

Built around learning objectives, the new curricula are designed to integrate with a learning management system (LMS) and allow students to customize their own learning plan.

New Curricula

Completed in partnership with OAQPS Divisions, Regional Offices, Multi-Jurisdictional Organizations, Tribal organizations):

- Air Pollution Basics
- Air Quality Modeling
- Air Quality Planning
- Air Toxics Rule Development and Implementation
- Ambient Air Monitoring
- Emissions Inventories
- Permitting
- Source Emissions Testing and Source Emissions Monitoring

Assessing Existing Courses

- We have nearly completed work to match the new curricula learning objectives with learning objectives for existing courses.
 - Short term benefits:
 - Aids in identification of “course pieces” that fit under each curriculum
 - Aids in identification of curricula gaps
 - Long term benefits
 - Creates mechanism for prioritization for future training development
 - Prevents “scope creep”

Three Year Training Plan

- By November we will specify the courses the EPA training team will develop from FY21-FY23.
- We will develop 4-5 courses/year in FY21; up to 20 courses/year after that.
- We need to tap into subject matter expertise in state and local air agencies; the training plan will facilitate collaboration across partners by providing greater transparency and certainty.
- A variety of factors will figure into decisions about priority training needs:
 - Demand
 - Content
 - Format
 - Resources

FY2020 Completed Courses (target was 4-5 courses):

- Updated classroom course APTI 423 Air Pollution Dispersion Models: The AERMOD Modeling System (Completed May 2020)
- Updated classroom course NACT 350 – Basic Inspector Course (completed February 2020)
- Updated classroom course NACT 355 – Advanced Inspector Course (completed February 2020)
- Updated classroom course APTI 474 Continuous Monitoring Systems (Completed May 2020)
- New e-learning course APTI SI-470 Quality Assurance for Air Pollution Measurement Systems (June 2020)
- Updated classroom course NACT 221 Continuous Monitoring Systems (by end of FY 20)
- Conversion up to **15 APTI SI courses** to e-learning as part of content migration from APTI to the new LMS (Fall 2020)

Replacing APTI-Learn

- The current learning management system (LMS), APTI-Learn, is antiquated and not adequate for increased usage
- Original Launch for new LMS was summer 2021
- We will have phased release of the new LMS:
 - Basic LMS with increased functionality – Fall 2020
 - Launch reconfigured LMS Summer 2021

Trainings Available in New LMS

- The accelerated release of the new LMS
 - Release a new student-friendly LMS
 - Initial offerings will be ~150 courses from APTI-Learn – some of this material is older and does not reflect how new e-learning courses will be developed
 - Organize trainings by curricula learning objectives
 - Clearly distinguish older APTI content from recently developed courses.

National Air Quality Training Program

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