

# PA Water Quality Management Programs

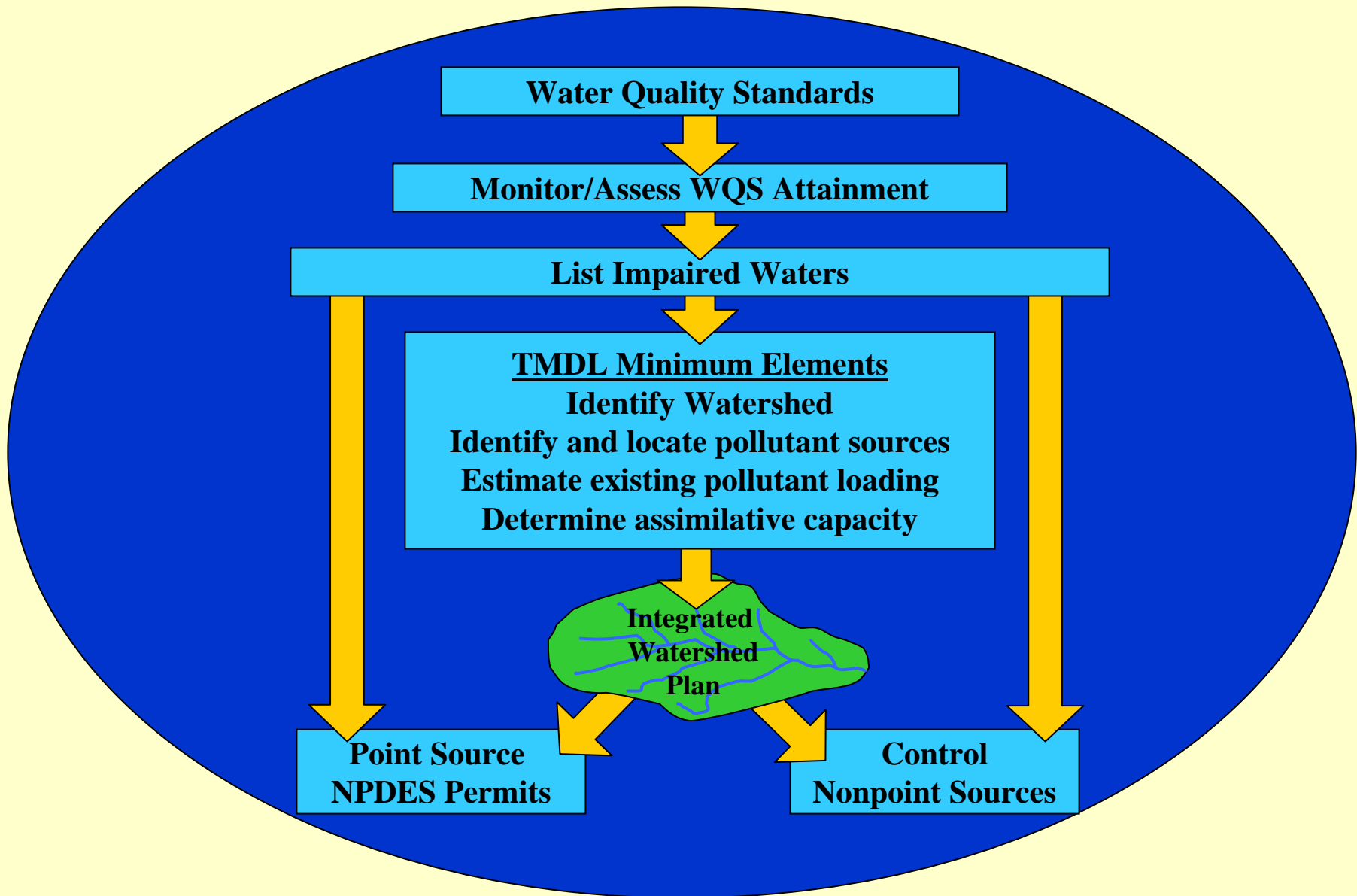
- TMDL Program (became very active in 1998)
  - Water Quality Assessment
- NPDES Permitting
  - In effect since the inception of the Clean Water Act in 1972

# What is a TMDL?

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is the amount of pollutant loading that a waterbody can assimilate and meet our water quality standards.

The TMDL process is a planning tool to develop pollution reduction goals that will improve impaired waters to meet water quality standards.

# Clean Water Act Framework



# EPA LAWSUIT

- EPA Region III was sued by environmental groups for not requiring PA to complete TMDLs
- Settlement agreement between EPA and litigants reached in April 1997
- EPA and DEP entered into MOU to complete TMDLs on a schedule

# Pennsylvania's Watershed Management Cycle

- **A stream/waterbody assessment is conducted**
- **Streams that are impaired and require a TMDL are placed in part 5 of the Integrated List.**
- **The TMDL is completed to address the impairments**
- **Implementation plan developed.**
- **Remediation activities take place**
- **The stream/waterbody is resurveyed to determine if the designated uses are now being met (if not, see bullet 1)**

# “Unassessed Waters” Action Summary through Year 2005

<b>Miles of Streams:</b>	<b>83,287 miles</b>
<b>Assessed:</b>	<b>74,533 miles (89%)</b>
<b>Supporting uses:</b>	<b>62,066 miles (83% of assessed)</b>
<b>Impaired:</b>	<b>12,467 miles (17% of assessed)</b>

\* Based on 2005 305(b) Update

# Leading Sources of Impairment

- AMD – 33%
- Agriculture – 25%
- Urban Runoff – 10%

\* Based on 2003 305(b) Update

# Leading Causes of Impairment

- Siltation – 31%
- Metals – 24%
- pH – 14%
- Nutrients – 11%
- Organic Enrichment/Low Dissolved Oxygen – 6%
- Cause Unknown – 4%
- Suspended Solids – 3%

\* Based 2005 305(b) Update

# NPDES Permitting Program

- PA DEP has been delegated by EPA to carry out the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- It requires that all point source discharges obtain a permit which allows them to discharge.
- These permits are written to insure mandatory technologies for wastewater treatment facilities are employed and in addition that water quality standards are met.