

**ORSANCO Program Prioritization Survey**  
**Proposed Approach**

**Background**

Periodically the Commission conducts surveys among its member states and other partners to assess the priorities among its programs. A prioritization survey was conducted among Technical Committee members as part of the development process for the fiscal year 2011 program and budget; however, it was conducted on short notice without much preparation and the response was considered incomplete. The Technical Committee directed staff to conduct another survey for development of the fy2012 program and to begin by presenting a proposed approach for Committee review.

**Shortcomings of fy2011 Survey**

The decision to conduct a survey for fy2011 was made at the February Technical Committee meeting. Since the results needed to be available for the March meeting of the Program and Finance Committee, there was very little time for staff to design a survey and for the Committee members to respond. The survey consisted of a list of all Commission technical programs with a one or two sentence description of each. Committee members were asked to select their three highest and three lowest priorities. Responses were received from four states and two federal agencies.

**Approach for fy2012**

***Content of Survey***

Rather than use the many individual programs, staff proposes to use general program activities for the survey. The following list has been used in the past:

1. Monitor and assess water quality conditions in the Ohio River and lower reaches of its major tributaries
  - a. Routine ambient monitoring
  - b. Biological monitoring
  - c. Pathogen monitoring
  - d. Algae/nutrient monitoring
  - e. Data assessment and distribution
  - f. Assessment of water quality conditions
2. Protect drinking water supplies that use the Ohio River as their source
  - a. Receiving and disseminating spill reports
  - b. Organics Detection system
  - c. On river monitoring of spills
  - d. Coordination of interstate source water protection efforts

3. Develop and adopt up-to date water quality criteria for the Ohio River
  - a. Investigate derivation of current and new water quality criteria
  - b. Develop biological and numerical nutrient criteria for the Ohio River
  - c. Evaluate the need to incorporate drinking water criteria/parameters in ORSANCO Standards
  - d. Participate in development of new criteria such as pathogens
  - e. Track developments regarding emerging contaminants
4. Coordinate, support and supplement state efforts to control pollution sources
  - a. Support review and revision of Commission Standards
  - b. Hold routine conference calls of state/federal work groups and subcommittees
  - c. Review of draft NPDES permits for Ohio River discharges
  - d. Support and Coordinate development of TMDLs
  - e. Special studies to identify sources of water quality problems

Responders would be asked to rate each activity as:

- Increase effort
- Decrease effort
- Maintain current level of effort
- Discontinue

### **Distribution**

All members of the Technical Committee would be invited to participate in the survey. Responders would be asked to indicate their affiliation so that results could be tabulated by responding group (states, advisory committees, etc). While distribution would be to Technical Committee members, the members may wish to involve other personnel from their agency or committee in the survey.

***Recommendation: the extent of participation in each agency should be discussed at the Technical Committee meeting.***

### **Timing**

It is desirable to obtain survey results in time for discussion at the next Technical Committee meeting. In order to allow for compilation and reporting of the results, completed surveys should be returned to ORSANCO Headquarters by December 31.