



JUN 04 2025

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2025-24

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE DESIGNATION OF WATERBODIES AS
NON-ATTAINMENT AREAS (NAAS) AND ATTAINMENT AREAS
(AAS) AND PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
RESTORATION/REVIVAL/REHABILITATION OF INITIALLY
DESIGNATED NAAS**

Pursuant to the Philippine Clean Water Act (CWA) of 2004 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (DENR Administrative Order No. 2005-10), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is mandated to designate water bodies, or portions thereof, as either Non-Attainment Areas (NAAs) or Attainment Areas (AAs). This designation addresses instances where specific pollutants from natural or man-made sources have exceeded or adhered to water quality guidelines.

Section 1. Basic Policy.

It is the policy of the State to ensure the protection, preservation, and revival of the quality of our fresh, brackish, and marine waters through a comprehensive management program for water pollution, focusing on prevention using appropriate economic instruments and control mechanisms to sustain their intended beneficial uses.¹

Section 2. Objectives.

2.1. General Objective.

The objective of this Order is to ensure the protection, preservation, and revival of the quality of our fresh, brackish, and marine waters, thereby sustaining their intended beneficial uses for ecological balance, public health, and sustainable development.

2.2. Specific Objectives.

To achieve this, the Order seeks to:

1. Implement a comprehensive management program for water pollution that emphasizes pollution prevention and reduction using appropriate economic instruments, regulatory measures, and control mechanisms.
2. Guide the designation of water bodies as NAAs and AAs based on water quality monitoring data.
3. Promote the restoration and improvement of degraded water bodies to meet their intended beneficial uses.
4. Strengthen collaboration among stakeholders in addressing water quality issues, including national and local government agencies, private sectors, and communities.

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¹ Section 2.b (Declaration of Policy) of RA 9275 Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004

5. Develop and implement actionable NAA Action and Contingency Plans for rehabilitating and sustainably managing designated waterbodies.

Section 3. Scope and Coverage.

This Order shall apply to all waterbodies designated as Water Quality Management Areas (WQMAs) under the provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 9275 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. It shall cover their classification as NAAs or AAs based on compliance with water quality standards.

This Order shall not apply to waterbodies or portions thereof covered by existing rehabilitation, management, or operational plans issued through Executive Orders by the President or rulings from the Supreme Court.

Section 4. Definition of Terms.

For this Order, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- 4.1. Attainment Area (AA). A waterbody or portion thereof previously designated NAAs that have conformed with the water quality guidelines and standards for its designated beneficial use.
- 4.2. Beneficial Use. The utilization of water that is conducive to public health, safety, and well-being, including but not limited to domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, and aesthetic purposes.
- 4.3. Contingency Plan. A set of stricter measures and additional activities implemented when the targets set in the NAA Action Plan are not achieved within the specified timeline. This plan addresses persistent pollution issues and ensures compliance with water quality standards.
- 4.4. Effluent Standards. Legal restrictions or limitations on the quantities, rates, or concentrations of physical, chemical, or biological effluent parameters allowed to be discharged into water or land.
- 4.5. Fecal Coliform. A group of bacteria primarily found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, used as an indicator of water contamination and the presence of pathogenic microorganisms.
- 4.6. Green Infrastructure. A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas, including green and blue spaces, designed to provide ecological, economic, and social benefits.
- 4.7. Inlet. A point where water, runoff, or any other form of inflow enters a waterbody. This may include tributaries, stormwater drainage systems, canals, or other sources of water that contribute to the waterbody's flow or volume.
- 4.8. Local Government Unit (LGU). Provinces, cities, municipalities, or barangays responsible for implementing local environmental ordinances and programs in coordination with the DENR.
- 4.9. Non-Attainment Area (NAA). A waterbody or portion thereof where water quality guidelines are not met for its designated beneficial use due to pollution from point and non-point sources.

- 4.10. Non-Point Source Pollution.** Pollution from diffuse sources that are not easily traceable to a single point, including runoff from agricultural lands, urban areas, and forestry activities.
- 4.11. Outlet/Outfall.** A discharge point where water, treated or untreated effluents, or other forms of outflow exit a waterbody (e.g. industrial or municipal wastewater discharge points, natural exits such as rivers flowing into downstream areas or seas, and drainage points for flood control systems).
- 4.12. Petitioner.** Persons (natural or juridical) who affect or are affected by the project or undertaking, such as, but not limited to, members of the local community, industry, local government units (LGUs), National Government Agencies (NGAs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs).
- 4.13. Point Source Pollution.** Pollution from identifiable sources with a specific discharge point into a waterbody, such as pipes, drains, ditches, or other clearly defined conveyances.
- 4.14. Pollutant.** Any substance, whether solid, liquid, gaseous, or radioactive, that directly or indirectly alters the quality of a waterbody, adversely affecting its beneficial use or posing hazards to health and the environment.
- 4.15. Pollution.** The alteration of a waterbody's physical, chemical, or biological properties makes it harmful or potentially harmful to public health, safety, welfare, or the environment.
- 4.16. Primary Parameters.** The fundamental water quality indicators that directly determine the suitability of a waterbody for its designated beneficial use. These parameters are essential for assessing the general condition of the waterbody and ensuring its compliance with established water quality standards for public health, aquatic ecosystems, and other purposes.
- 4.17. Sanitation.** The provision of services and facilities for hygiene promotion, prevention of all environmental hazards from human contact and improvement and control of environment and factors therein for the protection and welfare of the public. 2
- 4.18. Stakeholders.** Persons or entities affected by or having an interest in the project, including, but not limited to, members of the local community, industry, non-government organizations (NGOs), and people's organizations (POs) operating within the project impact areas. 3
- 4.19. Secondary Parameters.** Supplementary water quality indicators that provide additional insights into a waterbody's chemical, physical, and biological characteristics. These parameters are used to complement primary parameters in evaluating potential environmental risks and understanding the broader quality of the water resource.

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² Section 2 DOH Administrative Order 2010-0021

³ Section 4 DENR Administrative Order 2017-15

2. A petitioner, such as an LGU, private sector entity, or people's organization, through a formal request with supporting documentation as prescribed in Section 6 of this Order.

5.4. Exceptional Circumstances

In cases of exceptional circumstances, such as natural disasters or critical public health risks, the EMB may recommend immediate designation or redesignation of a waterbody to safeguard national interests.

Section 6. Requirements for the Designation of NAAs and AAs

The following are the required data and sources of information for NAA and AA designation. All data and supporting evidence must follow EMB-approved methods and standards. The dataset and source of information utilized to validate the designation of WQMA can also be used in the designation of NAA and AA. Refer to Annex A for detailed data sources and methodologies for compiling the required datasets and documentation.

6.1. Requirements for the Designation of Non-Attainment Areas (NAAs)

The following data and documentation are required for the designation of a waterbody or portion thereof as an NAA:

1. General Information

- Name and official classification of the waterbody.
- Station identification, including geographic coordinates in decimal degrees.
- Description of the waterbody, including location, tributary streams, and uses as recorded by government agencies, local observations, and ocular inspections.
- Present condition of the waterbody, including existing beneficial uses and impairments.

2. Water Quality Monitoring Data

- Annual monitoring data for at least three (3) consecutive years, showing exceedance of water quality guidelines for concerned parameters.
- Minimum dataset requirements:
 - At least ten (10) datasets annually for primary parameters, excluding fecal coliform.
 - At least four (4) datasets annually for secondary parameters.
 - At least three (3) datasets per quarter for fecal coliform.

3. Pollution Load Estimates

- Inventory of point and non-point pollution sources contributing to exceedance.
- Locations of pollution sources (e.g., industries, wastewater outlets)

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- Estimated pollution loads⁴ and total number of establishments within the WQMA.
4. Waterbody Profile
 - Width and depth and characteristics (accessibility) of the waterbody banks.
 - Waterbody velocity and volume discharge of inlet and outlet.
 - General physical characteristics (e.g., aquatic vegetation, suspended matter, floating debris).
 5. Mapping and Geographical Information
 - Maps showing sampling station locations, pollutant sources, and critical features of the waterbody.
 - Water quality monitoring stations and significant pollution source locations.
 - Points where significant changes in water quality occur.
 - Topographic, land use, and drainage maps at a scale of 1:50,000 or lower.
 6. Stakeholder Consultation Report
 - Documented consultations with WQMA Governing Boards, LGUs, and stakeholders.

6.2. Requirements for the Designation of Attainment Areas (AAs)

A previously designated NAA may be classified as an AA if the following requirements are met:

1. Water Quality Monitoring Data
 - Monitoring data must show compliance with water quality guidelines for all parameters over three (3) consecutive years.
 - Minimum datasets required:
 - Ten (10) datasets annually for primary parameters (excluding fecal coliform).
 - Four (4) datasets annually for secondary parameters.
 - Three (3) datasets per quarter for fecal coliform.
2. Restoration and Management Documentation
 - Evidence of implemented and sustained pollution control measures such as updated Action Plan.
 - A resolution from the WQMA Governing Board confirming support for the redesignation and acknowledging sustained compliance with water quality standards⁵

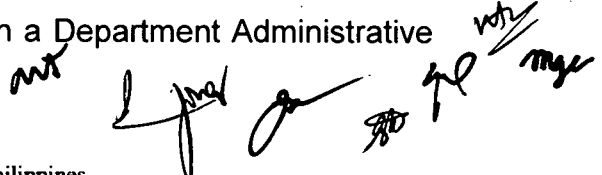
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⁴ EMB MC 2020-25 *Guidelines on Pollution Load Estimates for Freshwater Bodies in Relation to Its Assimilative Capacities*

Section 7. Procedure for Designation of Non-Attainment Areas (NAAs) and Attainment Areas (AAs)

7.1. Procedure for Designating Non-Attainment Areas (NAAs)

The following are the procedure in designating classified bodies of water as NAAs. For detailed, step-by-step instructions and operational details, refer to Annex B.

1. Initiation. The designation process may be initiated by:
 - EMB Regional Office (RO) based on water quality monitoring data.
 - Petitioners (LGUs, private entities, or organizations) through formal requests with complete supporting documentation.
2. Review and Validation. EMB RO shall verify data accuracy by:
 - Evaluating submitted data and verifying pollution sources and their impacts.
 - Conducting site inspections to define the boundaries of the proposed NAA, identify pollutant source locations, and assess waterbody characteristics.
3. Boundary Determination and Additional Sampling.
 - Establish the boundaries of the proposed NAA using validated data.
 - If necessary, extend boundaries to include tributaries or adjacent waterways.
 - Determine whether additional water quality monitoring stations are needed to refine the designation.
4. Formulation of NAA Action Plan and Contingency Plan. EMB RO, in collaboration with LGUs, the WQMA Governing Board shall prepare the following plans, which shall be included in the submission for designation approval.
 - NAA Action Plan: A roadmap for addressing identified pollution issues, detailing pollution reduction strategies, stakeholder roles, and timelines for achieving compliance with water quality standards.
 - NAA Contingency Plan: A supplementary plan outlining stricter measures and additional activities to implement if the Action Plan fails to meet its targets.
5. Public Consultation. The EMB RO and the WQMA Governing Board shall conduct public consultations with the affected stakeholders to finalize the proposed designation.
6. Submission of Proposal. EMB RO shall consolidate all data, boundaries, and proposed NAA Action and Contingency Plans into a formal proposal submitted to EMB Central Office (CO).
7. Approval Process.
 - EMB CO reviews the proposal and recommends NAA designation to the DENR Secretary.
 - Official designation is issued through a Department Administrative Order (DAO) 

7.2. Procedure for Designating Attainment Areas (AAs)

The following outlines the procedure for reclassifying NAAs to AAs. For detailed, step-by-step instructions, see Annex C

1. Initiation. The EMB Regional Office or stakeholders may initiate the AA classification process based on sustained compliance with water quality standards for three (3) consecutive years.
2. Validation and Evaluation.
 - EMB RO validates monitoring data and assesses sustained compliance with standards defined in Section 6.2.
 - EMB RO evaluates the effectiveness and sustainability of pollution control measures implemented during the NAA designation period.
 - Additional water quality monitoring may be required if submitted data is insufficient to meet the requirements.
3. Public Consultation.
 - EMB RO, in collaboration with the WQMA Governing Board, shall conduct public consultations to confirm stakeholder support for AA designation.
 - The proposal shall be issued through a resolution of the WQMA GB along with the updated WQMA Action Plan.
4. Submission of Proposal. EMB RO shall submit the AA Designation Proposal to EMB CO along with other evidence of compliance with water quality standards over three (3) consecutive years.
5. Approval Process.
 - EMB CO reviews and recommends AA designation to the DENR Secretary.
 - Official AA classification is issued through a DAO.

7.3. Approving Authorities

The final approving authority for NAA and AA designations is the DENR Secretary, upon recommendation by the EMB Central Office.

Section 8. Roles and Responsibilities.

The following defines the specific roles of entities involved in the designation, implementation, and management of NAAs and AAs.

8.1. Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)

8.1.1. Central Office (EMB CO)

1. Evaluate the submissions from EMB RO for completeness and technical accuracy.
2. Recommend designation or reclassification proposals to the DENR Secretary.
3. Provide technical guidelines, capacity-building initiatives, and other support to EMB ROs to ensure consistent implementation of policies.

4. Consolidate reports from EMB ROs and prepare an annual summary of NAA and AA management efforts for submission to the DENR Secretary.

8.1.2. Regional Office (EMB RO)

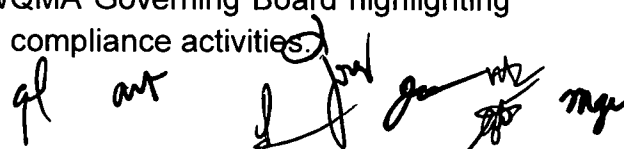
1. Lead the preparation and submission of required documents for the designation of NAAs and AAs.
2. Conduct technical evaluations, including validation of water quality data, identification of pollution sources, and assessment of restoration measures.
3. Oversee the implementation of NAA Action Plans and Contingency Plans.
4. Coordinate with the WQMA Governing Board (if applicable), LGUs, and stakeholders to ensure proper execution of pollution control measures and compliance monitoring.
5. Organize and conduct public consultations as part of the designation and reclassification processes.
6. Submit quarterly progress reports on the implementation of Action Plans and other activities to the EMB Central Office.

8.2. Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) Governing Board

1. Act as the primary oversight body for NAA and AA management within WQMA.
2. Facilitate the preparation and implementation of NAA Action Plans and Contingency Plans, including the endorsement of resolutions for reclassification proposals.
3. Oversee stakeholder consultations to secure community engagement and agreement on Action Plans.
4. Coordinate with LGUs and other stakeholders to implement pollution reduction initiatives and compliance activities.
5. Submit quarterly reports to EMB RO summarizing progress, challenges, and recommendations for improvement.

8.3. Local Government Units (LGUs)

1. Enforce local ordinances supporting the implementation of NAA Action Plans, Contingency Plans, and compliance with water quality standards.
2. Assist EMB RO in identifying pollution sources, implementing pollution control measures, and conducting public consultations.
3. Monitor compliance with local pollution control regulations and ensure participation of community organizations.
4. Provide bi-annual reports to the WQMA Governing Board highlighting progress in pollution reduction and compliance activities.

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8.4. Other Agencies and Stakeholders

8.4.1. PENROs, and CENROs

1. Provide technical support for monitoring activities, validating pollution sources, and enforcing regulations in their respective jurisdictions.
2. Act as liaisons between LGUs, EMB ROs, and stakeholders to ensure smooth coordination.

8.4.2. Private Sector and NGOs

1. Collaborate with LGUs and EMB RO to implement clean-up activities and pollution control measures.
2. Participate in public consultations and provide feedback on proposed Action Plans and reclassification initiatives.
3. Contribute technical expertise, financial resources, or other support to successfully implement NAA Action and Contingency Plans.

8.5. Capacity Building

EMB CO, in collaboration with the EMB RO, shall conduct regular capacity-building activities for LGUs, WQMA Governing Boards and other stakeholders to strengthen their understanding of water quality management, pollution control strategies, and compliance monitoring.

8.6. Compliance Monitoring and Penalties

1. EMB RO shall conduct regular quarterly compliance monitoring of NAAs and impose penalties for violations in coordination with LGUs.
2. Violators of water quality regulations shall be subject to penalties under applicable DENR issuances and local ordinances.

Section 9. Report and Monitoring

The following monitoring protocols, reporting requirements, and evaluation processes are necessary to track progress systematically for effectively managing NAAs and AAs.

9.1. Monitoring Activities

1. **Monthly Monitoring.** EMB RO shall conduct monthly water quality monitoring at designated stations within NAAs and AAs. These activities shall include sampling for primary, secondary, and fecal coliform parameters, as Section 6 of this Order specifies.
2. **Boundary Monitoring** EMB RO shall focus on monitoring inlets, outlets, and critical points along the boundaries of NAAs and AAs. This is to assess pollutant contributions from internal and external sources and provide data necessary for managing pollution at the source.
3. **Additional Monitoring Stations.** EMB RO may establish additional monitoring stations beyond the boundaries of an NAA or AA if pollution sources are identified in adjacent areas. These additional stations will capture the full scope of pollution impacts, especially where tributaries or nearby waterbodies contribute to pollutant loads.

9.2. Reporting Basis

9.2.1. EMB Regional Office (RO) shall submit quarterly reports to the EMB Central Office summarizing the following:

1. Results of monthly water quality monitoring, including compliance trends with specific parameters and datasets.
2. Progress in implementing NAA Action Plans and, if applicable, Contingency Plans.
3. Identified challenges include unresolved pollution sources, establishment non-compliance, and resource constraints.
4. A status update confirming that the implementation of the NAA Action Plan commenced within thirty (30) days from the date of effectivity of this DAO. EMB RO shall also document coordination activities with WQMA Governing Boards, LGUs, and other stakeholders to ensure timely implementation.

9.2.2. EMB Central Office (CO) shall consolidate quarterly reports from all regions and prepare an annual summary for submission to the DENR Secretary. This report shall provide:

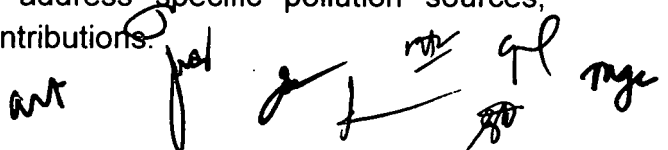
1. Nationwide trends in NAA and AA management, including key challenges and progress in water quality improvements.
2. Recommendations for improving implementation strategies based on regional evaluations and lessons learned.
3. Updates on capacity-building initiatives undertaken by EMB CO or in collaboration with EMB ROs and other stakeholders.
4. Summaries of stakeholder engagement and compliance efforts at the regional level.

9.2.3. WQMA Governing Board shall submit quarterly updates to the EMB RO detailing the following:

1. Activities undertaken within the WQMA, including pollution reduction measures, compliance initiatives, and stakeholder engagements.
2. Status of compliance with NAA Action Plans and Contingency Plans.
3. Any resolutions or agreements made within the WQMA concerning reclassification or additional measures for pollution control.

9.2.4. Local Government Units (LGUs) shall provide bi-annual reports to the WQMA Governing Board. These reports shall include:

1. Progress on implementing local ordinances supporting NAA Action Plans or Contingency Plans.
2. Results from community-based monitoring initiatives and stakeholder participation in pollution reduction activities.
3. Updates on actions taken to address specific pollution sources, including point and non-point contributions.

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9.3. Evaluation of Progress and Redesignation Feasibility

1. Annual Evaluations. EMB RO, in coordination with WQMA GB, shall conduct annual evaluations of NAAs and AAs to assess the effectiveness of Action Plans, verify compliance with water quality guidelines, and determine the feasibility of redesignation or additional interventions.

By the last quarter of the second (2nd) year of NAA Action Plan implementation, EMB RO shall conduct a detailed review of the plan's progress. This review shall include:

- Evaluating water quality data to measure improvements.
- Assessing the effectiveness of pollution reduction measures and stakeholder compliance.
- Determining whether adjustments to the Action Plan are required to achieve the intended targets.

Findings from these evaluations will inform the adjustment of NAA Action Plans or the implementation of Contingency Plans, as detailed in Section 10. The EMB RO shall ensure that the results of monitoring activities guide practical decision-making to achieve the goals outlined in this Order.

2. Basis for Redesignation. The evaluation shall specifically assess the following:
 - Whether the waterbody has sustained compliance with water quality standards over three (3) consecutive years is required for redesignation from NAA to AA.
 - The effectiveness and sustainability of pollution control measures in maintaining the waterbody's beneficial use classification as an AA.
3. Recommendations. Based on the evaluation, EMB RO shall recommend one or more of the following actions:
 - Additional interventions to address unresolved pollution sources. (e.g.upgrading of waste water treatment facility, pollution source control, and best management practices)
 - Reclassification proposals for AAs, contingent upon sustained compliance with water quality guidelines.
 - Enhanced enforcement mechanisms or stakeholder engagements for non-compliance issues.

Section 10. Formulation and Contents of NAA Action Plans and Contingency Plans

The NAA Action Plan and Contingency Plan shall be formulated as part of the proposal for NAA designation. These plans will address the specific pollution challenges of the designated area and provide clear strategies for achieving compliance with water quality standards.

10.1. Formulation of the NAA Action Plans

The NAA Action Plan serves as a roadmap for addressing pollution in the proposed NAA. It shall include the following components:

10.1.1. Pollution Source Inventory and Assessment

1. Identification of point and non-point pollution sources, including:
 - Location and type of source (e.g., industrial, agricultural, residential).
 - Pollution load contributions from each source.
2. Mapping of pollution sources and their proximity to the waterbody.

10.1.2. Water Quality Improvement Targets

1. Clear, measurable goals for improving water quality align with the standards under RA 9275.
2. Targets must include timelines for achieving compliance with each parameter (e.g., BOD, fecal coliform).

10.1.3. Pollution Reduction Strategies

1. Identification of measures to control pollution from both point and non-point sources, including:
 - Installation or upgrading of wastewater treatment facilities.
 - Adoption of best management practices for agricultural runoff.
 - Relocation or remediation of illegal discharges.

10.1.4. Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

1. The roles of LGUs, WQMA Governing Boards, industries, NGOs, and community organizations in implementing the plan are as follows:
2. Mechanisms for regular stakeholder consultations and public awareness campaigns.

10.1.5. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

1. Indicators to track progress toward water quality targets, including parameters to be monitored and their frequency.
2. Process for periodic review and adjustment of the plan based on monitoring results.

10.1.6. Resource Mobilization Plan

1. Identification of funding sources, including government allocations, grants, loans, or private sector contributions.
2. Budget estimates for implementing each component of the Action Plan.

10.1.7. Implementation Timeline

1. Detailed timeline for implementing activities, starting within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this DAO.

2. Milestones for achieving specific targets over the two-year implementation period.

10.2. Formulation of the NAA Contingency Plan

The NAA Contingency Plan shall be implemented if the evaluation conducted at the end of the second (2nd) year of the NAA Action Plan implementation indicates that targets will not be met. The Contingency Plan shall be implemented in the first (1st) quarter of the third year. This plan shall include stricter measures and additional activities to address persistent pollution issues.

Its formulation shall cover the following:

10.2.1. Gap Analysis of the NAA Action Plan

1. Assessment of why the NAA Action Plan failed to meet its targets, including:
 - Persistent pollution sources not addressed by the Action Plan.
 - Ineffectiveness of implemented pollution control measures.

10.2.2. Stricter Pollution Control Measures

1. Enhanced regulations for effluent discharges from establishments, including:
 - Stricter effluent standards for industries within NAAs. (e.g., BOD, COD, total suspended solids).
 - Limitation on new pollution sources unless corresponding reductions from existing sources are achieved.
 - Mandatory installation of advanced treatment technologies.
2. Additional penalties for non-compliance including closure of non-compliant establishments.

10.2.3. Expanded Monitoring and Enforcement Activities

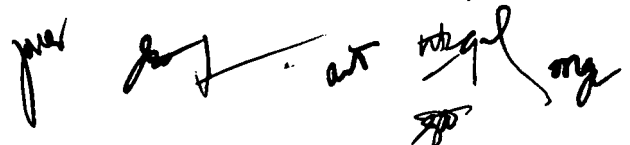
1. Increased frequency of inspections and monitoring of pollutant sources.
2. Deployment of additional resources (e.g., personnel, equipment) to improve enforcement capabilities.

10.2.4. Community-Based and Ecosystem Restoration Initiatives

1. Mobilization of community groups and NGOs for large-scale clean-up drives and beautification activities.
2. Implementation of reforestation, wetland restoration, and green infrastructure projects to enhance natural water filtration.
3. Relocation or removal of illegal structures along waterways contributing to pollution.

10.2.5. Revised Resource Allocation Plan

1. Allocation of additional financial and logistical resources to implement stricter measures.

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2. Identification of new funding opportunities to sustain the Contingency Plan.

10.2.6. Evaluation Framework

1. Indicators to assess the effectiveness of stricter measures and additional activities.
2. Reporting mechanisms for stakeholders to track progress and compliance.

10.3. Flexibility for Additional Measures

Adjustments to the NAA Action Plan and Contingency Plan may be made during the course of implementation based on findings from monitoring and evaluation activities, as detailed in Section 9.

To address unforeseen challenges or emerging pollution issues, the following provision shall apply:

All other similar acts necessary as determined by the EMB RO or EMB CO in the implementation of the NAA Action Plan and Contingency Plans shall be undertaken to ensure the effective management of water quality in designated areas.

Section 11. Separability Clause.

If any provision of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions that are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 12. Repealing Clause.

All Orders and other similar issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 13. Effectivity.

This Administrative Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon filing of three (3) certified copies hereof with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), UP Law Center.

Publication: Business Mirror
July 16, 2025

Acknowledgement: ONAR, U.P. Law Center
July 17, 2025

MARIA ANTONIO LOYZAGA

Secretary



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



SENRO69059



Annex A. Sources of Data Set Requirements

TYPE OF DATA	DATA	SOURCE OF DATA
Maps		
	Topographic Map, Drainage Map	NAMRIA, Google Earth, NWRB
	LGUs Covered	Political Boundary Maps
	Land Use Maps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Present ▪ Planned Highly Mineralized Areas Map	LGU MGB
	Soil Map	BSWM
Major Threats to Water Quality, Sources of Pollution, and Related Data		
	Water Quality Problems/Concerns	Stakeholders
	Water Quality Monitoring Data	EMB, SMRs, Academe, DENR-Recognized Environmental Laboratories, NGOs
	Pollution Sources Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location ▪ Load ▪ Type 	EMB, SMRs, NGOs, Academe, LGU
	Runoff Rate, Water Level, and River Discharge Data	NWRB, Bureau of Research and Standards (DPWH), MMDA, NIA
	Water Usage per Sector Data	NWRB, LWUA, Water Utilities, NIA, DA, MWSS/ Concessionaires
	Weather-related Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rainfall 	PAGASA
	DENR Classification of Water Bodies	DENR-EMB
Socio-economic Profile		
	Census and Socio-economic Data, including Indigenous Peoples (IPs)	LGU, NEDA, PSA
	Existing Infrastructure and Utilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drainage ▪ Sanitation and Sewerage ▪ Agricultural canals ▪ Dams 	LGUs, NWRB, DOH, DPWH, DA, NIA, LWUA, Water Utilities, MWSS/ Concessionaires
	Listing of Industries	EMB, DTI, LGU, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), PHIVIDEA, Industrial Authority,

TYPE OF DATA	DATA	SOURCE OF DATA
	Listing of Mining Activities	PEZA Economic Zones, Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB) and Aurora Economic Zone MGB, Chamber of Mines
Common Interest		
	Water Quality-related Development Programs	DENR, LGU, NEDA, WRMO
	Existing Management Areas Board/Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WQMA GB ▪ RBCO ▪ RDC ▪ NIPAS ▪ FMA ▪ MPA ▪ FARMC ▪ Watershed Council ▪ PAMB 	DENR, DA, LGU, NEDA
Stakeholder Support		
	Stakeholder Resolutions LGU Ordinances	LGUs, NGOs

Annex B. Step-by-Step Procedure in NAA Designation (See Flowchart in Figure 1)

- Step 1.** Gather all the data and required information as listed in *Section 6.1* of this Order. Submit the proposal for Designation of NAA to EMB Regional Office. (*Petitioner*)
- Step 2.** Check the completeness and validity of the request. ~~of the data.~~ When data is insufficient, additional water quality monitoring and or data gathering must be undertaken to meet the requirements. (*EMB RO*)
- Step 3.** Determine and Plot the Relative Geographical Locations of Water Body Reference Points/Benchmarks as specified below or refer to **Error! Reference source not found.** visual representation of boundary determination and other processes. (*EMB RO*)

Water Body Reference Points/Benchmarks

Rivers and other inland waters

- Benchmark 1: Water Quality Monitoring Stations and/ or Cross-river structure (weir, diversion, etc.).
- Benchmark 2: Outlets from pollution sources.
- Benchmark 3: Changes in land use along the vicinity of the water body.
- Benchmark 4: Intake facilities for water use.
- Benchmark 5: Confluence of tributaries.

Benchmarks 2 and 3 are points where a significant change in water quality is expected. All the above information should be plotted on a map with a scale of 1:50,000. For Marine and Coastal Waters, use benchmarks 1-4.

Suppose the data are not sufficient to set boundaries of NAA. In that case, the EMB RO shall conduct additional activities to plot the various benchmarks and water quality monitoring stations and the point where a specific water pollutant has already exceeded water quality guidelines.

- Step 4.** Establish the NAA boundary setting using the existing data.

The NAA boundaries and its attendant designation shall be revised or retained once additional water quality monitoring data are available and/or validated. Other methods of validation are by modeling or simulation studies. (*EMB RO*)

- Step 5.** Extend NAA Boundary if necessary to provide additional WQ Monitoring sampling stations (with sampling results) that shall

represent other segments of the waterways or tributary (from upstream, midstream, and downstream) water bodies such as creeks, esteros, dams, springs, streams, and other bodies of water not included in the original WQ Monitoring Plan. (EMB RO)

- Step 6.** Formulate the NAA Action Plan and Contingency Plan EMB RO, in collaboration with LGUs, the WQMA Governing Board shall prepare the following plans, which shall be included in the submission for designation approval. (EMB RO, WQMA GB)
- a. NAA Action Plan: A roadmap for addressing identified pollution issues, detailing pollution reduction strategies, stakeholder roles, and timelines for achieving compliance with water quality standards.
 - b. NAA Contingency Plan: A supplementary plan outlining stricter measures and additional activities to implement if the Action Plan fails to meet its targets.
- Step 7.** Conduct Public Consultations on NAA Designation with stakeholders directly affected by the proposed NAA designation. (EMB RO)
- Step 8.** Submit to the EMB CO the NAA Action Plan and Contingency Plan prepared by EMB RO and the affected LGU in consultation with concerned stakeholders for non-WQMA and the NAA Action Plan and Contingency Plan prepared by the WQMA GB for WQMA. The plans should be submitted 6 months after the last sampling activity. (EMB RO) (See Section 10).
- Step 9.** The EMB Central Office shall review and evaluate the submitted Proposal on NAA Designation, NAA Action Plan, and Contingency Plan. (EMB CO)
- Step 10.** The EMB Central Office shall recommend for the NAA designation to the Department Secretary if found to be in Order. (EMB CO)
- Step 11.** Designate the water body as NAA through a DAO to be signed by the Department Secretary. (Office of the Secretary)

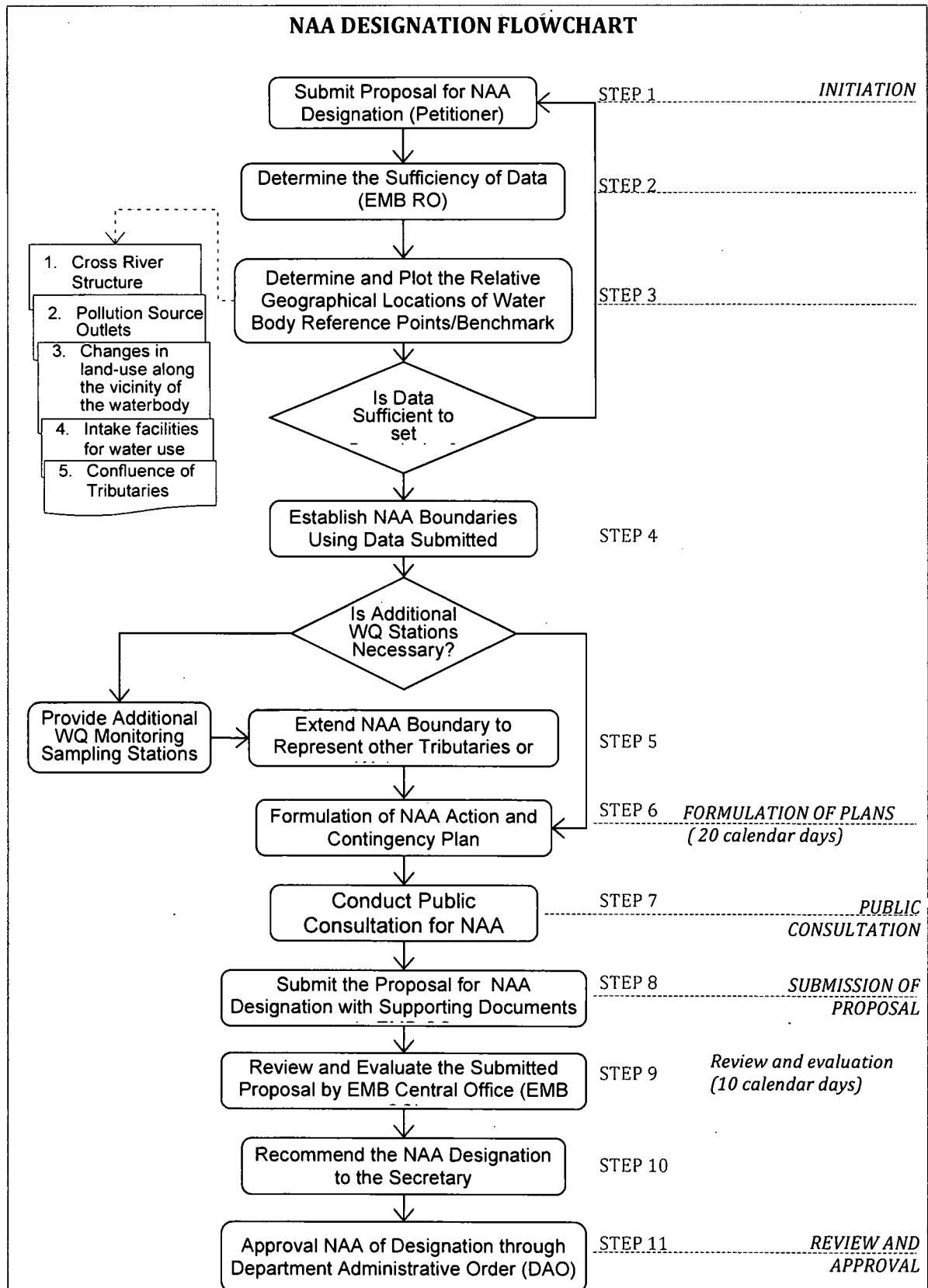


Figure 1. NAA Designation Flowchart

Annex C. Step by Step Procedure in AA Designation (See Flowchart in Figure 2)

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Step 1. | Gather all the evidence of compliance with WQ standards over three (3) consecutive years. other information in <i>Section 6.2</i> of this Order. Submit the proposal for Designation of AA to EMB RO. (<i>Petitioner</i>) |
| Step 2. | Check and evaluate the completeness of the submission. Verify if the restoration and management documentation provides clear evidence of sustained pollution control measures. (<i>EMB RO</i>) |
| Step 3. | When gaps in the data are identified or additional monitoring is required, the EMB RO coordinates with petitioners to undertake supplemental water quality monitoring to ensures that the submitted evidence adequately supports the redesignation proposal. (<i>EMB RO</i>) |
| Step 4. | Conduct public consultation. The EMB RO and WQMA GB shall finalize the proposal for AA Designation thru a resolution. (<i>EMB RO</i>) |
| Step 5. | Submit the proposal to EMB CO along with the updated WQMA Action Plan, WQMA GB Resolution and other supporting documents of sustained compliance. (<i>EMB RO</i>) |
| Step 6. | Review, evaluate and recommend the submitted proposal for the AA designation to the Department Secretary if found to be in Order. (<i>EMB CO</i>) |
| Step 7. | Designate the water body as NAA through a DAO to be signed by the Department Secretary. (<i>Office of the Secretary</i>) |

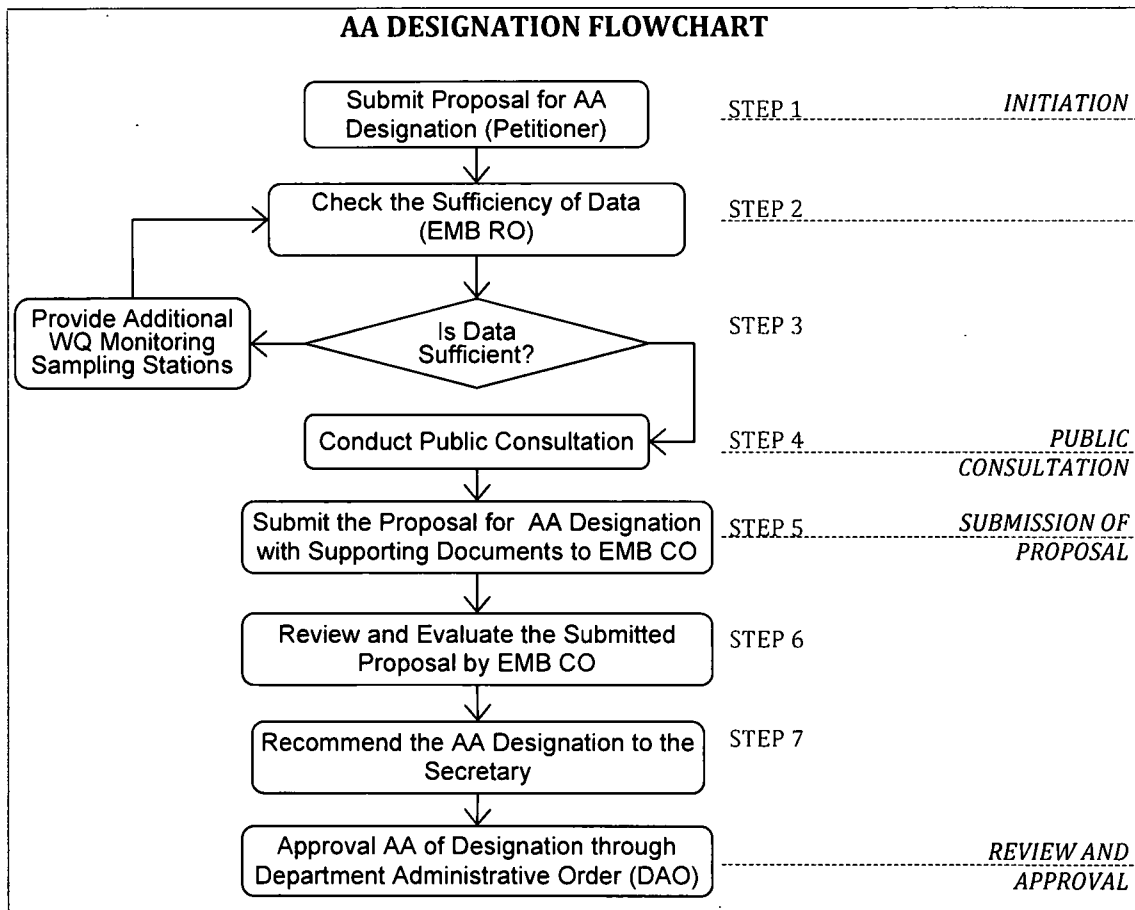


Figure 2. AA Designation Flowchart

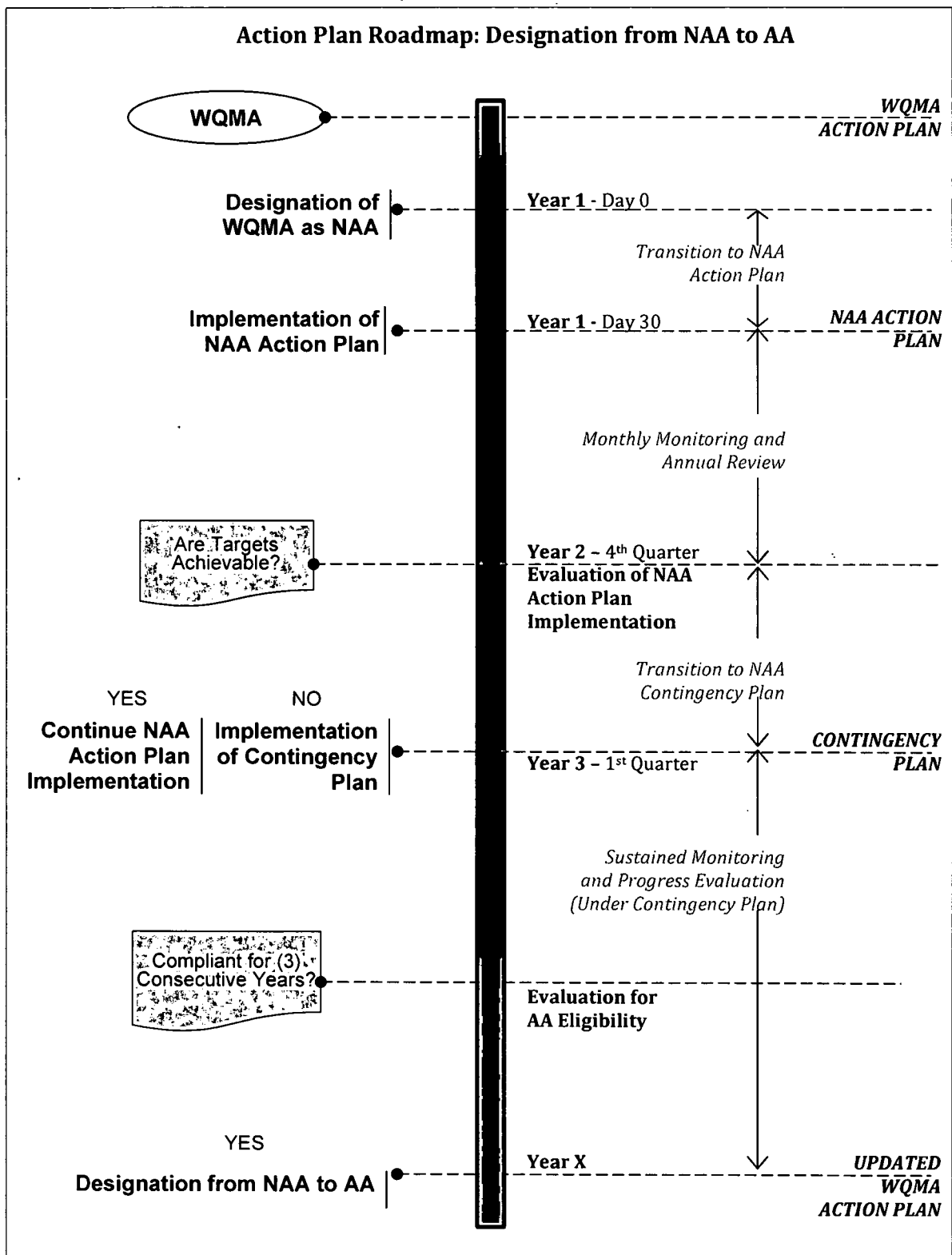


Figure 3. Progressive Guide for NAA and Contingency Plan Implementation