

# NMMEQA Comments on Draft 2014-2016 Assessment Protocols

# Draft Protocols

- 2014-2016 Assessment Protocols consist of an overall protocol and 8 individual protocols (appendices)
- Public review every 2 years
- EQA submitted 20 comments:
  - Big deal: 6 comments
  - Not such a good deal: 7 comments
  - Small deal or Picky: 7 comments

# Big Deal

- Protocols do not address “other than natural causes”
  - Sedimentation/siltation
  - Nutrients
  - Turbidity
- Sediments – grain size based on gradient, not geology
- Nutrients – “Usually” threshold approach; reference approach using BPJ
- WET test results in effluent for receiving water impairment

# Not such a good Deal

- *Laboratory analysis*: holding times, J Flags, PCB congeners
- *Samples collected within one hour* – considered replicates; maximum used; why not average?
- *Assessment units* – documentation should be available on line
- *Aquatic assemblages* – 4% difference between supporting and not supporting; generic data
- *Secchi disk depth* – effect of not recognized