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 online
• *Aquatic assemblages* – 4% difference between supporting and not supporting; generic data
• *Secchi disk depth* – effect of not recognized