

**TITLE 47  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
WATER RESOURCES**

**SERIES 2  
REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

**§47-2-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. -- These rules establish requirements governing the discharge or deposit of sewage, industrial wastes and other wastes into the waters of the state and establish water quality standards for the waters of the State standing or flowing over the surface of the State. It is declared to be the public policy of the State of West Virginia to maintain reasonable standards of purity and quality of the water of the State consistent with (1) public health and public enjoyment thereof; (2) the propagation and protection of animal, bird, fish, and other aquatic and plant life; and (3) the expansion of employment opportunities, maintenance and expansion of agriculture and the provision of a permanent foundation for healthy industrial development. (See W. Va. Code §22-11-2.)

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §§22-11-4(a)(16); 22-11-7b.

1.3. Filing Date. -- June 27, 2011.

1.4. Effective Date. -- June 27, 2011.

**§47-2-2. Definitions.**

The following definitions in addition to those set forth in W. Va. Code §22-11-3, shall apply to these rules unless otherwise specified herein, or unless the context in which used clearly requires a different meaning:

2.1. "Conventional treatment" is the treatment of water as approved by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to assure that the water is safe for human consumption.

2.2. "Cool water lakes" are lakes managed by the West Virginia Division of Natural

Resources for cool water fisheries, with summer residence times greater than 14 days.

2.3. "Cumulative" means a pollutant which increases in concentration in an organism by successive additions at different times or in different ways (bio-accumulation).

2.4. "Designated uses" are those uses specified in water quality standards for each water or segment whether or not they are being attained. (See sections 6.2 - 6.6, herein)

2.5. "Dissolved metal" is operationally defined as that portion of metal which passes through a 0.45 micron filter.

2.6. "Existing uses" are those uses actually attained in a water on or after November 28, 1975, whether or not they are included in the water quality standards.

2.7. The "Federal Act" means the Clean Water Act (also known as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act) 33 U.S.C. §1251 - 1387.

2.8. "High quality waters" are those waters whose quality is equal to or better than the minimum levels necessary to achieve the national water quality goal uses.

2.9. "Intermittent streams" are streams which have no flow during sustained periods of no precipitation and which do not support aquatic life whose life history requires residence in flowing waters for a continuous period of at least six (6) months.

2.10. "Outstanding national resource waters" are those waters whose unique character, ecological or recreational value or

pristine nature constitutes a valuable national or State resource.

2.11. "Natural" or "naturally occurring" values or "natural temperature" shall mean for all of the waters of the state:

2.11.a. Those water quality values which exist unaffected by -- or unaffected as a consequence of -- any water use by any person; and

2.11.b. Those water quality values which exist unaffected by the discharge, or direct or indirect deposit of, any solid, liquid or gaseous substance from any point source or non-point source.

2.12. "Non-point source" shall mean any source other than a point source from which pollutants may reach the waters of the state.

2.13. "Persistent" shall mean a pollutant and its transformation products which under natural conditions degrade slowly in an aquatic environment.

2.14. "Point source" shall mean any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include agricultural stormwater discharges and return flows from irrigated agriculture.

2.15. "Representative important species of aquatic life" shall mean those species of aquatic life whose protection and propagation will assure the sustained presence of a balanced aquatic community. Such species are representative in the sense that maintenance of water quality criteria will assure both the natural completion of the species' life cycles and the overall protection and sustained propagation of the balanced aquatic community.

2.16. "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection or such other person to whom the Secretary has

delegated authority or duties pursuant to W. Va. Code §§22-1-6 or 22-1-8.

2.17. The "State Act" or "State Law" shall mean the West Virginia Water Pollution Control Act, W. Va. Code §22-11-1 et seq.

2.18. "Total recoverable" refers to the digestion procedure for certain heavy metals as referenced in 40 CFR 136, as amended June 15, 1990 and March 26, 2007, Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act.

2.19. "Trout waters" are waters which sustain year-round trout populations. Excluded are those waters which receive annual stockings of trout but which do not support year-round trout populations.

2.20. "Water quality criteria" shall mean levels of parameters or stream conditions that are required to be maintained by these regulations. Criteria may be expressed as a constituent concentration, levels, or narrative statement, representing a quality of water that supports a designated use or uses.

2.21. "Water quality standards" means the combination of water uses to be protected and the water quality criteria to be maintained by these rules.

2.22. "Wetlands" are those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.

2.23. "Wet weather streams" are streams that flow only in direct response to precipitation or whose channels are at all times above the water table.

### **§47-2-3. Conditions Not Allowable In State Waters.**

3.1. Certain characteristics of sewage, industrial wastes and other wastes cause

pollution and are objectionable in all waters of the state. Therefore, the Secretary does hereby proclaim that the following general conditions are not to be allowed in any of the waters of the state.

3.2. No sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes present in any of the waters of the state shall cause therein or materially contribute to any of the following conditions thereof:

3.2.a. Distinctly visible floating or settleable solids, suspended solids, scum, foam or oily slicks;

3.2.b. Deposits or sludge banks on the bottom;

3.2.c. Odors in the vicinity of the waters;

3.2.d. Taste or odor that would adversely affect the designated uses of the affected waters;

3.2.e. Materials in concentrations which are harmful, hazardous or toxic to man, animal or aquatic life;

3.2.f. Distinctly visible color;

3.2.g. Algae blooms or concentrations of bacteria which may impair or interfere with the designated uses of the affected waters;

3.2.h. Requiring an unreasonable degree of treatment for the production of potable water by modern water treatment processes as commonly employed; and

3.2.i. Any other condition, including radiological exposure, which adversely alters the integrity of the waters of the State including wetlands; no significant adverse impact to the chemical, physical, hydrologic, or biological components of aquatic ecosystems shall be allowed.

**§47-2-4. Antidegradation Policy.**

4.1. It is the policy of the State of West Virginia that the waters of the state shall be maintained and protected as follows:

4.1.a. Tier 1 Protection. Existing water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected. Existing uses are those uses actually attained in a water on or after November 28, 1975, whether or not they are included as designated uses within these water quality standards.

4.1.b. Tier 2 Protection. The existing high quality waters of the state must be maintained at their existing high quality unless it is determined after satisfaction of the intergovernmental coordination of the state's continuing planning process and opportunity for public comment and hearing that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located. If limited degradation is allowed, it shall not result in injury or interference with existing stream water uses or in violation of state or federal water quality criteria that describe the base levels necessary to sustain the national water quality goal uses of protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and recreating in and on the water.

In addition, the Secretary shall assure that all new and existing point sources shall achieve the highest established statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to them and shall assure the achievement of cost-effective and reasonable best management practices (BMPs) for non-point source control. If BMPs are demonstrated to be inadequate to reduce or minimize water quality impacts, the Secretary may require that more appropriate BMPs be developed and applied.

4.1.b.1. High quality waters are those waters meeting the definition at section 2.8 herein.

4.1.b.2. High quality waters may include but are not limited to the following:

4.1.b.2.A. Streams designated by the West Virginia Legislature under the West Virginia Natural Stream Preservation Act, pursuant to W. Va. Code §22-13-5; and

4.1.b.2.B. Streams listed in West Virginia High Quality Streams, Fifth Edition, prepared by the Wildlife Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources (1986).

4.1.b.2.C. Streams or stream segments which receive annual stockings of trout but which do not support year-round trout populations.

4.1.c. Tier 3 Protection. In all cases, waters which constitute an outstanding national resource shall be maintained and protected and improved where necessary. Outstanding national resource waters include, but are not limited to, all streams and rivers within the boundaries of Wilderness Areas designated by The Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. §1131 et seq.) within the State, all Federally designated rivers under the “Wild and Scenic Rivers Act”, 16 U.S.C. §1271 et seq.; all streams and other bodies of water in state parks which are high quality waters or naturally reproducing trout streams; waters in national parks and forests which are high quality waters or naturally reproducing trout streams; waters designated under the “National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978”, as amended; and pursuant to subsection 7.1 of 60CSR5, those waters whose unique character, ecological or recreational value, or pristine nature constitutes a valuable national or state resource.

Additional waters may be nominated for inclusion in that category by any interested party or by the Secretary on his or her own initiative. To designate a nominated water as an outstanding national resource water, the Secretary shall follow the public notice and hearing provisions as provided in 46 C.S.R. 6.

4.1.d. All applicable requirements of section 316(a) of the Federal Act shall apply to modifications of the temperature water quality criteria provided for in these rules.

#### **§47-2-5. Mixing Zones.**

5.1. In the permit review and planning process or upon the request of a permit applicant or permittee, the Secretary may establish on a case-by-case basis an appropriate mixing zone.

5.2. The following guidelines and conditions are applicable to all mixing zones:

5.2.a. The Secretary will assign, on a case-by-case basis, definable geometric limits for mixing zones for a discharge or a pollutant or pollutants within a discharge. Applicable limits shall include, but may not be limited to, the linear distances from the point of discharge, surface area involvement, volume of receiving water, and shall take into account other nearby mixing zones. Mixing zones shall take into account the mixing conditions in the receiving stream (i.e: whether complete or incomplete mixing conditions exist). Mixing zones will not be allowed until applicable limits are assigned by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

5.2.b. Concentrations of pollutants which exceed the acute criteria for protection of aquatic life set forth in Appendix E, Table 1 shall not exist at any point within an assigned mixing zone or in the discharge itself unless a zone of initial dilution is assigned. A zone of initial dilution may be assigned on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Secretary. The zone of initial dilution is the area within the mixing zone where initial dilution of the effluent with the receiving water occurs, and where the concentration of the effluent will be its greatest in the water column. Where a zone of initial dilution is assigned by the Secretary, the size of the zone shall be determined using one of the four alternatives outlined in section 4.3.3 of US EPA’s Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control (EPA/505/2-90-001 PB91-127415, March 1991). Concentrations of pollutants shall not exceed the acute criteria at the edge of the assigned zone of initial dilution. Chronic criteria for the protection of aquatic life may be exceeded within the mixing zone but shall be met at the edge of the assigned mixing zone.

5.2.c. Concentrations of pollutants which exceed the criteria for the protection of human health set forth in Appendix E, Table 1 shall not be allowed at any point unless a mixing zone has been assigned by the Secretary after consultation with the Commissioner of the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health. Human health criteria may be exceeded within an assigned mixing zone, but shall be met at the edge of the assigned mixing zone. Mixing zones for human health criteria shall be sized to prevent significant human health risks and shall be developed using reasonable assumptions about exposure pathways. In assessing the potential human health risks of establishing a mixing zone upstream from a drinking water intake, the Secretary shall consider the cumulative effects of multiple discharges and mixing zones on the drinking water intake. No mixing zone for human health criteria shall be established on a stream which has a seven (7) day, ten (10) year return frequency of 5 cfs or less.

5.2.d. Mixing zones, including zones of initial dilution, shall not interfere with fish spawning or nursery areas or fish migration routes; shall not overlap public water supply intakes or bathing areas; cause lethality to or preclude the free passage of fish or other aquatic life; nor harm any threatened or endangered species, as listed in the Federal Endangered Species Act, 15 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.

5.2.e. The mixing zone shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the width of the receiving stream, and in no case shall the mixing zone exceed one-half (1/2) of the cross-sectional area of the receiving stream.

5.2.f. In lakes and other surface impoundments, the volume of a mixing zone shall not affect in excess of ten (10) percent of the volume of that portion of the receiving waters available for mixing.

5.2.g. A mixing zone shall be limited to an area or volume which will not adversely alter the existing or designated uses of the receiving water, nor be so large as to adversely affect the integrity of the water.

5.2.h. Mixing zones shall not:

5.2.h.1. Be used for, or considered as, a substitute for technology-based requirements of the Act and other applicable state and federal laws.

5.2.h.2. Extend downstream at any time a distance more than five times the width of the receiving watercourse at the point of discharge.

5.2.h.3. Cause or contribute to any of the conditions prohibited in section 3, herein.

5.2.h.4. Be granted where instream waste concentration of a discharge is greater than 80%.

5.2.h.5. Overlap one another.

5.2.h.6. Overlap any 1/2 mile zone described in section 7.2.a.2 herein.

5.2.i. In the case of thermal discharges, a successful demonstration conducted under section 316(a) of the Act shall constitute compliance with all provisions of this section.

5.2.j. The Secretary may waive the requirements of subsections 5.2.e and 5.2.h.2 above if a discharger provides an acceptable demonstration of:

5.2.j.1. Information defining the actual boundaries of the mixing zone in question; and

5.2.j.2. Information and data proving no violation of subsections 5.2.d and 5.2.g above by the mixing zone in question.

5.2.k. Upon implementation of a mixing zone in a permit, the permittee shall provide documentation that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the mixing zone is in compliance with the provisions outlined in subsections 5.2.b, 5.2.c, 5.2.e, and 5.2.h.2, herein.

5.2.l. In order to facilitate a determination or assessment of a mixing zone

pursuant to this section, the Secretary may require a permit applicant or permittee to submit such information as deemed necessary.

#### **§47-2-6. Water Use Categories.**

6.1. These rules establish general Water Use Categories and Water Quality Standards for the waters of the State. Unless otherwise designated by these rules, at a minimum all waters of the State are designated for the Propagation and Maintenance of Fish and Other Aquatic Life (Category B) and for Water Contact Recreation (Category C) consistent with Federal Act goals. Incidental utilization for whatever purpose may or may not constitute a justification for assignment of a water use category to a particular stream segment.

6.1.a. Waste assimilation and transport are not recognized as designated uses. The classification of the waters must take into consideration the use and value of water for public water supplies, protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife, recreation in and on the water, agricultural, industrial and other purposes including navigation.

Subcategories of a use may be adopted and appropriate criteria set to reflect varying needs of such subcategories of uses, for example to differentiate between trout water and other waters.

6.1.b. At a minimum, uses are deemed attainable if they can be achieved by the imposition of effluent limits required under section 301(b) and section 306 of the Federal Act and use of cost-effective and reasonable best management practices for non-point source control. Seasonal uses may be adopted as an alternative to reclassifying a water or segment thereof to uses requiring less stringent water quality criteria. If seasonal uses are adopted, water quality criteria will be adjusted to reflect the seasonal uses; however, such criteria shall not preclude the attainment and maintenance of a more protective use in another season. A designated use which is not an existing use may be removed, or subcategories of a use may be established if it can be demonstrated that

attaining the designated use is not feasible because:

6.1.b.1. Application of effluent limitations for existing sources more stringent than those required pursuant to section 301 (b) and section 306 of the Federal Act in order to attain the existing designated use would result in substantial and widespread adverse economic and social impact; or

6.1.b.2. Naturally-occurring pollutant concentrations prevent the attainment of the use; or

6.1.b.3. Natural, ephemeral, intermittent or low flow conditions of water levels prevent the attainment of the use, unless these conditions may be compensated for by the discharge of sufficient volume of effluent discharges to enable uses to be met; or

6.1.b.4. Human-caused conditions or sources of pollution prevent the attainment of the use and cannot be remedied or would cause more environmental damage to correct than to leave in place; or

6.1.b.5. Dams, diversions or other types of hydrologic modifications preclude the attainment of the use, and it is not feasible to restore the water to its original condition or to operate such modification in a way that would result in the attainment of the use; or

6.1.b.6. Physical conditions related to the natural features of the water, such as the lack of a proper substrate, cover, flow, depth, pools, riffles, and the like, unrelated to water quality, preclude attainment of aquatic life protection uses.

6.1.c. The State shall take into consideration the quality of downstream waters and shall assure that its water quality standards provide for the attainment of the water quality standards of downstream waters.

6.1.d. In establishing a less restrictive use or uses, or subcategory of use or uses, and the water quality criteria based upon such uses, the Secretary shall follow the requirements for

revision of water quality standards as required by W. Va. Code §22-11-7b and section 303 of the Federal Act and the regulations thereunder. Any revision of water quality standards shall be made with the concurrence of EPA. The Secretary's administrative procedural regulations for applying for less restrictive uses or criteria shall be followed.

6.2. Category A -- Water Supply, Public. -  
- This category is used to describe waters which, after conventional treatment, are used for human consumption. This category includes streams on which the following are located:

6.2.a. All community domestic water supply systems;

6.2.b. All non-community domestic water supply systems, (i.e. hospitals, schools, etc.);

6.2.c. All private domestic water systems;

6.2.d. All other surface water intakes where the water is used for human consumption. (See Appendix B for partial listing of Category A waters; see section 7.2.a.2, herein for additional requirements for Category A waters.) The manganese human health criterion shall only apply within the five-mile zone immediately upstream above a known public or private water supply used for human consumption.

6.3. Category B -- Propagation and maintenance of fish and other aquatic life. --

This category includes:

6.3.a. Category B1 -- Warm water fishery streams. -- Streams or stream segments which contain populations composed of all warm water aquatic life.

6.3.b. Category B2 -- Trout Waters. -- As defined in section 2.19, herein (See Appendix A for a representative list.)

6.3.c. Category B4 -- Wetlands. -- As defined in section 2.22, herein; certain numeric

stream criteria may not be appropriate for application to wetlands (see Appendix E, Table 1).

6.4. Category C -- Water contact recreation. -- This category includes swimming, fishing, water skiing and certain types of pleasure boating such as sailing in very small craft and outboard motor boats. (See Appendix D for a representative list of category C waters.)

6.5. Category D. -- Agriculture and wildlife uses.

6.5.a. Category D1 -- Irrigation. -- This category includes all stream segments used for irrigation.

6.5.b. Category D2 -- Livestock watering. -- This category includes all stream segments used for livestock watering.

6.5.c. Category D3 -- Wildlife. -- This category includes all stream segments and wetlands used by wildlife.

6.6. Category E -- Water supply industrial, water transport, cooling and power. -- This category includes cooling water, industrial water supply, power production, commercial and pleasure vessel activity, except those small craft included in Category C.

6.6.a. Category E1 -- Water Transport. -- This category includes all stream segments modified for water transport and having permanently maintained navigation aides.

6.6.b. Category E2 -- Cooling Water. -- This category includes all stream segments having one (1) or more users for industrial cooling.

6.6.c. Category E3 -- Power production. -- This category includes all stream segments extending from a point 500 feet upstream from the intake to a point one half (1/2) mile below the wastewater discharge point. (See Appendix C for representative list.)

6.6.d. Category E4 -- Industrial. -- This category is used to describe all stream segments with one (1) or more industrial users. It does not include water for cooling.

#### §47-2-7. West Virginia Waters.

7.1. Major River Basins and their Alphanumeric System. All streams and their tributaries in West Virginia shall be individually identified using an alphanumeric system as identified in the "Key to West Virginia Stream Systems and Major Tributaries" (1956) as published by the Conservation Commission of West Virginia and revised by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (1985).

7.1.a. J - James River Basin. All tributaries to the West Virginia - Virginia State line.

7.1.b. P - Potomac River Basin. All tributaries of the main stem of the Potomac River to the West Virginia - Maryland - Virginia State line to the confluence of the North Branch and the South Branch of the Potomac River and all tributaries arising in West Virginia excluding the major tributaries hereinafter designated:

7.1.b.1. S - Shenandoah River and all its tributaries arising in West Virginia to the West Virginia - Virginia State line.

7.1.b.2. PC - Cacapon River and all its tributaries.

7.1.b.3. PSB - South Branch and all its tributaries.

7.1.b.4. PNB - North Branch and all tributaries to the North Branch arising in West Virginia.

7.1.c. M - Monongahela River Basin. The Monongahela River Basin main stem and all its tributaries excluding the following major tributaries which are designated as follows:

7.1.c.1. MC - Cheat River and all its tributaries except those listed below:

7.1.c.1.A. MCB - Blackwater River and all its tributaries.

7.1.c.2. MW - West Fork River and all its tributaries.

7.1.c.3. MT - Tygart River and all its tributaries except those listed below:

7.1.c.3.A. MTB - Buckhannon River and all its tributaries.

7.1.c.3.B. MTM - Middle Fork River and all its tributaries.

7.1.c.4. MY - Youghiegheny River and all its tributaries to the West Virginia - Maryland State line.

7.1.d. O Zone 1 - Ohio River - Main Stem. The main stem of the Ohio River from the Ohio - Pennsylvania - West Virginia state line to the Ohio - Kentucky - West Virginia State line.

7.1.e. O Zone 2 - Ohio River - Tributaries. All tributaries of the Ohio River excluding the following major tributaries:

7.1.e.1. LK - Little Kanawha River. The Little Kanawha River and all its tributaries excluding the following major tributary which is designated as follows:

7.1.e.1.A. LKH - Hughes River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.2. K - Kanawha River Zone 1. The main stem of the Kanawha River from mile point 0, at its confluence with the Ohio River, to mile point 72 near Diamond, West Virginia.

7.1.e.3. K - Kanawha River Zone 2. The main stem of the Kanawha River from mile point 72 near Diamond, West Virginia and all its tributaries from mile point 0 to the headwaters excluding the following major tributaries which are designated as follows:

7.1.e.3.A. KP - Pocatalico River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.B. KC - Coal River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.C. KE - Elk River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.D. KG - Gauley River. The Gauley River and all its tributaries excluding the following major tributaries which are designated as follows:

7.1.e.3.D.1. KG-19 - Meadow River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.D.2. KG-34 - Cherry River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.D.3. KGC - Cranberry River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.D.4. KGW - Williams River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.E. KN - New River. The New River from its confluence with the Gauley River to the Virginia - West Virginia State line and all tributaries excluding the following major tributaries which are designated as follows:

7.1.e.3.E.1. KNG - Greenbrier River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.E.2. KNB - Bluestone River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.E.3. KN-60 - East River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.3.E.4. K(L)-81-(1) - Bluestone Lake.

7.1.e.4. OG - Guyandotte River. The Guyandotte River and all its tributaries excluding the following major tributary which is designated as follows:

7.1.e.4.1. OGM - Mud River and all its tributaries.

7.1.e.5. BS - Big Sandy River. The Big Sandy River to the Kentucky - Virginia - West Virginia State lines and all its tributaries arising in West Virginia excluding the following major tributary which is designated as follows:

7.1.e.5.1 BST - Tug Fork and all its tributaries.

7.2. Applicability of Water Quality Standards. The following shall apply at all times unless a specific exception is granted in this section:

7.2.a. Water Use Categories as described in section 6, herein.

7.2.a.1. Based on meeting those Section 6 definitions, tributaries or stream segments may be classified for one or more Water Use Categories. When more than one use exists, they shall be protected by criteria for the use category requiring the most stringent protection.

7.2.a.2. Each segment extending upstream from the intake of a water supply public (Water Use Category A), for a distance of one half (1/2) mile or to the headwater, must be protected by prohibiting the discharge of any pollutants in excess of the concentrations designated for this Water Use Category in section 8, herein. In addition, within that one half (1/2) mile zone, the Secretary may establish for any discharge, effluent limitations for the protection of human health that require additional removal of pollutants than would otherwise be provided by this rule. (If a watershed is not significantly larger than this zone above the intake, the water supply section may include the entire upstream watershed to its headwaters.) The one-half (1/2) mile zone described in this section shall not apply to the Ohio River main channel (between Brown's Island and the left descending bank) between river mile points 61.0 and 63.5 and mile points 70 and 71. All mixing zone regulations found in section 5 of this rule will apply except 47 CSR 2 §5.2.h.6. Whether a mixing zone is appropriate, and the proper size of such zone, would need to be considered on a site-specific basis in accordance with the EPA approved West

Virginia mixing zone regulations in 47 CSR 2 §5.

7.2.b. In the absence of any special application or contrary provision, water quality standards shall apply at all times when flows are equal to or greater than the minimum mean seven (7) consecutive day drought flow with a ten (10) year return frequency (7Q10). NOTE: With the exception of section 7.2.c.5 listed herein exceptions do not apply to trout waters nor to the requirements of section 3, herein.

7.2.c. Exceptions: Numeric water quality standards shall not apply: (See section 7.2.d, herein, for site-specific revisions)

7.2.c.1. When the flow is less than 7Q10;

7.2.c.2. In wet weather streams (or intermittent streams, when they are dry or have no measurable flow): Provided, that the existing and designated uses of downstream waters are not adversely affected;

7.2.c.3. In any assigned zone of initial dilution of any mixing zone where a zone of initial dilution is required by section 5.2.b herein, or in any assigned mixing zone for human health criteria or aquatic life criteria for which a zone of initial dilution is not assigned; In zones of initial dilution and certain mixing zones: Provided, That all requirements described in section 5 herein shall apply to all zones of initial dilution and all mixing zones;

7.2.c.4. Where, on the basis of natural conditions, the Secretary has established a site-specific aquatic life water quality criterion that modifies a water quality criterion set out in Appendix E, Table 1 of this rule. Where a natural condition of a water is demonstrated to be of lower quality than a water quality criterion for the use classes and subclasses in section 6 of this rule, the Secretary, in his or her discretion, may establish a site-specific water quality criterion for aquatic life. This alternate criterion may only serve as the chronic criterion established for that parameter. This alternate criterion must be met at end of pipe. Where the Secretary decides to establish a site-specific water quality criterion for aquatic life, the

natural condition constitutes the applicable water quality criterion. A site-specific criterion for natural conditions may only be established through the legislative rulemaking process in accordance with W. Va. Code §29A-3-1 et seq. and must satisfy the public participation requirements set forth at 40 C.F.R. 131.20 and 40 C.F.R. Part 25. Site-specific criteria for natural conditions may be established only for aquatic life criteria. A public notice, hearing and comment period is required before site-specific criteria for natural conditions are established.

Upon application or on its own initiative, the Secretary will determine whether a natural condition of a water should be approved as a site-specific water quality criterion. Before he or she approves a site-specific water quality criterion for a natural condition, the Secretary must find that the natural condition will fully protect existing and designated uses and ensure the protection of aquatic life. If a natural condition of a water varies with time, the natural condition will be determined to be the actual natural condition of the water measured prior to or concurrent with discharge or operation. The Secretary will, in his or her discretion, determine a natural condition for one or more seasonal or shorter periods to reflect variable ambient conditions; and require additional or continuing monitoring of natural conditions.

An application for a site-specific criterion to be established on the basis of natural conditions shall be filed with the Secretary and shall include the following information:

7.2.c.4.A. A U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map showing the stream segment affected and showing all existing discharge points and proposed discharge point;

7.2.c.4.B. The alphanumeric code of the affected stream, if known;

7.2.c.4.C. Water quality data for the stream or stream segment. Where adequate data are unavailable, additional studies may be required by the Secretary;

7.2.c.4.D. General land uses (e.g. mining, agricultural, recreation, residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) as well as specific land uses adjacent to the waters for the affected segment or stream;

7.2.c.4.E. The existing and designated uses of the receiving waters into which the segment in question discharges and the location where those downstream uses begin to occur;

7.2.c.4.F. General physical characteristics of the stream segment, including, but not limited to width, depth, bottom composition and slope;

7.2.c.4.G. Conclusive information and data of the source of the natural condition that causes the stream to exceed the water quality standard for the criterion at issue.

7.2.c.4.H. The average flow rate in the segment and the amount of flow at a designated control point and a statement regarding whether the flow of the stream is ephemeral, intermittent or perennial;

7.2.c.4.I. An assessment of aquatic life in the stream or stream segment in question and in the adjacent upstream and downstream segments; and

7.2.c.4.J. Any additional information or data that the Secretary deems necessary to make a decision on the application.

7.2.c.5. For the upper Blackwater River from the mouth of Yellow Creek to a point 5.1 miles upstream, when flow is less than 7Q10. Naturally occurring values for Dissolved Oxygen as established by data collected by the dischargers within this reach and reviewed by the Secretary shall be the applicable criteria.

7.2.d. Site-specific applicability of water use categories and water quality criteria - State-wide water quality standards shall apply except where site-specific numeric criteria, variances or use removals have been approved following application and hearing, as provided in 46 C.S.R. 6. (See section 8.4 and section 8.5,

herein) The following are approved site-specific criteria, variances and use reclassifications:

7.2.d.1. James River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.2. Potomac River

7.2.d.2.1. A site-specific numeric criterion for aluminum, not to exceed 500 ug/l, shall apply to the section of Opequon Creek from Turkey Run to the Potomac River.

7.2.d.3. Shenandoah River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.4. Cacapon River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.5. South Branch - (Reserved)

7.2.d.6. North Branch - (Reserved)

7.2.d.7. Monongahela River

7.2.d.7.1. Flow in the main stem of the Monongahela River, as regulated by the Tygart and Stonewall Jackson Reservoirs, operated by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, is based on a minimum flow of 425 cfs at Lock and Dam No. 8, river mile point 90.8. This exception does not apply to tributaries of the Monongahela River.

7.2.d.8. Cheat River

7.2.d.8.1. In the unnamed tributary of Daugherty Run, approximately one mile upstream of Daugherty Run's confluence with the Cheat River, a site-specific numeric criterion for iron of 3.5 mg/l shall apply and the following frequency and duration requirements shall apply to the chronic numeric criterion for selenium (5ug/l): the four-day average concentration shall not be exceeded more than three times every three years (36 months), on average. Further, the following site-specific numeric criteria shall apply to Fly Ash Run of Daugherty Run: acute numeric criterion for aluminum: 888.5 ug/l and manganese: 5 mg/l.

7.2.d.9. Blackwater River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.10. West Fork River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.11. Tygart River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.12. Buckhannon River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.13. Middle Fork River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.14. Youghiogheny River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.15. Ohio River Main Stem -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.16. Ohio River Tributaries.

7.2.d.16.1. Site-specific numeric criteria shall apply to the stretch of Conners Run (0-77-A), a tributary of Fish Creek, from its mouth to the discharge from Conner Run impoundment, which shall not have the Water Use Category A and may contain selenium not to exceed 62 ug/l; and iron not to exceed 3.5 mg/l as a monthly average and 7 mg/l as a daily maximum.

7.2.d.17. Little Kanawha River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.18. Hughes River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.19. Kanawha River Zone 1 -  
Main Stem

7.2.d.19.1. For the Kanawha River main stem, Zone 1, Water Use Category A shall not apply; and

7.2.d.19.2. The minimum flow shall be 1,960 cfs at the Charleston gauge.

7.2.d.19.3. A variance pursuant to 46 CSR 6, Section 5.1, based on naturally occurring pollutant concentrations, shall apply to Union Carbide Corporation's discharge to Ward Hollow of Davis Creek, which shall have the instream criteria for chlorides of 310 mg/l for Category A and C waters and for Category B1

(chronic aquatic life protection). This exception shall be in effect until action by the Secretary to revise the exception or until July 1, 2014, whichever comes first.

7.2.d.20. Kanawha River Zone 2 and Tributaries.

7.2.d.20.1. For the main stem of the Kanawha River only, the minimum flow shall be 1,896 cfs at mile point 72.

7.2.d.20.2. The stretch between the mouth of Little Scary Creek (K-31) and the Little Scary impoundment shall not have Water Use Category A. The following site-specific numeric criteria shall apply to that section: selenium not to exceed 62 ug/l and copper not to exceed 105 ug/l as a daily maximum nor 49 ug/l as a 4-day average.

7.2.d.21. Pocatalico River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.22. Coal River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.23. Elk River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.24. Gauley River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.25. Meadow River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.26. Cherry River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.27. Cranberry River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.28. Williams River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.29. New River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.30. Greenbrier River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.31. Bluestone River -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.32. Bluestone Lake -  
(Reserved)

7.2.d.33. East River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.34. Guyandotte River -

7.2.d.34.1. Pats Branch from its confluence with the Guyandotte River to a point 1000 feet upstream shall not have Water Use Category A and Category D1 designation.

7.2.d.35. Mud River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.36. Big Sandy River - (Reserved)

7.2.d.37. Tug Fork River - (Reserved)

### **§47-2-8. Specific Water Quality Criteria.**

8.1. Charts of specific water quality criteria are included in Appendix E, Table 1.

8.1.a. Specific state (i.e. total, total recoverable, dissolved, valence, etc.) of any parameter to be analyzed shall follow 40 CFR 136, Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act, as amended, June 15, 1990 and March 26, 2007. (See also 47 C.S.R. 10, section 7.3 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program.)

8.1.b. Compliance with aquatic life water quality criteria expressed as dissolved metal shall be determined based on dissolved metals concentrations.

8.1.b.1. The aquatic life criteria for all metals listed in Appendix E, Table 2 shall be converted to a dissolved concentration by multiplying each numerical value or criterion equation from Appendix E, Table 1 by the appropriate conversion factor (CF) from Appendix E, Table 2.

8.1.b.2. Permit limits based on dissolved metal water quality criteria shall be prepared in accordance with the U.S. EPA document "The Metals Translator: Guidance For Calculating A Total Recoverable Permit Limit From A Dissolved Criterion, EPA 823-B-96-007 June 1996.

8.1.b.3. NPDES permit applicants may petition the Secretary to develop a site-specific translator consistent with the provisions in this section. The Secretary may, on a case-by-case basis require an applicant applying for a translator to conduct appropriate sediment monitoring through SEM/AVS ratio, bioassay or other approved methods to evaluate effluent limits that prevent toxicity to aquatic life.

8.1.c. An "X" or numerical value in the use columns of Appendix E, Table 1 shall represent the applicable criteria.

8.1.d. Charts of water quality criteria in Appendix E, Table 1 shall be applied in accordance with major stream and use applications, sections 6 and 7, herein.

### 8.2. Criteria for Toxicants

8.2.a. Toxicants which are carcinogenic have human health criteria (Water Use Categories A and C) based upon an estimated risk level of one additional cancer case per one million persons ( $10^{-6}$ ) and are indicated in Appendix E, Table 1 with an endnote (<sup>b</sup>).

8.2.b. For waters other than the Ohio River between river mile points 68.0 and 70.0, a final determination on the critical design flow for carcinogens is not made in this rule, in order to permit further review and study of that issue. Following the conclusion of such review and study, the Legislature may again take up the authorization of this rule for purposes of addressing the critical design flow for carcinogens: Provided, That until such time as the review and study of the issue is concluded or until such time as the Legislature may again take up the authorization of this rule, the regulatory requirements for determining effluent limits for carcinogens shall remain as they were on the date this rule was proposed.

8.2.b.1. For the Ohio River between river mile points 68.0 and 70.0 the critical design flow for determining effluent limits for carcinogens shall be harmonic mean flow.

### 8.3. Criteria for Nutrients

#### 8.3.a. Lakes

8.3.a.1. This subsection establishes nutrient criteria designed to protect Water Use Categories B and C. The following cool water nutrient criteria shall apply to cool water lakes. (See Appendix F for a representative list.) The following warm water nutrient criteria shall apply to all other lakes with a summer residence time greater than 14 days.

8.3.a.2. Total phosphorus shall not exceed 40 µg/l for warm water lakes and 30 µg/l for cool water lakes based on an average of four or more samples collected during the period May 1 to October 31. In lieu of such sampling, impairment may be evidenced at any time by noncompliance with section 3.2, as determined by the Secretary. Chlorophyll-a shall not exceed 20 µg/l for warm water lakes and 10 µg/l for cool water lakes based on an average of four or more samples collected during the period May 1–October 31. In lieu of such sampling, impairment may be evidenced at any time by noncompliance with section 3.2, as determined by the Secretary.

8.3.a.3. A lake shall not be considered impaired based upon an average total phosphorus concentration in excess of the criterion established in section 8.3.a.2, unless the chlorophyll-a criterion established therein is also exceeded.

8.4. Variances from Specific Water Quality Criteria. A variance from numeric criteria may be granted to a discharger if it can be demonstrated that the conditions outlined in paragraphs 6.1.b.1 through 6.1.b.6, herein, limit the attainment of one or more specific water quality criteria. Variances shall apply only to the discharger to whom they are granted and shall be reviewed by the Secretary at least every three years. In granting a variance, the requirements for revision of water quality standards in 46 CSR 6 shall be followed.

8.5. Site-specific numeric criteria. The Secretary may establish numeric criteria different from those set forth in Appendix E,

Table 1 for a stream or stream segment upon a demonstration that existing numeric criteria are either over-protective or under-protective of the aquatic life residing in the stream or stream segment. A site-specific numeric criterion will be established only where the numeric criterion will be fully protective of the aquatic life and the existing and designated uses in the stream or stream segment. The site-specific numeric criterion may be established by conducting a Water Effect Ratio study pursuant to the procedures outlined in US EPA's "Interim Guidance on the Determination and Use of Water-Effect Ratios for Metals" (February 1994); other methods may be used with prior approval by the Secretary. In adopting site-specific numeric criteria, the requirements for revision of water quality standards set forth in 46 CSR 6 shall be followed.

#### **§47-2-9. Establishment Of Safe Concentration Values.**

When a specific water quality standard has not been established by these rules and there is a discharge or proposed discharge into waters of the State, the use of which has been designated a Category B1, B2, B3 or B4, such discharge may be regulated by the Secretary where necessary to protect State waters through establishment of a safe concentration value as follows:

9.1. Establishment of a safe concentration value shall be based upon data obtained from relevant aquatic field studies, standard bioassay test data which exists in substantial available scientific literature, or data obtained from specific tests utilizing one (1) or more representative important species of aquatic life designated on a case-by-case basis by the Secretary and conducted in a water environment which is equal to or closely approximates that of the natural quality of the receiving waters.

9.2. In those cases where it has been determined that there is insufficient available data to establish a safe concentration value for a pollutant, the safe concentration value shall be determined by applying the appropriate application factor as set forth below to the 96-hour LC 50 value. Except where the Secretary determines, based upon substantial available

scientific data that an alternate application factor exists for a pollutant, the following appropriate application factors shall be used in the determination of safe concentration values:

9.2.a. Concentrations of pollutants or combinations of pollutants that are not persistent and not cumulative shall not exceed 0.10 (1/10) of the 96-hour LC 50.

9.2.b. Concentrations of pollutants or combinations of pollutants that are persistent or cumulative shall not exceed 0.01 (1/100) of the 96-hour LC 50.

9.3. Persons seeking issuance of a permit pursuant to these rules authorizing the discharge of a pollutant for which a safe concentration value is to be established using special bioassay tests pursuant to subsection 9.1 of this section shall perform such testing as approved by the Secretary and shall submit all of the following in writing to the Secretary:

9.3.a. A plan proposing the bioassay testing to be performed.

9.3.b. Such periodic progress reports of the testing as may be required by the Secretary.

9.3.c. A report of the completed results of such testing including, but not limited to, all data obtained during the course of testing, and all calculations made in the recording, collection, interpretation and evaluation of such data.

9.4. Bioassay testing shall be conducted in accordance with methodologies outlined in the following documents: U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development Series Publication, Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity (EPA/600/4-90/027F, August 1993, 4th Edition) or Short Term Methods for Estimating Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms (EPA/600/4-89/001), March 1989; Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater (18th Edition); or ASTM Practice E 729-88 for Conducting Acute Toxicity Tests with Fishes, Macroinvertebrates and Amphibians as published in Volume 11.04 of the 1988 Annual

Book of ASTM Standards. Test waters shall be reconstituted according to recommendations and methodologies specified in the previously cited references or methodologies approved in writing by the Secretary.