

Public Notice
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water and Waste Management
601 57th St. SE
Charleston, WV 25304

Waters Proposed for TMDL Development in 2014

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing to develop TMDLs for selected streams in the Upper Kanawha, Upper Ohio North and South Branch/Potomac watersheds in its next TMDL development project. The project is intended to be finalized by December 31, 2014.

The federal Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Planning and Management Regulations, 40 CFR Part 130.7, require DEP to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for impaired waters. An “impaired water” is a water body that fails to meet state water quality standards. Known impaired waters are identified on the West Virginia Section 303(d) list. A TMDL is a plan of action used to clean up polluted waters. TMDLs identify problematic pollution sources and prescribe the pollutant reductions needed for the stream to meet water quality standards.

The DEP TMDL development program is synchronized with West Virginia’s Watershed Management Framework. Organization under the framework allows the DEP to efficiently and systematically accomplish statewide TMDL development by regulatory deadlines. In accordance with the program plan, “2014 TMDLs” are to address impaired waters in Hydrologic Group A, which includes the Upper Kanawha, Upper Ohio North and South Branch/Potomac watersheds.

DEP is proposing a comprehensive fecal coliform assessment for the South Branch of the Potomac River and tributaries within West Virginia. In addition, DEP intends to address all remaining listed streams in the Upper Ohio North watershed and selected listed tributaries in the Upper Kanawha watershed. A complete list of streams and impairments scheduled for TMDL development in this project can be found at www.dep.wv.gov/tmdl.

This effort will address the majority of impairments identified for these watersheds in the West Virginia 2010 Section 303(d) list, which may be viewed at http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/watershed/IR/Pages/303d_305b.aspx

DEP plans to address all of the biological impairments identified on the 2010 Section 303(d) list associated with these waters and the project will generate the information necessary to identify the significant stressors associated with biological impairment. Pre-TMDL monitoring may identify impairments in addition to those described on the 2010 Section 303(d) list. To the extent practical, this project will include TMDL development for the newly identified impairments.

The TMDL development process will begin in 2011 with a major data collection effort. Pre-TMDL water quality monitoring and source tracking activities will start in the summer of 2011 and TMDLs will be finalized by December 31, 2014. Prior to the beginning of the sampling and source tracking efforts, a public meeting will be conducted to discuss the TMDL development process and the DEP's monitoring plans, and provide an opportunity for input regarding potential sources and sampling sites. The public will have several other opportunities to be involved throughout the TMDL development process.

Individuals wanting to offer information or comment on the proposed selections should do so during the 30-day comment period, beginning March 17 thru April 15, 2011. Comments should be directed to:

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Division of Water and Waste Management
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