

Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

Projected Scope, Purpose, Timeline

April 2011



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

Revise and update water quality criteria:

Pennsylvania's WQS are found at 25 Pa Code, Chapter 93, Chapter 16 and portions of Chapters 92. Additional WQS implementation is located in Chapter 96.

Revise and update water quality criteria found in Chapters 93 and 16 to reflect the latest scientific information and new Federal guidelines for criteria development.



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The Department will review and update Table 3 at Section 93.7 (relating to specific water quality criteria) to include:

- Revised ammonia criteria based on new national studies that include freshwater mussels.
(Pending final recommendation from US EPA)
- Dissolved oxygen criteria to be more consistent with the national recommendations
- New or revised temperature criteria based on scientific literature, and new temperature research by Stroud Water Research Center.



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Table 3 at Section 93.7 (continued)

- Add aquatic life criteria for fluoride and manganese, to provide additional, intervening aquatic life use protection since the current PWS criteria apply at the point of water withdrawal.
- Aquatic life criteria for the other PWS parameters are still under development, and will likely be the subject of future rulemaking.



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Will also revise and update Section 93.8c, Table 5
(relating to water quality criteria for toxic substances)

The following criteria have been recommended by US
EPA since the previous triennial:

- Human Health – acrolein and phenol
- Aquatic Life – nonylphenol



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Other human health criteria to be included, which were developed by the Department, as requested by regional office staff are:

- 1,2,4 and 1,3,5 trimethylbenzene
- cis-1,2-dichloroethene
- acrylamide
- strontium
- 1,4 dioxane
- bromine and bromate
- styrene
- cadmium
- benzyl chloride
- 2-butoxyethanol
- cyclohexylamine



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Other criteria being considered by the Department may include:

radiological criteria for:

- radium
- uranium
- alpha transmitters
- beta transmitters

review and updates to water quality criteria for molybdenum.



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Updates and Corrections for typos & errors:

Improve the public notification process in 93.4d.

Updates, revisions, and corrections for typos, translation errors and missed references associated with prior rulemaking and/or publication activities.

Update, revise, and correct use designations and stream entries in the Drainage Lists in Sections 93.9a thru 93.9z, as needed, which are not addressed in a separate Stream Redesignation Rulemaking Package.



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In Chapter 16

- Add a section to include definitions, as needed.
- Move criteria in Table 1A, Appendix A, to Table 5 at Section 93.8c in Ch. 93.
- Update Tables 2A and 2B (relating to EPA approved analytical methods and detection limits).
- Update Table 3 (relating to description of EPA methods for the analysis of priority pollutant organics)



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Timeline

DEP expects to take the proposed rulemaking before the Environmental Quality Board by September 2011.

Upon approval and publication in the Pa Bulletin, will offer a 45-day public comment period, and public meetings and hearings, as appropriate.

Return to WRAC and the EQB with final rulemaking starting early summer 2012.

Obligated to complete the final rulemaking, with transmittal to US EPA for review and approval by May 15, 2013.



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