

Executive Summary
Water Quality Standards – No Change Recommendation for a Petition for Stream Redesignation Evaluation

As part of its continuing water quality management program and ongoing review of water quality standards, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) recommends that the Environmental Quality Board (Board) accept the following No Change recommendation for a Petition for Stream Redesignation Evaluation.

Purpose of the Recommendations

Section 303(c)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C.A. § 1313(c)) requires states to periodically review and revise, as necessary, water quality standards. Protection of the appropriate designated and existing uses for all surface waters is required by the Federal Clean Water Act. The stream redesignation evaluation report summarizes the evaluation of the waterbody – an unnamed tributary (UNT) to Whetstone Run in Delaware County – that was considered for redesignation as a result of a petition submitted to and accepted by the Board. A stream evaluation was conducted by the Department to determine the appropriate existing and designated use of the candidate waterbody. The stream in this report was evaluated in response to a petition as follows:

Stream Name	County	Petitioner
UNT Whetstone Run	Delaware	Darby Creek Valley Association

Summary of the Recommendations

Department staff evaluated the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics and other information on this waterbody to determine the appropriateness of the current and requested designations using applicable regulatory criteria and definitions. In reviewing whether waterbodies qualify as High Quality (HQ) or Exceptional Value (EV) Waters, the Department considers the criteria in 25 Pa. Code § 93.4b (relating to qualifying as High Quality or Exceptional Value Waters). Based on these data and appropriate regulatory criteria, the Department developed this No Change recommendation for the Board’s consideration.

Affected Parties

The Department gave notice, in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* (47 Pa.B. 7126) and on the Department’s website, that an evaluation would be conducted on all or portions of the stream listed below to determine the proper aquatic life use or special protection designation in this Commonwealth’s Water Quality Standards. Persons who had technical data concerning the water quality, instream habitat or biological conditions of these stream sections were encouraged to make it available to the Department for consideration in the assessment. Potentially affected municipalities were also notified by letter of the stream evaluation and asked to provide any readily available data.

The petitioners, affected municipalities, County Planning Commissions, County Conservation Districts and other State Agencies were later notified of the availability of a draft evaluation report for their review and comment.

The draft stream evaluation report was also made available on the Department’s website and was offered for a 30-day public review and comment opportunity (48 Pa.B. 4174). The comment period was extended for an additional 60 days (48 Pa.B. 5416) based on multiple requests. All data and comments received in response to these notifications were considered in the determination of the Department’s recommendations.

This No Change recommendation does not affect any Department permits or approvals as there are no proposed changes to the existing protections afforded to the petitioned waterbody. All new or existing permits or approvals will continue to be issued in a manner that protects the current designated uses of the waterbody.

The Department recommends that the Board approve this no change recommendation for a petition for stream redesignation evaluation and subsequent publication of decision in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Summary Table: No Change Recommendations

Stream Name	County	Zone Description	List	Designated Use		
				Current	Requested	Recommended
UNT Whetstone Run	Delaware	Basin	G	WWF, MF	HQ-WWF, MF	WWF, MF

WWF = Warm Water Fishes

HQ = High Quality Waters

MF = Migratory Fishes

UNT = unnamed tributary