MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Missouri Water Quality Standards
2015 and 2016 Reviews

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In accordance with Section 303(c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources gave notice of its intent to initiate a review of Missouri's Water Quality Standards ("WQS"). This review is being conducted to evaluate the need to update or revise state WQS in order to remain consistent with state and federal law. The review will also ensure Missouri's WQS continue to reflect the best available science and support sound water quality management policies that improve and protect the unique and diverse water resources of the state.

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MISSOURI WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
2015 AND 2016 REVIEWS

In accordance with Section 303(c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources gave notice of its intent to initiate a review of Missouri's Water Quality Standards ("WQS") regulation on May 5, 2014 (Attachment 1). With that notice, the department solicited comments from interested parties and members of the public on any aspect of the WQS that the department should consider for potential revision. The department received ten comments in response to the public notice (Attachment 2) as well as two petitions to the Missouri Clean Water Commission at the October 1, 2014 meeting [website link]. In addition, there are standards that have been disapproved by EPA that will also need to be addressed through rulemaking [http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/wqstandards/index.html].

Following the close of the public notice period, the department held a series of public meetings through the Water Protection Forum, Water Quality Standards Workgroup to determine the readiness of individual revisions to proceed through the rulemaking process (Attachment 3). Representatives from agricultural, industrial and municipal interests, environmental and resource conservation interests, and the general public participated in this series of meetings and provided invaluable perspective and input. Representatives from state and federal government agencies also attended and contributed to the effort.

The department believes there is sufficient information and necessity to propose an amendment to 10 CSR 20-7.031 (WQS) that includes the following items:

- Revised Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Lakes/Reservoirs for the Protection of Drinking Water Supply and Aquatic Habitat designated uses [10 CSR 20-7.031(5)(N)]
- Revisions to the pH criteria language at 10 CSR 20-7.031(E)
- Revised Section 304(a) Criteria, with the exception of criteria for Aluminum, Iron, Manganese, Total Ammonia Nitrogen, and Bacteria [10 CSR 20-7.031, Table A]
- Addition of narrative language in General Criteria at 10 CSR 20-7.031(4) for the protection of downstream uses
- Remove 10 CSR 20-7.031, Table J "Losing Streams" from regulation and replace it with a reference the department's losing stream geodatabase
- Remove expired site-specific dissolved oxygen criteria from rule at 10 CSR 20-7.031, Table K

An **estimated** timeline for the proposed water quality standards amendment is as follows –

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Meetings with Stakeholders	October 2014 – May 2015
RIR Public Notice	June 1, 2015 – August 1, 2015
Publication in Missouri Register	October 1, 2015
Public Comment Period	October 1, 2015 – February 10, 2016
Public Hearing	January, 2016*
End of Comment Period	February 10, 2016
Response to Comment & Adoption	April, 2016*
Rule Effective	June 2016*

*Exact dates of rule adoption and effective date of the proposed amendment will depend on Missouri Clean Water Commission 2016 meeting dates which are yet to be determined.

For those items discussed at stakeholder meetings which are not included in the list above, additional information, data or discussion is needed prior to moving forward with rule revision. The department is therefore deferring these items to a later rulemaking, but will continue discussions of the following items in order to make them ready to proceed:

- Revised Section 304(a) criteria for Total Ammonia Nitrogen, Bacteria, and other federal criteria established through the 304(a) process
- Revised criteria for sulfate, chloride, cadmium and lead using all available data and scientific information from which to derive the criteria. Should the Environmental Protection Agency establish Section 304(a) criteria for these pollutants, those criteria will also be considered for adoption
- Wetland classification, designated uses and criteria
- Numeric nutrient criteria for flowing waters (streams)
- Updates to the Missouri Use Designation Dataset feature classes for streams and lakes
- Any additional disapproved items, petitioned matters or other identified needs that may be brought to the department's attention

While no fixed timeline exists for the above rule revisions, the department will continue to hold WQS stakeholder meetings to move these and other topics forward. An anticipated timeframe for the beginning of the next water quality standards rulemaking is mid to late 2016, with completion in late 2017 or early 2018.

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