

2012 Missouri Water Quality Standards Triennial Review Proposed Revisions to 10 CSR 20-7.031

The Department is finalizing its recommendations on proposed revisions to the Water Quality Standards (WQS) at 10 CSR 20-7.031. Pursuant to Section 303(c) of the federal Clean Water Act, the Department has held workgroup and stakeholder meetings for the purpose of reviewing applicable water quality standards and, as appropriate, modifying and adopting new or revised standards. The water quality standards to be addressed during the 2012 Water Quality Standards Triennial Review include the following:

- Applying “fishable/swimmable” use designations to currently unclassified waters as required by Section 101(a) of the federal Clean Water Act;
- Incorporating new federal Section 304(a) criteria into 10 CSR 20-7.031, Table A. New criteria additions have resulted in the need for a better format and layout for Table A;
- Expanded dissolved oxygen water quality criteria per federal 304(a) criteria guidance (i.e., EPA 440-5-86-003, “Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen”, April 1986);
- Revised chloride water quality criteria in response to petition;
- Revised phenol water quality criteria in response to petition;
- Designation of LaBarque Creek as an Outstanding State Resource Water in response to petition;
- Responding to the October 29, 2009 Environmental Protection Agency decision that new or revised water quality standards (i.e., whole body contact recreation) are needed on a 28.6 mile segment of the Mississippi River near St. Louis, Mo.
- Site-specific copper criteria based on Water Effects Ratio data for Portage Open Bay and Old Channel Little River;
- Addition of variance authorizing provisions to provide the basis for recommending variances to water quality standards when standards are not achievable through traditional regulatory approaches.

The Department has prepared preliminary draft revisions to the WQS to address the above issues, to make the standards functionally equivalent to federal standards and to improve the clarity, specificity and effectiveness of the rule. Missouri’s statutes require a RIR to be prepared and made available for public comment for 60 days prior to filing a proposed rule affecting the WQS. The Department intends to publish the draft RIR for public comment in the near future.