

### 5.4.2.3 Effluent Limits/Water Quality Based Effluent Limits/ Water Quality Reviews/Antidegradation

#### **Applicability:**

The antidegradation provisions of the Water Quality Standards must be taken into consideration during the process of developing water quality based effluent limits. The antidegradation provision is at 10 CSR 20-7.031(2).

#### **Content:**

An antidegradation policy and implementation procedure is currently under development by the Water Protection Program. It is being developed through a stakeholder process and will be promulgated through or referenced in the Water Quality Standards Rules before it becomes effective.

At this time, as an interim approach, three levels of antidegradation protection are afforded by the Water Quality Standards. Water quality-based effluent limits need to reflect the appropriate level that is applicable to the receiving stream.

1. For waters that do not provide a full range of beneficial uses because of the presence of contamination, effluent limits for facilities discharging to these waters will be sufficient to protect public health and the existing beneficial uses. Additionally, the General Criteria of the Water Quality Standards apply to the waters and should be taken into consideration during the development of effluent limits.
2. There shall be no lowered water quality in Outstanding National Resource Waters and Outstanding State Resources Waters. The outstanding waters are listed in Tables D and E of the Water Quality Standards. Discharge or the potential for discharge of contaminants to the outstanding waters is limited as specified in the Effluent Regulations at 10 CSR 20-7.015(6).
3. For all other waters, if existing water quality is better than applicable water quality criteria established in the water quality standards, that existing water quality must be fully maintained unless complex socioeconomic studies are conducted and accepted by the department and the Clean Water Commission. The study process is described at 10 CSR 20.7.031(2)(B) and involves consideration of economic and social development in the area of the discharge, intergovernmental coordination, public participation, evaluation of technological effluent limits for point sources and best management practices for nonpoint sources.

#### **Legal References:**

##### *Code of State Regulations*

<a href="#">10 CSR 20-7.015(6)</a>	Effluent Regulations - Special Stream Limitations
<a href="#">10 CSR 20-7.031(2) and (3)</a>	Water Quality Standards (2) Antidegradation (3) General Criteria

#### **Other Links:**

**Key Words:**

Antidegradation, water quality-based effluent limits

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