

Missouri Clean Water Commission Meeting
Department of Natural Resources
Lewis and Clark State Office Building
LaCharrette/Nightingale Creek Conference Rooms
1101 Riverside Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri

May 4, 2011

**Regulatory Impact Report on Proposed Revisions to Water Quality Standards,
10 CSR 20-7.031**

Issue: The Department is finalizing its recommendations on proposed revisions to the Water Quality Standards (WQS) at 10 CSR 20-7.031 and is informing the Commission of its intent to publish a Regulatory Impact Report (RIR) in advance of finalizing a recommendation on the proposed changes to the standards.

Background: 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 standard changes under consideration 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;
- Expanded dissolved oxygen water quality criteria;
- Revised chloride water quality criteria;
- Revised phenol water quality criteria and other criteria with similar derivations;
- Designation of LaBarque Creek as an Outstanding State Resource Water; and
- Responding to the 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, Missouri.

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 an environmental standard or condition. The Department intends to publish the draft RIR for public comment this month.

Recommended Action: Information only.

Suggested Motion Language: Information only.

List of Attachments: None.

NOTE: The supporting documents and draft revisions to the water quality standards will be made available on the Water Protection Program Rule Development web page at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/rules/wpp-rule-dev.htm> by the start of the public comment this month.