



## Total Maximum Daily Load Prioritization for Missouri 2018 303(d) List of Impaired Waters

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Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act and Chapter 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 130 requires states to develop total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for waters not meeting applicable water quality standards. The purpose of a TMDL is to determine the pollutant loading a water body can assimilate without exceeding state water quality standards. A TMDL establishes the pollutant loading capacity of a water body that if met and not exceeded will result in attainment of water quality standards.

Waters still requiring wasteload allocations, load allocations and TMDLs are included in Missouri’s 303(d) List of impaired waters. Per federal regulations at 40 CFR §130.7(b)(4), the list shall include a priority ranking for all impairments and such prioritization should take into account the severity of pollution as well as the water bodies’ designated uses. The priority ranking shall specifically include the identification of waters targeted for TMDL development in the next two years.

For Missouri’s 2018 303(d) List, waters are ranked “high,” “medium” or “low” for TMDL development. Specific schedules for TMDL development are provided for waters prioritized as high and a general range of years for which a TMDL will be developed is provided for waters ranked as medium or low. Priority rankings and development schedules will be reevaluated upon development of the 2020 303(d) List.

### TMDL Priority Rankings and Development Schedules

<i>Priority Rank</i>	<i>TMDL Development Schedule</i>
High	Within 1 to 6 years following 2018 303(d) List approval (2018 to 2024)
Medium	Within 6 to 10 years following 2018 303(d) List approval (2024 to 2028)
Low	Will occur more than 10 years following 2018 303(d) List approval

For determining priority rankings, the Department considered a wide variety of factors. Some factors influencing prioritization include type of pollutant, data availability, existing work plans, suitability for a watershed approach, and age of listing. Primary factors influencing priority ranking included:

- **Public health concerns:** Pollutants associated with risk for affecting human health, such as *E. coli* impairments in waters designated for recreational uses, were given special consideration and were typically ranked as high priority for TMDL development.
- **Toxicity to aquatic life:** Toxicity due to metals is of special consideration for Missouri, because of numerous historical and active lead mining activities that have and continue to occur in the state. Metal contamination can have an adverse effect on a variety of aquatic life, affecting both growth and reproduction. In severe cases, acute toxicity may result.



Such impairments were commonly ranked as high or medium priority for TMDL development depending upon known remediation efforts and the extent of pollution impact.

- **Sources of impairment:** Pollutants known to be originating primarily from point source discharges were, in most cases, ranked as medium priority for TMDL development in order to allow time for facilities to upgrade or to otherwise come into compliance with specified permit limits and conditions.
- **Recovery potential:** Where known implementation activities are occurring, such as actions occurring through Superfund remediation or a Clean Water Act Section 319 watershed-based plan, waters were often ranked as medium priority for TMDL development to allow time for measurable water quality improvements. Where such plans provided additional certainty that water quality standards will be re-attained, such as an accepted TMDL alternative (5alt) plan, waters will be ranked as low priority for TMDL development.
- **Uncertainty:** Where there is significant uncertainty as to the cause or source of the impairment (e.g., waters impaired for unknown pollutants), or significant barriers to implementation (e.g., mercury impairments), waters are ranked as low priority for TMDL development in order to allow time for additional data collection, planning, or interagency coordination.

#### **Prioritization of Missouri's 2018 303(d) List for TMDLs**

<i>Priority Rank</i>	<i>No. of Impairments</i>
High	152
Medium	188
Low	130
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>470</b>

#### **Opportunity for Public Comment and Participation**

A 45-day public notice and comment period for the Department's Total Maximum Daily Load Prioritization and Development Schedule for Missouri 2018 303(d) List of Impaired Waters will be held from January 12, 2018 through February 26, 2018. The Department will consider all comments received during this period to further refine these priorities prior to submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval of the 2018 303(d) List. A public meeting to discuss TMDL prioritization will be held on January 18, 2018 at the Lewis and Clark State Office Building in Jefferson City from 10 am to noon.