

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

Surface Water Quality Triennial Standards Review: Status of 2012-2014 Topics

Grouping	Topic	Status as of 10/01/13
GROUP A Revisions/ development currently in process	Phosphorus Limits Implementation Guidance Related to: NR 102, 217	Complete: WDNR developed a comprehensive guidance document to facilitate appropriate implementation of phosphorus standards. "Guidance for Implementing Wisconsin's Phosphorus Water Quality Standards for Point Source Discharges" was published 01/03/12.
	Pollutant Trading Guidance Related to: NR 217	Complete: WDNR developed comprehensive guidance to inform staff and external audiences on pollutant trading implementation strategies. "A Water Quality Trading How To Manual" was published 09/09/13 and "Guidance for Implementing Water Quality Trading in WPDES Permits" was published 08/21/13.
	Derive Site-Specific Criteria (SSC) for Phosphorus To Create: NR 119 and Guidance	In progress: A WDNR workgroup was established and draft guidance is being prepared. Pink sheet/scope statement was approved by the Governor on 06/29/12 and the Natural Resources Board on 09/26/12 to create a site-specific criteria rule. It is projected that a Technical Advisory Committee will be convened in Spring 2014 to review draft rule language.
	Antidegradation To Revise: NR 207 Related to: NR 102	On hold: Pink sheet for NR 207 rule revision approved on 11/30/09. WDNR has reviewed other states policies, established definitions, and developed a work plan. EPA is developing guidance/rule language on this topic that may impact rule development. Therefore, WDNR is awaiting these work products before continuing.
GROUP B Topics WDNR is already committed to addressing	TMDL Development Guidance Related to: NR 102, 105	Complete: WDNR developed a comprehensive TMDL program guidance document to improve WDNR efficiency at developing and implementing TMDLs. "TMDL Development and Implementation Guidance" was published 04/15/13.
	Revision of Effluent Limit Calculation Procedures To Revise: NR 106	In progress: Pink sheet/scope statement was approved by the Governor on 05/29/12 and the Natural Resources Board on 06/27/12. NR 106 rule language is currently being revised to address changes required by EPA.

GROUP C Priority topics to be addressed in 2012-2014 cycle as resources allow	Use Designation Revision To Revise: NR 102, 104, 105 Related to: NR 207	Pending: Awaiting approval of scope statement by the Governor to revise NR 102, 104 and 105. Scope statements were submitted in June of 2013 and resubmitted in October of 2013. WDNR needs to review and update codified use designations. Water quality criteria associated with those use designations will also be reviewed and revised accordingly.
	Biological Criteria To Revise: NR 102 Related to: NR 104, 119	Pending: Awaiting approval of scope statement by the Governor to revise NR 102 to add biocriteria. Scope statements were submitted in May of 2013. Codification of biological criteria has been identified as an important supporting tool for implementation of statewide and site-specific phosphorus criteria, designated use updates, and waterbody assessments.
	Nitrogen Water Quality Standard Related to: NR 102, 105	Pending: WDNR is actively collecting and assessing data to determine if statewide surface water quality nitrogen standards are appropriate, and, if so, what those criteria should be. Criteria cannot be considered until these work products are available.
	Revision of Chloride Implementation Guidance Related to: NR 105, 106	On hold: Chloride implementation will be affected by the NR 106 rulemaking effort (described above). Therefore, implementation guidance will not be completed until NR 106 rulemaking is done.
	Blue-Green Algal Toxin Surface Water Quality Criteria Related to: NR 102, 105	On hold: This issue was briefly addressed in the 303(d) report, available at http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae/documents/HarmfulAlgalBloomsvs2.pdf . Additional information at: http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae/Default.aspx . WDNR staff is also participating in a national workgroup to discuss blue-green algae and potential regulatory options to address this problem.
	Wild Rice Designated Use Related to: NR 102, 104, 105	On hold: May be included as part of NR 102, 104 and 105 revisions.
	General Review of Variances To Revise: NR 104	On hold: This review and possible revision will take place after revision of the use designations (described above) is completed.
	TSS Water Quality Standard Related to: NR 102, 106	On hold: Not begun due to other priorities. WDNR is currently using best professional judgment to develop TMDLs for TSS to address TSS impairments to water quality.
	Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters Related to: NR 102, 207	On hold: Reviews of ORW/ERWs will be done after revision of the use designations (described above) is completed.

Topics in Groups D and E from TSR 2012-2014 have not been worked on due to low priority ranking or barriers.

Group D: Standards/guidance that should be revised/developed but are not priorities for the upcoming cycle

1. Surface Water Quality Criteria for Frequently Detected Toxic Substances
2. Surface Water Quality Criteria for Infrequently Detected Toxic Substances
3. Chloride Water Quality Criteria
4. Outstanding & Exceptional Resource Waters – Implementation
5. Dissolved Oxygen Water Quality Criteria
6. Revised BOD Limits Policies to Protect Ambient Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations
7. Pesticide Water Quality Standards
8. Mixing Zones for Bioaccumulative Contaminants
9. Implementation of Narrative Standards
10. Application of Standards to Nonpoint Sources and Storm Water
11. Chapter NR 212, Wis. Admin. Code, BOD Wasteload Allocation Updates
12. Phosphorus Index Efficiency
13. Guidance to Derive Site-Specific Criteria for Toxic Metals, Heat, and Other Substances

Group E: Standards/guidance where barriers to development currently exist

1. Bacteria Surface Water Quality Standards – Will be included in TSR 2015-2017 due to new EPA Recreational WQC.
2. Algae Standards for Coastal Great Lake Waters
3. Water Quality Standard for Pharmaceutical Byproducts
4. Develop Phosphorus Nearshore or Whole Lake Models for Great Lakes