

Wisconsin's Surface Water Quality Triennial Standards Review 2008-2011 - FINAL Prioritized Topic List

WDNR 09/30/2008

Grouping	Topics	Comments
<p>GROUP A Revisions/ development currently in process</p>	Thermal Standards & Point Source Implementation Procedures	<p>These topics are automatic high priority and will be continued in 2008-2011. They were not included in the ranking process.</p>
	Phosphorus Water Quality Criteria (<i>also addresses Blue-Green Algae</i>)	
	Toxic Substance Water Quality Criteria	
	Assessment Methodology	
	Use Designations - Process Review	
<p>GROUP B Topics WDNR is already committed to addressing</p>	Antidegradation	<p>These topics are automatic high priority and will be begun in 2008-2011. They were not included in the ranking process.</p>
	Mercury Variances	
	Outstanding & Exceptional Resource Waters - Process Review	
<p>GROUP C Priority topics to be addressed in 2008-2011 cycle as resources allow</p> <p>(*starred items are interrelated and may be addressed simultaneously or consecutively)</p>	Applicability of standards to nonpoint sources & stormwater (<i>also addresses Blue-Green Algae</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked in the top five during the WDNR ranking process. • Ranked second in the public ranking process, and also addresses blue-green algae, which is the public's top priority. • Topic is a high priority for EPA.
	Impaired Waters (303(d)) Listing Criteria*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked in the top five during the WDNR internal ranking process. • Ranked third in the public ranking process. • This should be done concurrently with, or following, Use Designation Implementation. Per EPA's recommendations, the 4 starred topics are interrelated and can be addressed simultaneously if possible. • The 303(d) coordinator position is currently vacant; filling this position is needed for development of the criteria.
	Outstanding & Exceptional Resource Waters - Implementation*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked in the top five during the WDNR internal ranking process. • Ranked fourth in the public ranking process. • Builds on commitments (in Group B) to update the Outstanding & Exceptional Resource Waters process; implementation will be needed once that effort is completed. • This should be done concurrently with, or following, Use Designation Implementation. Per EPA's recommendations, the 4 starred topics are interrelated and can be addressed simultaneously if possible.
	Exemption for certain substances (NR 106.10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicated as a priority due to legal issues raised in a comment letter from Midwest Environmental Advocates (also representing River Alliance of WI, Clean WI, and Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers) • By working closely with the EPA, addressing this topic should be feasible in this cycle with relatively little work.
	Revisions to chlorides implementation rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked in the top ten during the WDNR ranking process. • A draft of revised guidance is already completed for this topic, and therefore may take little time to complete.
	Use Attainability Analyses (UAA)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked in top five during the WDNR internal ranking process. • Topic is a high priority for EPA. • This should be done concurrently with, or following, Use Designation Implementation. Per EPA's recommendations, the 4 starred topics are interrelated and can be addressed simultaneously if possible.

<p>(GROUP C, continued)</p>	<p>Use Designations – Implementation*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked in the top five during the WDNR internal ranking process. • Builds on efforts currently underway (in Group A) to update the Use Designation process; implementation of the new process will be needed once that effort is completed. • Use Designation Implementation is seen as being the primary building block needed for Impaired Waters Listing Criteria, Outstanding/Exceptional Resource Waters, Use Attainability Analyses. • Per EPA's recommendations, the 4 starred topics in Group C are interrelated and can be addressed simultaneously if possible.
<p>GROUP D Priority topics that WDNR is not currently able to address due to specific barriers</p>	<p>Bacteria Water Quality Standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked in the top ten during the WDNR ranking process, and is an important water quality issue. • Ranked fifth in the public ranking process. <p>BARRIER: EPA will be promulgating rules on bacteria in 2012. If the Department were to enact separate bacteria standards before 2012, this would result in conflicting regulations and the rulemaking process would need to be repeated. It could also result in permittees having to upgrade their systems multiple times to comply with changing regulations.</p>
	<p>Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) - Determining reasonable potential for toxicity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked in the top ten by WDNR. • Ranked sixth in the public ranking process. <p>BARRIER: WDNR and EPA disagree on whether a rule revision is needed to change how 'reasonable potential' for toxicity is determined. WDNR would prefer to focus on WET investigations rather than on setting additional WET limits required by EPA's proposed revisions. EPA's regulations only apply to Great Lakes dischargers.</p>
<p>GROUP E Topics that are not a priority for addressing in the 2008-2011 cycle</p>	<p>Biocriteria</p>	<p>Issues that should be addressed but that have not been selected as high priority for this cycle (responses to comments related to each of these issues will be compiled in a separate document)</p>
	<p>Blue-Green Algal Toxin Water Qual. Criteria</p>	
	<p>Dissolved Oxygen Water Quality Criteria</p>	
	<p>General review of variances in NR 104</p>	
	<p>Implementation of narrative standards</p>	
	<p>Methylmercury Water Quality Standard</p>	
	<p>Mixing Zones</p>	
	<p>Nitrogen Water Quality Criterion</p>	
	<p>Perfluorinated Surfactants (PFOS) Water Quality Criteria</p>	
	<p>Pesticide Water Quality Standards</p>	
	<p>Polybrominated Diphenyl (PBDE) Water Quality Criteria</p>	
	<p>Turbidity Water Quality Standard</p>	
	<p>Wasteload allocations for WI & Fox Rivers</p>	
<p>5/10 Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) Policy</p>		