

The Surface Water Quality Monitoring Guidance Advisory Work Group Meeting
August 5, 2004

Handout 2, draft 1 (07/21/04)

Assessment Methods for Narrative Criteria

Narrative Criteria	Assessment Methodology Exists ?	Recent Action	Priority	Comment
0. Surface waters shall not be toxic to man from... fish consumption of aquatic organisms.	YES	Revised methodology using the TDH risk assessment that underlies the advisory/closure.	Done	Questions on revised methodology will be answered at August 5 meeting.
1. Surface waters shall not be toxic to man, or aquatic or terrestrial life (Ambient toxicity; toxics in water/sediment)	YES, ambient water & sediment toxicity tests.	To be discussed by this workgroup.	High	August 5 meeting
2. Waste discharges shall not cause substantial & persistent changes from ambient conditions for color	NO	TCEQ conducted a color study over the last three years of known water bodies with colored discharges and reference sites.	High	Proposed methodology is being reviewed by agency staff and management.
3. Turbidity shall not cause substantial & persistent changes from ambient conditions, surface water shall be free of settleable solids conducive to changes in flow characteristics/untimely filling, suspended solids or sediment layers are not to produce adverse responses in aquatic organisms .		none	Medium	Staff have recommended a pilot study to review and test existing field assessment methods.

<p>4. Aquatic Life Use - biological communities</p>	<p>YES, Described in the Biological Procedures Manual for streams, benthic macroinvertebrate and fish community assessment.</p>	<p>TCEQ now uses the Regional IBI developed by TPWD for regulatory purposes.</p> <p>TCEQ and TPWD are working to develop protocols for tidal rivers. There are no immediate plans to develop methods for evaluating aquatic communities in reservoirs and estuaries.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Methodology in use currently in wadeable streams and a multi-agency group is setting priorities for development of indices for other types of water bodies.</p>
<p>5. Nutrients shall not cause excess growth of aquatic vegetation (phosphorus, chlorophyll a)</p>	<p>PARTLY, 85th percentile identifies concerns; listing requires additional information.</p>	<p>Nutrient criteria development by TCEQ with an external stakeholder workgroup is ongoing.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>In development with multi-agency group for 2008 assessment.</p>
<p>6 Radioactive materials (no excess discharge)</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>None, we have almost no ambient data.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Water utilities has provided a list of sites where radioactive substances may be above ambient levels for surface water. Agency water quality staff has recommended these be reviewed for baseline monitoring.</p>
<p>7 Aquatic habitat</p>	<p>YES, Described in the Biological Procedures Manual for streams</p>	<p>TCEQ habitat evaluation is described in the new Biological Procedures Manual. Additional work needs to be done to evaluate the metrics and improve the sensitivity of the assessment index.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Methodology in use currently in wadeable streams and a multi-agency group is setting priorities for development of indices for other types of water bodies.</p>
<p>8 Seagrass propagation</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>TCEQ, TPWD and GLO have established a Seagrass Workgroup. Currently baseline field studies are underway to evaluate methods and potential criteria or metrics to characterize seagrass habitat</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>In development with multi-agency group</p>
<p>9. Taste & odor shall not interfere with potable water; cause offensive condition</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>none</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Not planned</p>

10. Foaming or frothing of a persistent nature	NO	none	Low	Not planned
11. Oil and grease will not produce a visible film of oil, or cause toxicity to man, aquatic or terrestrial life	NO	none	Low	Not planned
12. Maintain in aesthetically attractive condition	NO	none	Low	Not planned