



TEXAS SURFACE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS UPDATE

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Water Quality Standards Group

Water Quality Standards

- The Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (Title 30, Chapter 307 of the Texas Administrative Code) describe the chemical, physical, and biological conditions to be attained in the surface waters of Texas.
- Authority for adopting and revising water quality standards is contained in §26.023 of the Texas Water Code (TWC), and in §303(c) of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Types of Actions by EPA

- **Approved** - available for use in all Clean Water Act (CWA) activities – permitting, assessment, TMDL
 - ▣ **Conditional approval** - subject to completion of consultation with USFWS under Endangered Species Act
- **Disapproved** - not available for use in CWA activities
- **No action** - not considered water quality standards under the CWA
- **Under review**

EPA Action

- EPA Action Letter
 - ▣ November 2, 2018
- Action letters posted on TCEQ Website
- Highlighted 2018 rule indicates status of approval

EPA Approvals

- 2010 TSWQS Revision
 - ▣ Black Cypress Bayou (0410) Temperature Criterion - 90°F

- 2014 TSWQS Revision
 - ▣ Town Creek (0804L) Intermediate Aquatic Life Use

EPA Approvals

- 2018 TSWQS Revision
- §307.3. Definitions and Abbreviations
 - ▣ Definition for “Coastal Recreation Waters”
- §307.6. Toxic Materials
 - ▣ Table 1 – Biotic ligand footnote
 - ▣ Table 2 – All revised human health criteria, including footnotes

EPA Approvals

- §307.7. Site-specific Uses and Criteria
 - §307.7(b)(1)(B) – revised single sample criterion for enterococci of 130 colonies/100 mL for coastal recreation waters

- §307.9. Determination of Standards Attainment
 - §307.9(e)(3) – geometric mean criterion and the single sample maximum criterion for enterococci are each used for determination of standards attainment in coastal recreation waters

EPA Approvals

- Appendix A – Site-specific Uses and Criteria for Classified Segments
 - ▣ Segment 0902 – Cedar Bayou Above Tidal: removal of public water supply use
 - ▣ Segment 1008 – Spring Creek: site-specific seasonal dissolved oxygen criteria of 4.0 mg/L (24-hour average) and 3.0 mg/L (minimum) from July - September
- Appendix B – Sole-source Surface Drinking Water Supplies
 - ▣ Approved in its entirety

EPA Approvals

- Appendix C – Segment Boundary Descriptions
 - Segment 1225 – Waco Lake
 - Segment 1226 – North Bosque River
 - Segment 0513 – Big Cow Creek
 - Segment 0701 – Taylor Bayou Above Tidal
 - Segment 1259 – Leon River Above Belton Lake
 - Segment 1424 – Middle Concho/South Concho River

EPA Approvals

- Appendix E – Site-specific Toxic Criteria
 - ▣ Ten of the 13 WER studies have been approved, and those still under EPA review include the following three copper WER studies:
 - Two entries for Enterprise Products Operating, LLC – Mont Belvieu (0901)
 - One entry for MarkWest Javelina Company, L.L.C.

EPA Approvals – SCR 1

- Dixon Creek (0101)
- Buffalo Creek (0214)
- Paradise Creek (0230)
- Nichols Creek (0502)
- Allens Creek (1202)
- Duck Creek (1209)
- Shepherd Creek (1209)
- Duncan Creek (1222)
- Indian Creek (1226)
- Simms Creek (1226)
- Alarm Creek (1226)
- Little Green Creek (1226)
- Cottonwood Branch (1242)
- Campbells Creek (1242)
- Willis Creek (1247)
- Unnamed tributary of Scarborough Creek (1255)
- Dry Branch (1255)
- Gum Tree Branch (1302)
- Aransas Creek (2004)

EPA Approvals – SCR 2

- Armstrong Creek (1 223)
- Goose Branch (1 255)
- Scarborough Creek (1 255)
- Unnamed tributary of Goose Branch (1 255)
- North Fork Upper North Bosque River (1 255)
- Woodhollow Branch (1 255)

2010 TSWQS Pending Action

- Revised temperature criteria for two classified segments
- Revised dissolved minerals criteria for 19 classified segments

2014 TSWQS Pending Action

- Remaining portions are still under review
 - PCR 2
 - Oso Bay & Upper Laguna Madre dissolved oxygen
 - Dissolved minerals criteria for eight classified segments
 - Recreational use changes on three water bodies


2018 TSWQS Pending Action

- New segment Blind Oso Bay and seasonal dissolved oxygen criteria
- Three segment boundary descriptions
- Eight revisions to water bodies' aquatic life use/dissolved oxygen criteria
- Recreational use changes for one segment and 26 unclassified water bodies

2021 TSWQS Revision – Tentative Dates

- March 2019 – 30 day preliminary public comment period
- Workgroup meetings are planned for spring of 2020
- Agenda date for proposal in April 2021
 - ▣ Begin public comment period
- Public hearing in June 2021
- Agenda date for adoption in September 2021

Questions?



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