



Evaluate compliance with temperature criteria using conservative, uncalibrated, simplified numerical modeling (ex. CORMIX) coupled with a default MZ<sup>35</sup>.

Do proposed/existing/accepted temperature limits meet WQ criteria?

Yes

Construct permit with limits from evaluation

No

Perform a highly site-specific technical analysis. <sup>24</sup>

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Yes

Construct permit with limits from evaluation

No

Consider performing a 316(a) analysis and/or seek a variance to the WQ Standards if justified

1 Only rise over ambient temperature criteria apply to unclassified waters.

2 Intermittent water bodies with a minimal aquatic life use assigned are not subject to temperature criteria. However, downstream waters with higher aquatic life uses may need to be screened for potential thermal impacts.

3 
$$WLA_t = [T_{crit} - T_{amb}(1 - E_f)] / E_f$$
  
WLA<sub>t</sub> = effluent temp that will not cause temp criterion to be exceeded at the edge of the MZ  
E<sub>f</sub> = effluent fraction at the edge of the mixing zone  
T<sub>crit</sub> = temperature criterion  
T<sub>amb</sub> = ambient temperature

4 These analyses may include, but are not limited to, any combination of the following considerations:

- Site-specific temperature mixing zone or specification of an industrial cooling area in combination with numerical modeling.
- Installation and analysis of a high rate effluent diffuser.
- Collection of site-specific temperature data for use in numerical model calibration.

5 The thermal mixing zone may be different from the mixing zone used for toxics