

Discussion Topics - Updating the Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Workgroup, March 28, 2012
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Water Quality Standards (WQS)

The WQS Group is planning to update TCEQ's Nutrient Criteria Development Plan which was last updated November 3, 2006.

I. General Ideas for Updates and Changes - Provide updated status and information in the following Sections:

- Executive Summary
- Purpose
- Current Status of Nutrient Regulations in Texas
- Schedule/History
 - Dates, schedule and milestones, including Appendix D: Draft Schedule for Developing Nutrient Criteria
 - Changes to current information
 - Plans for upcoming revisions
- Methods to Develop Nutrient Criteria
 - Nutrient Data Base Development
 - SWQMIS precludes the development of a separate ACCESS relational database specifically for nutrients
 - Reservoirs: Revise Section I-V
 - Document how proposed reservoir criteria were developed,
 - Include information about adopted Chlorophyll-a criteria for reservoirs, including outcomes of work performed by USGS.
 - Some of the work performed originally on reservoirs was not used, i.e., groupings.
 - Boundary Waters
 - Include TX's participation in GOMA Nutrient Priority Issues Team
- Appendix A, Nutrient Database Constituents
 - Update with parameter codes and suggested LOQs
- Appendix B, Examples of Reservoir Criteria for Level III Ecogregions Using EPA's Methodology for Reservoirs
 - Update with Level III Stream/River Criteria
- Appendix D Draft Schedule for Developing Nutrient Criteria
 - Update with current status and proposed timelines

II. Sections in Need of Stakeholder Input – Revise as necessary with input from the group and findings from on-going studies.

- Scope of Criteria Development
 - Revisit overall strategies to developing criteria
- Methods to Develop Nutrient Criteria (all Water Body Types)
 - Increase use of Multiple Parameter Approach (“weight of evidence”)
 - Recent developments and findings in the data
 - Information regarding current and recently completed WQS projects
 - Stressor response and “Weight of Evidence”
 - Potential groupings based on geography, hydrology, chemical similarities