

Segment 2306 - Rio Grande above Amistad Reservoir

water toxicity

Segment Description

The Rio Grande above Amistad Reservoir is a 331-mile freshwater segment which begins at a point 1.1 miles downstream of the confluence of Ramey Canyon in Val Verde County up to the confluence of the Rio Conchos (Mexico) in Presidio County. This segment receives discharges from domestic and industrial point source discharges, and a small amount of discharge from agricultural sources on both sides of the border.

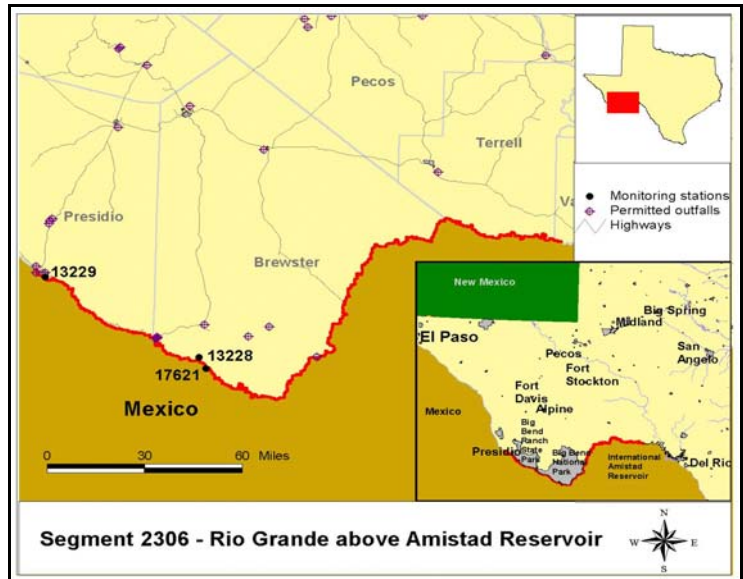
Listing Status

This segment was identified as partially supporting the aquatic life use, due to ambient toxicity in water downstream of Del Rio, on the state's 303(d) List for 2000. Because there were insufficient data available in 2002 to evaluate changes in water quality, the segment is also identified on the draft 2002 List. The use support will be reevaluated when sufficient data are available.

Test Results and Toxicity Identification

From April 29, 2001, through April 24, 2002, nine sampling events were conducted at Stations 13228 and 13229. The EPA also performed toxicity tests on samples collected by the TCEQ on two other separate events at each of the stations. Lethal toxicity was not observed at any of the events for either of the species. The recorded flow for this segment during each of the sampling events was below the levels required for water quality standards to be applicable. As a result, sublethal effects observed in this study are inconclusive since aquatic life uses would not be applicable during extremely low flows.

Toxicity identification evaluations (TIE) were not conducted due to the ambiguous results from the toxicity tests.



Test Results

Station	Lethal				Sublethal			
	Fathead		<i>C. dubia</i>		Fathead		<i>C. dubia</i>	
	# toxic	# tests	# toxic	# tests	# toxic	# tests	# toxic	# tests
13228	inconclusive				inconclusive			
17621	inconclusive				inconclusive			
13229	inconclusive				inconclusive			

Segment Recommendations:

Toxicity tests conducted on fish and invertebrates using water samples from Segment 2306 were inconclusive. The interpretation of sublethal responses is complicated by low flow conditions at the time of sampling. Additional toxicity tests are required to fully assess the presence and causes of toxicity in this segment.