

Revisions to the Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards

09/02/2117

What are “Implementation Procedures (IPs)”

Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (IPs) RG-194

A guidance document that explains how TCEQ applies the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards

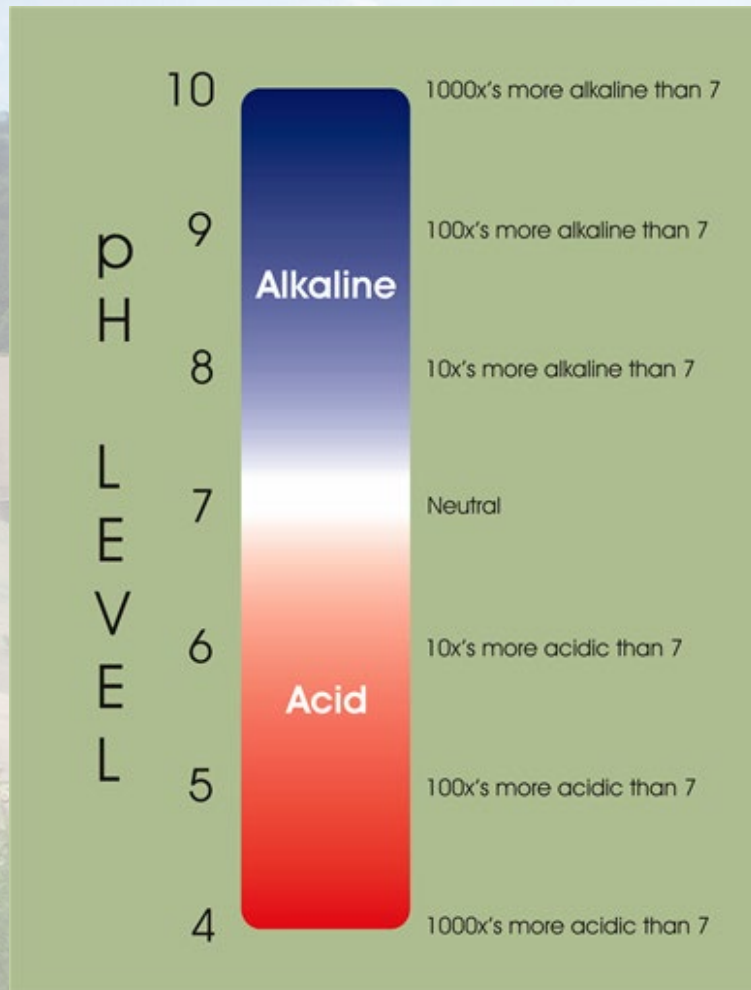
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IP Revisions

- **pH Screening procedures**
- **WET -RP analysis**
- **Appendix B updates -Endangered species**
- **Appendix C Updates- Segment flow data**
- **Tables D-1 through D-25 -Update Segment ambient WQ data**
- **Appendix E updates -MALs/Methods Update Rule**
- **Toxic Pollutants without Criteria**
- **Temporary Standards**
- **Bacteria**
- **General updates and corrections**
- **IP Revisions Timeline**

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pH Screening Procedures



- Screening procedure established with EPA concurrence for certain direct discharges to classified segments
- pH Screening conducted:
 - major municipal facilities (≥ 1 MGD flow)
 - industrial discharges with process wastewater

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Reasonable Potential for WET Testing

EPA approval letter 12/28/2015

- Last 3 years of WET data
- 1 or 2 failures = 3-year permit
- 3 or more failures = RP and WET limit

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Reasonable Potential for WET Testing

- Switch default statistical methodology from NOEC to IC25
- Switch default dilution water from receiving to synthetic

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Appendix B

Endangered Species

● New listings

- Smalleye and Sharpnose Shiner
- Mussels
- Salado Salamander
- Jollyville Plateau Salamander
- Austin Blind Salamander
- Georgetown Salamander
- Peppered chub

• De-listings

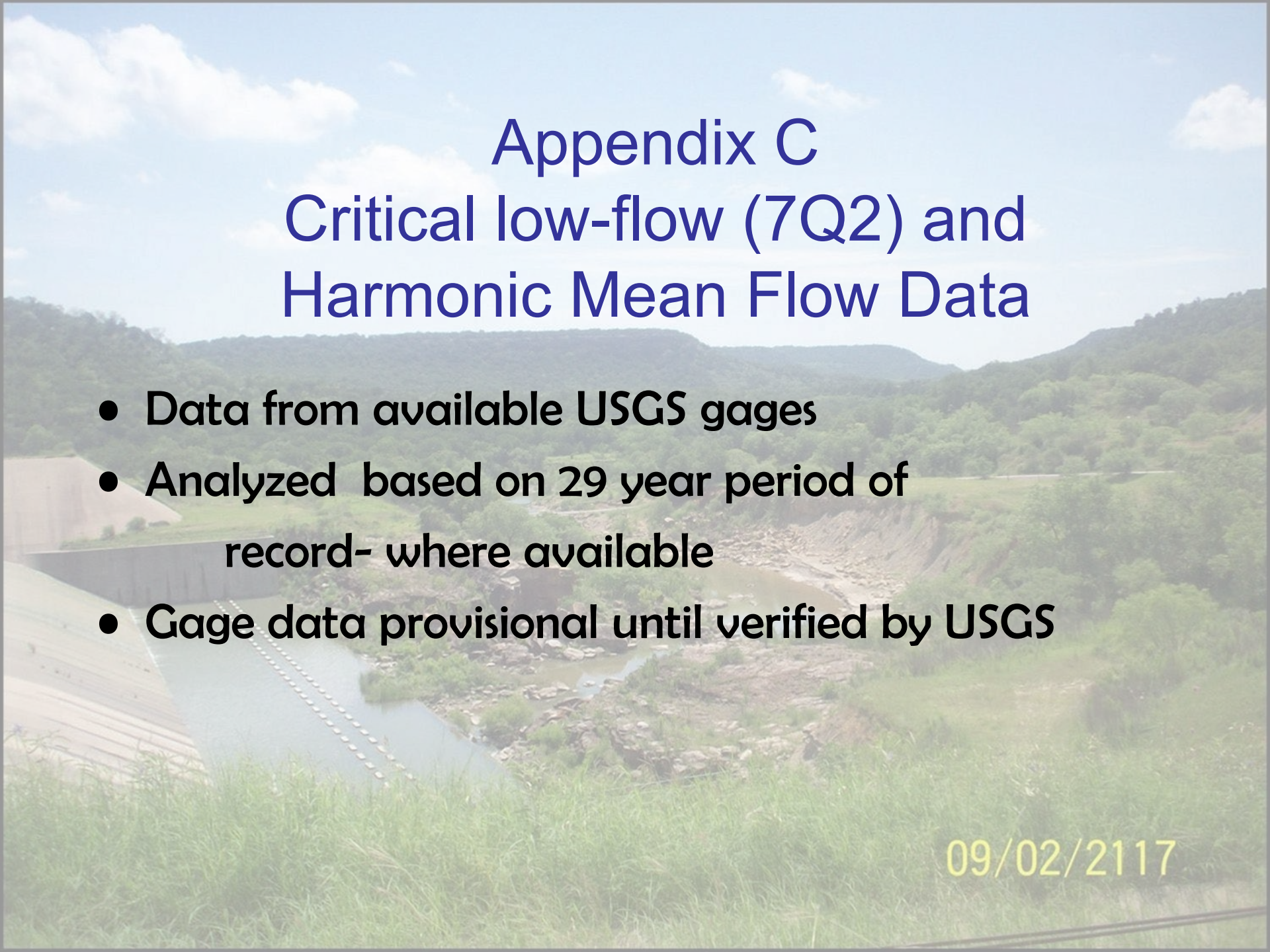
- Concho Water Snake
- Least Tern (shorebird)

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Table B. Locations of Federally Endangered and Threatened Aquatic and Aquatic-Dependent Species in Texas

Segment No.	Common Name	County	Water Body
0101	Arkansas River shiner	Hemphill Hutchinson Roberts	Canadian River Below Lake Meredith
0103	Arkansas River shiner	Oldham Potter	Canadian River Above Lake Meredith
1202	Houston toad	Austin	Deep Creek
1209	Houston toad	Leon	Running Creek
1211	Houston toad	Burleson	Second Davidson Creek
1212	Houston toad	Bastrop	Marshy Branch
		Lee	Blue Branch
		Milam	Hills Branch
1242	Houston toad	Burleson	Sweet Gum Branch
1302	Houston toad	Colorado	Hayes Creek
1402	Houston toad	Galveston	Deep Creek

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The background of the slide is a photograph of a river valley. In the foreground, there is a concrete dam with a spillway. The river flows through the valley, surrounded by green grass and trees. In the distance, there are rolling hills under a blue sky with some clouds.

Appendix C

Critical low-flow (7Q2) and Harmonic Mean Flow Data

- Data from available USGS gages
- Analyzed based on 29 year period of record- where available
- Gage data provisional until verified by USGS

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Appendix C

Critical Low-Flows and Harmonic Mean Flows for Classified Segments

- Approximately 300 USGS and IBWC gages
- 7Q2 and harmonic mean values based on 29 years of latest data (if available)

Segment	Stream/River	Gage	County	Period of Record		Crit. Low-Flow (ft ³ /s)	Harmonic Mean Flow (ft ³ /s)
				Starts	Ends		
0101	Canadian River	07228000	Hemphill	1980	2007	5.8	2.0
0103	Canadian River	07227500	Potter	1978	2007	0.23	1.3
0104	Wolf Creek	07235000	Lipscomb	1979	2007	0.38	1.1
0201	Red River	07337000	Bowie	1979	2007	1714	5017

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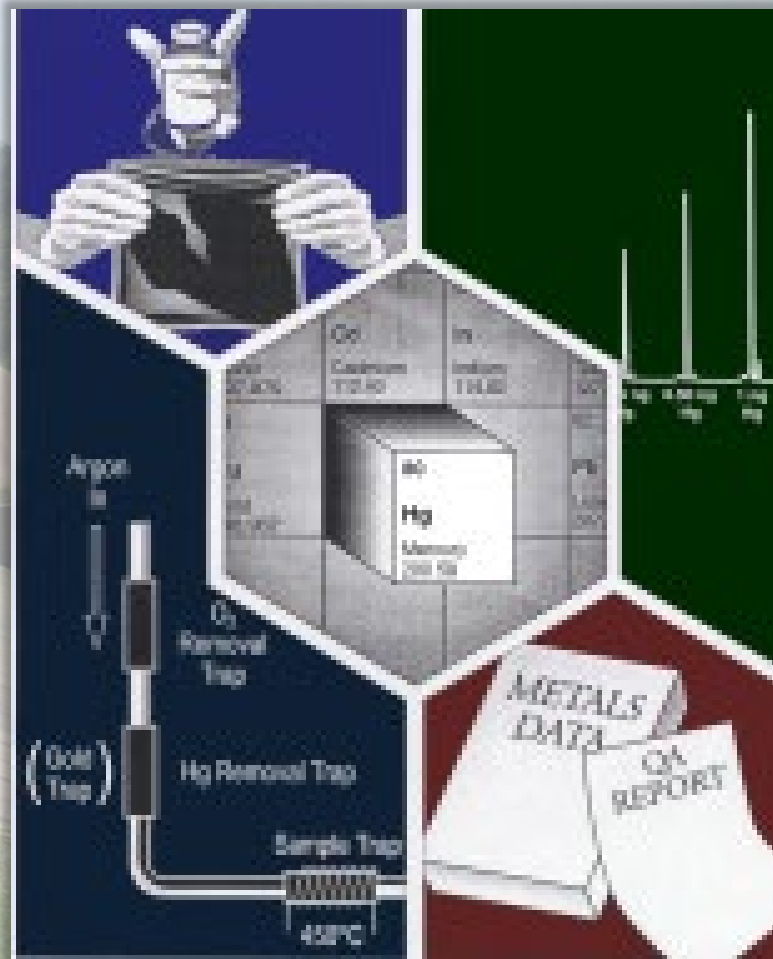
Appendix D

Ambient Water Quality Data

- **Routine water quality data is analyzed to derive segment-specific values**
- **TSS, pH, hardness, alkalinity, TDS, chloride, sulfate**

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Appendix E updates based on Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule for the Analysis of Effluent (2017 MUR)



- Final rule published: August 28, 2017
 - Effective date: September 27, 2017
- Subsequent MURs in 2019, 2021, and 2024
- Rule amended 40 CFR Part 136
 - Laboratory testing procedures approved for analysis and sampling under the Clean Water Act
- Rule affects TPDES permit applicants and monitoring and reporting requirements for permittees

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2017 Method Update Rule (MUR)

Revised analytical methods published by EPA

- 608.3
- 624.1
- 625.1

Revised procedure for determination of the Method Detection Limit (MDL)

Includes Minimum Levels (MLs) and MDLs

- MLs are published in method or calculated as the $MDL \times 3$ (new for 2017 MUR)
- ML is synonymous with : “quantitation limit” and “reporting limit”
- ML and minimum analytical level (MAL) are the same
- 2024 MUR included methods 1621, 1628, and 1633 for fluorine, PCB congeners, and PFAS

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Federal Methods Update Rules (MUR)

- TCEQ Held stakeholder meeting on August 20, 2019 to discuss the full scope of implementing the 2017 MUR
- Subsequent stakeholder meetings to discuss all proposed IP revisions in March and June 2020.
- Updated definitions in the IPs (e.g. MDL)
- Updated Appendix E of the IPs
 - Combined Tables E-1 and E-2
 - Revised analytical methods and MALs as affected by:
 - MUR and
 - revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (criteria and new pollutants)

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Establishing permit limits for Toxic Pollutants without criteria

Human Health Criteria

- removal of the lipid correction factor consistent with current state and federal practice

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Temporary Standards

- Minor revision - Clarifies which standard applies when a criterion or designated use is not attained and cannot be attained for reasons listed in 40 CFR 131.10(g)
- Clarifies that a temporary standard must preclude degradation of existing water quality standard as opposed to impairment of an existing use.

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Bacteria

- Revise *Evaluating Impacts on Water Quality* chapter, to include criteria for primary contact recreation (PCR) 1 and 2, secondary contact recreation (SCR) 1 and 2, and noncontact recreation (NCR). This revision is necessary to address recreation use categories and bacteria criteria updates in the TSWQS.

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General Revisions

- update terms for consistent use throughout the document;
- title (or retitle) and sequentially number all tables, figures, and equations, as well as define all equation variables clearly; and
- other non-substantive grammar and organizational revisions to improve readability

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IP Revisions Timeline

- Concept Memo to Executive Director
 - Summer 2025
- Notify EPA – TBD
- Proposal at Commissioners Agenda
 - TBD
- Publish Public Notice with 30 day comment period
 - TBD
- Adoption
 - TBD

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Have comments?

Send them to:

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