

Segment 2304 - Rio Grande below Amistad Reservoir water toxicity

Segment Description

The Rio Grande below Amistad Reservoir is a 226-mile freshwater segment which begins at the confluence of the Arroyo Salado (Mexico) in Zapata County (U.S.) and ends at the Amistad Dam in Val Verde County (U.S.). This segment receives discharges from domestic and industrial point sources, as well as storm water runoff from both sides of the border.

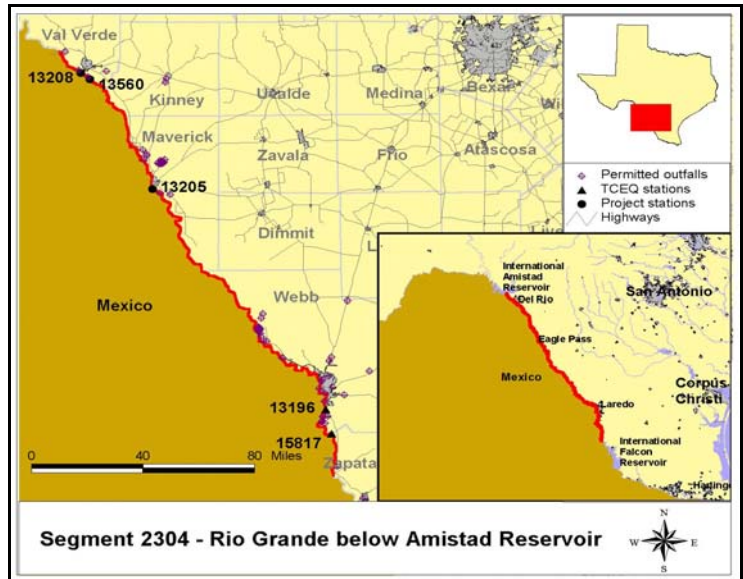
Listing Status

This segment was identified as not supporting the aquatic life use, due to ambient toxicity in water downstream of Del Rio, on the state's 303(d) Lists for 1999 and 2000. Because there were insufficient data available in 2002 to evaluate changes in water quality, the segment is also identified on the 2002 List. The use support will be reevaluated when sufficient data are available.

Test Results and Toxicity Identification

Throughout the nine sampling events at three stations (13205, 13208, 13560) on this segment, lethal toxicity was not observed at any time. Sublethal toxicity occurred in one species during one event at Station 13205. Three additional toxicity tests, not connected with this project, were conducted by the TCEQ at two stations (13196 and 15817) during the same time frame. No lethal toxic effects were observed at either of the stations. Sublethal effects were identified for *C. dubia* during a single event at two stations.

Minimal amounts of sublethal toxicity were observed at all of the stations within this study. As a result, toxicity identification evaluations were not conducted on any of the samples.



Test Results

Station	Lethal				Sublethal			
	Fathead		<i>C. dubia</i>		Fathead		<i>C. dubia</i>	
	# toxic	# tests	# toxic	# tests	# toxic	# tests	# toxic	# tests
13205	0	6	0	9	0	6	1	9
13208	0	6	0	9	0	6	0	9
13560	0	6	0	9	0	6	0	9
13196	0	3	0	3			1	2
15817	0	3	0	3			1	2

Segment Recommendations:

Tests conducted on water samples indicate no toxicity to fish and minimal levels of sublethal toxicity to invertebrates. Compilation of the data from this project and that collected by TCEQ indicates that aquatic life uses are not impaired due to toxicity. It is therefore recommended that this segment be removed from the 303(d) List.