



# Leveraging Water Quality Standards for Source Water Protection

Potomac Drinking Water  
Source Protection  
Partnership

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Standards Section



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Bureau of Water Standards & Facility Regulation**

**Division of Water Quality Standards**

# *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*



## *Water Quality Standards*



## *DWQS Responsible for*

- Maintaining Pennsylvania's WQ criteria and standards
- Developing Stream Redesignation Rulemakings
- Providing assistance and guidance to Regions, other state & federal agencies, the regulated community and the general public
- Administering several Statewide Programs:
  - CWA Sec 316(a) & (b) reviews and approvals
  - Develop Fish Consumption Advisories
  - Site-specific criteria development
- Serving on several state, interstate, and regional advisory and regulatory committees & workgroups
- Maintaining the WQS database & electronic WQS

# *Water Quality Standards Overview*

## 3 Basic Parts to Water Quality Standards

- Designated & Existing Uses
- Criteria to protect those uses
- Antidegradation policy
- general policies & implementation

a ~~3~~<sup>4</sup>-legged stool



Pennsylvania's WQS are found in:



**Title 25 Pa Code:**

**Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards**

with additional methods and procedural items for toxic substances found in:

**Chapter 16 Water Quality Toxics Management Strategy – Statement of Policy**

and implementation guidance in:

**Chapter 96 Water Quality Standards Implementation**

# Title 25 Pa Code available on-line

The  
Pennsylvania

CODE

BROWSE

SEARCH

HOME

[www.pacode.com](http://www.pacode.com)

Select desired chapter from Table of Contents

Statewide Listing for Existing Uses &  
Antidegradation Implementation Guidance

also available on-line



## Protected Uses Include:

Aquatic Life – CWF, WWF, TSF & MF

Water Supply – PWS, IWS, LWS, AWS & IRS

Recreation &

Fish Consumption – B, F, WC & E

Special Protection – HQ & EV

Other - N



## PWS is Statewide Protected Use

Important to note that Water Supply uses, including PWS, statewide use for all waters in Pennsylvania

Water Supply – PWS, IWS, LWS, AWS & IRS





Criteria to protect the uses are contained in:

93.6 – General WQ Criteria

93.7 – Table 3: Specific WQ criteria

93.8c – Table 5: WQC for Toxics

93.8e – Tables 6 & 7:

Special Criteria for Great Lakes

Other site-specific criteria for toxics substances  
may be in Ch 16, App A – Table 1A.



# Triennial Review Requirement

Federal Clean Water Act requires states to periodically review their WQS and revise as appropriate, if necessary.

at least once every three years, and is known as the *Triennial Review of WQS*



# Revise and Update WQS

to reflect the latest scientific information, and to be consistent with new Federal recommendations and guidelines for criteria development.



# DEP starting its next Triennial Review

with Proposed rulemaking  
expected in early 2011, including a  
minimum 45-day public comment  
period and public meetings or  
hearings, if warranted.



Final review must be completed

and published in the  
Pa Bulletin early 2013  
for submission to EPA  
by May 2013

**TR13**



# Recent TDS

## Wastewater Treatment Rulemaking

Proposed Rule draws > 4000 comments

- published in Pa Bulletin on Nov 7, 2009
- 90-day comment period, w/ 4 hearings

Final Rule approved by EQB

- May 17, 2010 meeting



## Recent TDS Rulemaking to Protect PWS Uses

Establishes that Commonwealth's waters not exceed TDS threshold of 500 mg/L from new or expanding sources of TDS

- new treatment requirements for dischargers of TDS

# Questions / Additional Information

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Additional Information is also available  
at the Division's websites

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/water\\_quality\\_standards/10556](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/water_quality_standards/10556)



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