

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO INITIATE TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF CONNECTICUT WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

In accordance with Section 303(c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection hereby gives notice of its intent to initiate a review of [Connecticut's Water Quality Standards](#) ("WQS"). This review is being conducted to evaluate the need to update or revise the WQS in order to remain consistent with state and federal law. The review will also ensure that Connecticut's WQS continue to reflect the best available science and support sound water quality management policies to improve and protect the water resources of the state.

With this notice the Department is soliciting comments from interested parties on any aspect of the WQS that a person believes the Department should consider for potential revision. Comments should include the matter at issue, whether it is currently covered by the WQS, and if so where, any suggested revision and the basis for the suggested revision. Any technical information or reports supporting the comment should be included.

While the Department will accept comments on any provision of the WQS, the Department is particularly interested in comments on the following areas, which are currently being evaluated for revision:

- Reclassification of certain shellfishing areas as needed to insure consistency with allowable shellfishing activities;
- Evaluate consistency of WQS with federal water quality criteria established in accordance with section 304(a) of the federal Clean Water Act;
- Potentially change the low flow statistic currently used in the WQS from the 7Q10 flow to the Q99 flow for consistency between regulations;
- Potential extension of the wastewater disinfection period;
- Allowance for extended timeframes in permits for compliance with certain water quality based effluent limitations and requirements;
- Potentially consolidate the ground water and surface water antidegradation sections into one section;
- Clarify statutory references to endangered species;

- Include “inland wetlands and watercourses” in the definition of surface waters.
- Include provisions for certain discharges in Class GAA, GAA_s and GA areas including discharges from private drinking water treatment backwash systems and clarification of “natural” & “clean water discharges” as they pertain to ground water;
- Potential changes regarding references to drinking water supply; and
- Organizational / editorial changes to improve clarity identified during the recently completed WQS regulation adoption process.

In addition to the topics identified above, there are other water quality issues which the Department is currently working on, but are not considering for revision at this time. These include the temperature criteria and associated surface water classifications, nutrient criteria development, water body designations with regard to the implementation of the Antidegradation policy, and revised numeric criteria for toxic pollutants. These are important but complex issues which must be more thoroughly evaluated and developed before potential changes to the WQS could be considered. The current provisions of the WQS will continue to provide a basis for addressing these issues until such time as changes to the WQS are proposed and adopted. While these topics are not expected to be addressed in the WQS in the near-term, the public is also welcome to provide comments on these topics.

Comments should be submitted to deep.wqsreview@ct.gov. **Comments should include the name of the commenter and the organization which they are representing, if appropriate, and be submitted no later than December 16, 2013** for consideration during this triennial review. The Department will post any comments received as part of the triennial review process to www.ct.gov/deep/wqsc.

The Department expects to complete its review of the WQS, including any comments received in response to this notice, by January 31, 2014. The results of the triennial review will be communicated to the public through the [Triennial Review website](#) . Based on the results of the review, the Department may propose changes to the WQS. Any proposed changes will take place through the regulatory adoption procedures in Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes and section 426(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes. Prior to adoption, notice will be published and a public hearing will be held to receive formal comment on the proposed WQS revisions. Final action to adopt any revisions and submission of those revisions to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency is anticipated by the end of 2014.

Additional information on the Water Quality Standards and Classifications and the Triennial Review process is available on the Department’s website at: www.ct.gov/deep/wqsc. Anyone requiring more information may contact the Department by email at deep.wqsreview@ct.gov or by phone at 860-424-3020.