



Inventory of Water Quality Standards Projects, 2014 to 2016, with Status as of November 2016

Group A: New or revised water quality standards and amendments in rulemaking:

Topic	Status
Addition of eutrophication water quality standards (WQS) for river systems and replacement of the existing turbidity WQS with WQS for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) http://www.pca.state.mn.us/6paqdkc .	Complete: This amendment was formally adopted into rule on August 4, 2014. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its approval of the rule amendment on January 23, 2015. Lead scientist(s): Steve Heiskary and Phil Monson
WQS use classification changes for specific water bodies, including new Class 1 designations on a reach of the Thief River, updating Class 2A cold water surface waters (previously centered on trout waters), and reviewing and adding Class 7 limited resources value waters http://www.pca.state.mn.us/9fukp6y .	On hold: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is updating its list of designated trout waters, which is similar but not identical to trout waters identified in WQS Class 2A cold water surface waters. This rulemaking is on hold pending release of DNR's final proposal for trout stream designation and completion of Tiered Aquatic Life Use (TALU) rulemaking. Lead scientist(s): Gerald Blaha, Will Bouchard, and Angela Preimesberger
Updates to the methods for deriving human health-based WQS to maintain consistency with the Minnesota Department of Health's Health Risk Limits and EPA Methodology for Deriving Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health (2000) http://www.pca.state.mn.us/chdfaa8 .	Complete: These amendments were formally adopted into Minnesota rule on March 16, 2015. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its approval of the rule amendments on November 5, 2015. Lead scientist: Angela Preimesberger
Revisions to variance rule language http://www.pca.state.mn.us/zihy1479 .	Complete: These revisions were formally adopted into Minnesota rule on October 17, 2016. They have been sent to EPA for review and determination as to whether EPA approval is needed. Lead scientist: Elise Doucette
Modification to the existing non-degradation rules http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oxpg919 .	Complete: These modifications were formally adopted into Minnesota rule on November 14, 2016, and sent to EPA for approval. Lead scientist: William Cole

Group A: New or revised water quality standards and amendments in rulemaking (cont'd):

Topic	Status
Modification of the existing sulfate standard for protection of wild rice http://www.pca.state.mn.us/ktqh1083 .	Making progress: Development of the technical basis for this rulemaking is continuing, with release of the proposed rule, Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) and formal comment period anticipated in 2017. Lead scientist(s): Ed Swain, Phil Monson and Gerald Blaha
Revision of the existing aquatic life use classifications to incorporate a Tiered Aquatic Life Use framework http://www.pca.state.mn.us/zihy1082 .	Making progress: Release of the proposed rule, SONAR, and formal comment period will occur soon. The proposed rule language and request for public comment is scheduled for publishing in the State Register in December 2016. Lead scientist: Will Bouchard
Revision to and update of existing Class 3 (Industrial Consumption) and Class 4 (Agriculture and Wildlife) designations and associated WQS. (NOTE: this does not include update of existing Class 4 designations and WQS related to the identification of waters used for production of wild rice and possible modification of the existing sulfate standard for protection of wild rice, which is a separate effort.)	Making progress: Finalization of the technical approach for revising use class designations and associated WQS is continuing, with release of the proposed rule, SONAR, and formal public comment period anticipated in 2017. Lead scientist: Gerald Blaha

Group B: New or revised water quality standards and amendments that are priorities to develop 2014 to 2016:

Priority ranking*	Topic	Status
1	Revisions of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life based on EPA 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria (AWQC) or guidance for chloride .	On Hold: EPA is continuing to develop new toxicity information for chloride and related pollutants, which is expected to be available by mid-2017. Lead scientist: To be determined
1	Addition of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life for nitrate .	On Hold: EPA requested additional toxicity testing for nitrate, which is expected to be available mid-year 2017. Lead scientist: To be determined
1	Revision of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life based on EPA 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria or guidance for ammonia .	On Hold: MPCA plans to revise the WQS for ammonia concurrently with nitrate to address implementation considerations relevant to both pollutants. Lead scientist: To be determined
1	Additions of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life for sulfate .	On Hold: EPA is continuing to develop new toxicity information for sulfate and related pollutants, which is expected to be available by mid-2017. Lead scientist: Phil Monson

Group B: New or revised water quality standards and amendments that are priorities to develop 2014 to 2016 (cont'd):

Priority ranking*	Topic	Status
2	Revision of the approach for Class 1 , Domestic Consumption, designations and associated WQS for groundwater and surface water for consistency with other State regulations.	<p>Making progress: MPCA is finalizing the scope of the specific issues to be revised as part of this WQS project. The exact timing for moving forward with this rulemaking is yet to be determined.</p> <p>Lead scientist: Doug Hansen</p>
2	Revision of or additions to pollutant-specific human health-based WQS , employing updated human-health based WQS methods (adopted into <i>Minn. R. chs. 7050 and 7052</i> on March 16, 2015).	<p>Making progress: MPCA has reviewed of candidate pollutants to identify those for which updated values will provide the most benefit relative to protecting human health for recreation and fish consumption in surface waters. Accordingly, any standard development is likely to focus on updating or establishing either state-wide standards or site-specific criteria for: 1) toxins associated with harmful algal blooms (e.g., microcystin, anatoxin-a), 2) PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), 3) dioxins/furans, and/or 4) PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate).</p> <p>Lead scientist(s): Angela Preimesberger and Laura Solem</p>
2	Revision of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life based on EPA 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria or guidance for copper .	<p>On Hold: EPA plans to develop a revised national criterion for copper in 2017.</p> <p>Lead scientist: To be determined</p>
2	Revision of recreational WQS for human health protection from surface water pathogens based on 2012 EPA 304(a) Recreational Water Quality Criteria.	<p>Making progress: The technical review is complete and the impacts of adopting the national criteria are being evaluated.</p> <p>Lead scientist: Laura Solem</p>
3	Revision of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life based on EPA 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria or guidance for cadmium .	<p>No progress: Due to staffing limitations, no further work on this revision has occurred.</p> <p>Lead scientist: To be determined</p>
3	Updates to the list of outstanding resource value waters in <i>Minn. R. 7050.0180</i> .	<p>No progress: This update is on hold.</p> <p>Lead scientist: To be determined</p>
3	Review of limited resource value waters (Class 7).	<p>No progress: This review is on hold.</p> <p>Lead scientist: To be determined</p>

Opportunities for public comment:

Opportunities for public input on water quality standards occur with adoption of standards into Minnesota rule. In addition, all of Minnesota's water quality standards are open for public review and comment every three years as part of the Clean Water Act required, Triennial Standards Review.

More specific information about opportunities to comment on standards proposed for adoption is available here: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=16321> and at the webpage links provided in this report (where they exist).

Priorities for WQS development and rulemaking for 2017 to 2019 will be evaluated and refined during the next triennial standards review, to be completed in the first half of calendar year 2017. The public comment period for triennial standards review will take place during the first quarter of 2017.

NOTE: The easiest way to stay current with water quality standards development and adoption is to sign up for GovDelivery notices on the MPCA's Water Quality Standards webpage: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/qzqh1081>.

*The WQS topics selected as priorities for 2014 to 2016 were subdivided into three priority tiers (1, 2 or 3). The tiers identify the WQS topics of highest priority while WQS projects nearing or in rulemaking are moved to completion.

This report fulfills the requirement of Laws of Minnesota 2015, First Special Session chapter 150, article 4, section 100, paragraph (b).