



2018 TEXAS SURFACE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS REVISION

Joe Martin
Water Quality Standards Work Leader

Water Quality Standards

- The Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (Title 30, Chapter 307 of the Texas Administrative Code) describe the chemical, physical, and biological conditions to be attained in the surface waters of Texas.
- Authority for adopting and revising water quality standards is contained in §26.023 of the Texas Water Code (TWC), and in §303(c) of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Types of Actions by EPA

- **Approved** - available for use in all Clean Water Act (CWA) activities – permitting, assessment, TMDL
 - ▣ **Conditional approval** - subject to completion of consultation with USFWS under Endangered Species Act
- **Disapproved** - not available for use in CWA activities
- **No action** - not considered water quality standards under the CWA
- **Under review**

2014 Revision: EPA Action

- EPA Action Letter
 - ▣ September 23, 2014
- Action letters posted on TCEQ Website
- Highlighted 2014 rule indicates status of approval

2014 Revision: Next Steps

- Remaining portions are still under review
 - PCR 2
 - Oso Bay & Upper Laguna Madre dissolved oxygen
 - Dissolved minerals
 - Recreational use changes on three water bodies
- Provisions must be approved by EPA to be used in Clean Water Act activities like wastewater permitting and assessment

2018 Revision

- Preliminary comment: March 6, 2015
 - ▣ 30 day public comment period
- Stakeholder meetings: January 25th and March 31st 2016
- Proposal: August 23, 2017
- 45 day public comment period
- Public hearing: October 16, 2017
- Adoption: February 7, 2018

Updates to TCEQ's Aquatic Life Criteria

- Acrolein – new addition
 - ▣ Freshwater acute & chronic – 3.0 µg/L
 - ▣ No saltwater criteria are recommended at this time

- Carbaryl – update
 - ▣ Freshwater chronic criterion – 2 µg/L
 - ▣ Saltwater acute criterion – 1.6 µg/L (changed from 613 µg/L)
 - ▣ No saltwater chronic criterion is recommended at this time

Bioaccumulation Factors

- TCEQ began using BAFs in the 2010 revision and recommends continuing forward with the BAFs used in the national criteria update
- BAFs: exposure from direct water contact and food ingestion
- BAF use is strongly encouraged in EPA's 2000 human health methodology
- Bioconcentration factors (BCFs): exposure from direct water contact only

Updates to TCEQ's Human Health Criteria

Non-Carcinogen Updates:

- New entries: Ethylene Glycol, 4,4'-Isopropylidenediphenol (bisphenol A)
- Reference dose updates: p-Dichlorobenzene
- BAF/BCF updates for 19 parameters

Updates to TCEQ's Human Health Criteria

Carcinogen Updates:

- New entries: Epichlorohydrin, Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE)
- Cancer potency factor updates: Vinyl Chloride
- Reference dose updates: Tetrachloroethylene, Toxaphene
- BAF/BCF updates for 38 parameters

Site Specific - Appendix A

- Revised dissolved oxygen criteria on Spring Creek (1008)
 - July – September criteria
 - 24 hour average dissolved oxygen criterion of 4.0 mg/L
 - 24 hour minimum dissolved oxygen criterion of 3.0 mg/L
- Creation of new segment, Blind Oso Bay (2486)
 - Cool season criteria
 - 24 hour average dissolved oxygen criterion of 4.5 mg/L
 - 24 hour minimum dissolved oxygen criterion of 3.5 mg/L
 - March 15 – October 15
 - 24 hour average dissolved oxygen criterion of 4.0 mg/L
 - 24 hour minimum dissolved oxygen criterion of 1.5 mg/L

Site Specific - Appendix C

- Segment boundary changes
 - ▣ Sabine River Tidal
 - ▣ Upper, Middle, and Lower Cibolo Creek
 - ▣ Oso Bay
 - ▣ Blind Oso Bay



Site Specific – Appendix D

- Revised dissolved oxygen criteria on three water bodies
 - Catfish Creek – summer criterion
 - Thompsons Creek – summer criterion
 - Garcitas Creek – summer criterion
- Aquatic Life Use revisions on four water bodies
 - Elm Creek
 - Sandies Creek
 - Slaughter Creek
 - Hurricane Levee Canal

Site Specific – Appendix D

- Boundary changes
 - ▣ Bois d'Arc Creek – included previously undescribed lower portion of the creek
 - High Aquatic Life Use
 - 24 hour average dissolved oxygen criterion of 5.0 mg/L
 - 24 hour minimum dissolved oxygen criterion of 3.0 mg/L

Appendix G

- Recreational use changes based on RUAA studies
 - ▣ 31 water bodies to retain Primary Contact Recreation
 - ▣ 46 water bodies recommended to change to Secondary Contact 1
 - ▣ Six water bodies recommended to change to Secondary Contact 2

RUAAs in the Brazos Basin – SCR 1

- 1202H Allen's Creek
- 1222A Duncan Creek
- 1242B Cottonwood Branch
- 1242D Thompson Creek
- 1242P Big Creek
- 1246E Wasp Creek
- 1247A Willis Creek
- 1226E Indian Creek
- 1226F Sims Creek
- 1226H Alarm Creek
- 1226M Little Green Creek
- 1255F Unnamed Tributary of Scarborough Creek
- 1255I Dry Branch

RUAAs in the Brazos Basin – SCR 1

- 1209E Wickson Creek
- 1209G Cedar Creek
- 1209H Duck Creek
- 1209I Gibbons Creek
- 1209J Shepherd Creek
- 1209K Steele Creek
- 1242I Campbells Creek
- 1242K Mud Creek
- 1242L Pin Oak Creek
- 1242M Spring Creek
- 1242O Walnut Creek

RUAAs in the Brazos Basin – SCR 2

- 1223A Armstrong Creek
- 1255E Unnamed Tributary to Goose Branch
- 1255G Woodhollow Branch
- 1255A Goose Branch
- 1255B North Fork Upper North Bosque River
- 1255C Scarborough Creek

2018 Revision

- Incorporate results of water-effect ratio studies for the development of site-specific toxic criteria in Appendix E of §307.10
- Revised language for the temporary standards provision due to updates to the federal water quality standards regulation.

BEACH Act

- Single Sample
 - ▣ 130 cfu for coastal recreation water

- Coastal Recreation Waters
 - ▣ Coastal recreation waters consist of marine coastal waters including oceans, coastal estuaries, and bays. Waters upstream of an unimpaired natural connection to the open sea or tidal inland waters are not considered coastal recreation waters (e.g. tidal rivers or streams)

Questions?



Joe Martin
joe.martin@tceq.texas.gov
(512) 239-3163

Status of the Texas Integrated Report

- 2016 Integrated Report
 - ▣ Data through 11/30/2014
 - ▣ Draft and public comment imminent
- 2018 Integrated Report
 - ▣ Data through 11/30/2016
 - ▣ Guidance Advisory Workgroup Meetings to begin this Fall