



2014 Standards Update and RUAAAs in the Brazos Basin



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Water Quality Standards



2014 Triennial Revision

- Preliminary comments received (July, 2011)
- Advisory Workgroups (March, May, November 2012)
- Proposed (August 21, 2013)
- 45-day public comment period
 - (August 25 – October 24, 2013)
- Public hearing (October 17, 2013)
 - Q&A before and after hearing
- Adoption Agenda (February 12, 2014)



2014 Triennial Revision

- Site-specific standards for individual water bodies
 - Dissolved minerals, pH, DO, contact recreation
- Revision of statewide toxic criteria
 - Mercury
 - Human health criteria are all based on water column concentrations



Additional topics

- Temperature Criteria
 - Different mixing zone sizes for specific numeric criteria
 - Industrial cooling water areas
- Expand recreational categories
 - Primary Contact Recreation 2—freshwater only
 - Geomean criteria 206 *E. coli* / 100 mL
 - Activities like swimming and wading by children that occur on a less frequent basis due to limited public access or physical characteristics of the water
 - Requires contact recreation study



Brazos River Basin Revisions

- Leon River Below Proctor Lake (1221) split into two segments at confluence of Plum Creek
- Leon River Above Belton Lake (1259)
- Oyster Creek Above Tidal (1110) split into two segments
- Middle Oyster Creek (1258) – No longer hydrologically connected to Oyster Creek Above Tidal



Brazos River Basin Revisions

- Total Dissolved Solids Standards adjusted on two segments.
- San Gabriel River (1214)
 - 550 mg/L (500)
- North Fork San Gabriel (1248)
 - 400 mg/L (350)



Recommendations for Secondary Contact 1

- Navasota River Above Lake Mexia (1210A)
- East Yegua Creek (1212B)
- South Leon River (1221B)
- Bullhead Bayou (1245C)
- Unnamed Tributary of Bullhead Bayou (1245D)



Recommendations for Secondary Contact 2

- Resley Creek (1221A)
- Indian Creek (1221D)
- Walnut Creek (1221F)



Next Steps

- March 6, 2014: Effective as a state rule
- Submit adopted 2014 TSWQS to EPA
- EPA must approve any revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards
- Future identification of impairments in each stream will be based on assigned uses



Current RUAs in Brazos Basin

- Collecting additional data on five streams in the Brazos Basin.
- Cedar Creek 1209 G
- Duck Creek 1209 H
- Shepard Creek 1209 J
- Steele Creek 1209 K
- Wickson Creek 1209 E



Questions

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