

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS RULE ADOPTION. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 01, 2021 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE ADOPTION, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Division of Water Monitoring and Standards

Ground Water Quality Standards

Readoption: **N.J.A.C. 7:9C**

Authority: N.J.S.A. 13:1D-1 et seq., 58:10A-1 et seq. and
58:11A-1 et seq.

Authorized by: Shawn M. LaTourette, Acting Commissioner,
Department of Environmental Protection.

Effective Date: January 28, 2021

New Expiration Date: January 28, 2028

Take notice that, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1, the Ground Water Quality Standards at N.J.A.C 7:9C are readopted and shall continue in effect for a seven-year period. The rules had been scheduled to expire on March 4, 2021. The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has reviewed these rules and has determined that the rules should be readopted because they are necessary, reasonable and proper for the purpose for which they were originally promulgated. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1(c), timely filing of this notice extended the expiration date of the chapter seven years from the date of filing.

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The Ground Water Quality Standards establish the designated uses of the State's ground waters, classify ground waters based on those uses, and specify the water quality criteria and other policies and provisions necessary to attain those designated uses. These rules are used to develop ground water protection standards pursuant to the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System rules, N.J.A.C. 7:14A, and as the remediation standards for cleanup of ground water contamination sites pursuant to the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation at N.J.A.C. 7:26E. The Ground Water Quality Standards are also applied through other programs that administer the following laws: the Spill Compensation and Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11 et seq., the Brownfield and Contaminated Site Remediation Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10B-1 et seq. the Solid Waste Management Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., the Industrial Site Recovery Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6 et seq., the Underground Storage of Hazardous Substances Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10A-21 et seq., the Realty Improvement Sewerage Facilities Act (1954), N.J.S.A. 58:11-23 et seq., and the Pesticide Control Act of 1971. N.J.S.A. 13:1F-1 et seq.

These rules include specific ground water quality criteria for 220 constituents and a procedure for developing interim criteria as needed. These interim criteria are used until the Department initiates formal rulemaking to promulgate new constituent-specific criteria. The rules also include a provision that enables the Department to revise the constituent-specific criteria upon adoption of new or revised Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) under the Safe Drinking Water Act Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:10.

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The Department has met with stakeholders in the past and is in the process of drafting a proposal to amend the Ground Water Quality Standards. The readoption without amendment ensures that the rules stay in place while that process continues.