

THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE. THE OFFICIAL VERSION IS PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER 16, 2017 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE NOTICE, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS

Notice of Adoption of New Jersey's 2014 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters as an amendment to the Atlantic County, Cape May County, Lower Delaware, Lower Raritan-Middlesex, Mercer County, Monmouth County, Northeast, Ocean County, Sussex County, Tri-County, Upper Delaware and Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plans

**Public Notice**

**Take Notice** that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has adopted New Jersey's 2014 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters (303(d) List) pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1313(d)), the Federal Water Quality Planning and Management Regulations at 40 CFR 130.7, the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act at N.J.S.A. 58:11A-7, and the New Jersey Water Quality Management Planning Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.2 and 5.4. The 2014 303(d) List replaces the 2012 303(d) List and includes the Department's ranking and prioritization of impaired waters of the State for development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).

The Department published the draft 2014 303(d) List in the New Jersey Register on February 1, 2016 (see 48 N.J.R. 237(a)) and on the Department's website at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2014\\_integrated\\_report.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2014_integrated_report.htm). The public comment period ended on March 2, 2016. One hundred and thirty comments were received from seventeen entities, including USEPA Region 2. A summary of the public comments and agency responses is included in the Appendix of the final 2014 Integrated Report, which is published on the Department's website at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2014\\_integrated\\_report.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2014_integrated_report.htm). The Department revised the draft 2014 303(d) List based on careful consideration of the comments received and submitted the final 2014 303(d) List to USEPA on May 18, 2017 for approval. USEPA approved the final 2014 303(d) List on July 21, 2017. The adoption of the 2014 303(d) List and the

THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE. THE OFFICIAL VERSION IS PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER 16, 2017 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE NOTICE, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

establishment of the 2014 two-year TMDL schedule satisfies New Jersey's requirements under CWA Section 303(d) as well as N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.2 and 5.4.

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C.1313(d)) requires states to biennially prepare and submit to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) a list of all waters of the state that currently do not meet, or are not expected to meet, applicable surface water quality standards after the implementation of technology-based controls. The Department reports this information in the New Jersey 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters or “303(d) List.” The 303(d) List includes a priority ranking for scheduling TMDLs, as well as identifying high priority TMDLs expected to be completed in the next two years.

CWA Section 305(b) requires states to also submit to USEPA a biennial report on the quality of all state waters, including support of designated uses. The Department presents this information in the New Jersey Integrated List of Waters, or “Integrated List.” These two lists, the 303(d) List and the Integrated List, along with strategies to maintain and improve water quality and other pertinent information, comprise the New Jersey Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report (Integrated Report). The 2014 Integrated Report identifies where regulatory and other actions have been successful in restoring water quality, where water quality improvement is needed, where high quality waters are threatened and/or need protection, and where further study and/or research is needed to address unresolved water quality issues, such as nutrient impacts on aquatic life uses. These results provide a sound scientific foundation to inform and prioritize the State’s water regulatory and management programs. USEPA combines all the state water quality assessments to develop a national assessment of water quality that is submitted biennially to Congress pursuant to CWA Sections 303(d) and 305(b).

The Department developed the 2014 Integrated Report based on all readily available data and information collected during the reporting period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2012, including data submitted by a variety of entities in response to the Department’s notice of data solicitation published on February 19, 2013 (see 45 N.J.R. 378(a)). The scientific protocols and methods used to assess this data and generate the 2014 303(d) List are explained in the Department’s 2014 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Methods (Methods Document). The

THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE. THE OFFICIAL VERSION IS PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER 16, 2017 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE NOTICE, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

draft 2014 Methods Document was published for public review and comment on July 21, 2014 (see 46 N.J.R. 1719(c)). The Department finalized the 2014 Methods Document in December 2014 after careful consideration of the public comments. A summary of the comments received on the draft 2014 Methods Document and agency responses is included with the final 2014 Methods Document, which is included in the Appendix of the 2014 Integrated Report. The Department's submission of the final 2014 Integrated Report to USEPA on May 18, 2017 satisfies the requirements of CWA Section 303(d) and 305(b), as well as N.J.S.A. 58:11A-7 and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.2.

The final 2014 Integrated Report, including the final 2014 303(d) List, final two-year TMDL schedule, and other related documents, is available on the Department's website at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2014\\_integrated\\_report.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2014_integrated_report.htm) and may also be obtained from the Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards at P.O. Box 420 (Mail Code 401 - 04I), Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420 or by calling (609) 633-1441.

Date: Original signed on September 14, 2017

Signature on file

Bruce Friedman

Director

Division of Water Monitoring and Standards