

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 RESOURCES MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS

Notice of Final 2016 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Methods to Support Development of the 2016 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters Pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act at 33 U.S.C. 1313(d) and the New Jersey Water Quality Management Planning Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.2 and 5.4

**Public Notice**

**Take notice** that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has finalized the *2016 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Methods* (Methods Document), which has been posted on the Department's website at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bwqsa/2014\\_integrated\\_report.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bwqsa/2014_integrated_report.htm). The final 2016 Methods Document provides a description of the methodology used to develop New Jersey's Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters (303(d) List) pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act at 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 Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.2 and 5.4.

The Methods Document includes a description of the data quality requirements and scientific methods used by the Department to evaluate surface water quality data and assess compliance with surface water quality standards and support of designated uses, as well as the rationale for placement of pollutants and assessment units on the 303(d) List. The Methods Document also includes information regarding the placement of assessment units and designated use assessment results on the Integrated List of Waters (Integrated List). The Department is required to seek public comment on the Methods Document pursuant to the Water Quality Management Planning Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.2.

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.

The draft 2016 Methods Document was published for public review and comment on February 16, 2016 (see 48 N.J.R. 337(c)). The public comment period ended on March 17, 2016. Sixty-seven comments were received from five entities, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 2. A summary of public comments received on the draft 2016 Methods Document and agency responses is available on the Department's website at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2016\\_integrated\\_report.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2016_integrated_report.htm). A revised draft 2016 Methods Document was published for public review and comment on March 20, 2017 (49 N.J.R. 572(a)). The public comment period for the revised draft ended on April 19, 2017. Eleven comments were received from two entities, USEPA and the Barnegat Bay Partnership. A summary of these comments and agency responses is included in the appendix of the final 2016 Methods Document, which is available on the Department's website at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2016\\_integrated\\_report.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/2016_integrated_report.htm).

After careful consideration of all the public comments received, the Department has finalized the 2016 Methods Document, which will be used to develop the 2016 303(d) List in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act at 33 U.S.C. 1313(d), the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act at N.J.S.A. 58:11A-7, and the Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.2. A draft 2016 303(d) List will be published for public review and comment prior to submission to USEPA for approval. Once the draft 2016 303(d) List is ready for public review, a notice will be published in the New Jersey Register seeking comments.