

## Stakeholder Process for Proposed Amendments to the Ground Water Quality Standards Rules N.J.A.C. 7:9C

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### General Information

The Ground Water Quality Standards (GWQS) rules, N.J.A.C. 7:9C, were readopted without change on March 4, 2014 and do not expire until March 4, 2021. However, in response to a petition for rulemaking filed on March 27, 2015, the Department committed to initiating a stakeholder process in 2016 to revisit all the ground water quality criteria and PQLs established under the current GWQS, which will likely result in rulemaking in 2017. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) Division of Water Monitoring & Standards (DWMS) is initiating a stakeholder process to inform potential amendments to the GWQS rules. This is the first time the entire GWQS rules are being considered for amendment since their readoption and recodification in 2005. Topics for discussion include:

- New and revised ground water quality criteria (GWQC) and practical quantitation limits (PQLs) for Class IIA ground waters (Appendix Table 1, Appendix Table 2, and on-line Table of Interim Ground Water Quality Criteria);
- Changes to the designated uses and/or classifications of ground water; and
- Changes to specific rule text and provisions to simplify and streamline the rules and their implementation through various regulatory programs.

The most immediate concern is to amend any outdated GWQC and PQLs; however, since the GWQC are derived to support the designated uses of the respective classes of ground water, it is appropriate to also consider any necessary amendments to the designated uses and ground water classifications, as well as the provisions regarding the derivation of GWQC and PQLs.

### Stakeholder Process

The stakeholder process will be convened in March-April 2016 and will consist of several meetings of invited participants. Participants will be invited based on their expertise and interest in specific issues under consideration. Stakeholders will meet in plenary sessions as well as smaller work groups charged with making recommendations on the following:

1. **Revised Ground Water Quality Criteria and PQL Work Group:** Re-evaluate current Class IIA interim and specific ground water quality criteria and associated PQLs and recommend any updates needed to address current science and emerging priorities. The re-evaluation must consider, at a minimum, new or revised toxicity data, risk factors or other information that would influence the derivation of the criterion and/or PQLs.

2. **Ground Water Classification System and Designated Uses Work Group:** Re-evaluate the current ground water classification system and designated uses based on current water quality needs and goals, including protection of surface and ground water resources; current science; and implementation through regulatory programs. Review new digitized mapping and recommend updates or changes needed.

In addition to these work groups, all stakeholders are encouraged to recommend changes to the current rule that would simplify, streamline or clarify current provisions and implementation of the ground water quality standards through the various regulatory programs.

### Invited Participants

Stakeholders	Affiliation
Association of Environmental Authorities of NJ	Regulated Community
Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions	Local/Regional Government
Atlantic County Health Department	Local/Regional Government
Brown & Caldwell	Regulated Community
Chemical Industry Counsel of NJ	Regulated Community
Clean Water Council	Advisory Board
CMX	Regulated Community
Environmental Justice Advisory Council	Advisory Board
Ernie Risha	Interested Citizen
Hatch Mott MacDonald	Regulated Community
Highlands Council	Local/Regional Government
Kleinfelder	Regulated Community
Licensed Site Remediation Professional Association	Regulated Community
Monmouth County Health Department	Local/Regional Government
New Jersey Business and Industry Council	Regulated Community
NJ Environmental Federation	Environmental Organization
NJ Public Interest Research Group	Environmental Organization
Pinelands Commission	Local/Regional Government
Ransom Consulting	Regulated Community
Raritan Headwaters Association	Environmental Organization
US Geological Survey	Federal Government
Ground Water Quality Standards Program (Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards)	NJDEP Division of Water Monitoring and Standards
Office of Quality Assurance	NJDEP
Bureau of Ground Water Pollution Abatement	NJDEP Division of Site Remediation and Waste Management

Division of Science, Research and Environmental Health	NJDEP
Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	NJDEP Division of Water Supply and Geoscience
New Jersey Geological Survey	NJDEP Division of Water Supply and Geoscience
NJPDES DGW Permit Program, Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control	NJDEP Division of Water Quality

<b>Tentative Rule Launch Schedule</b>	
<b>April 11, 2016</b>	<b>Commence Stakeholder Process</b>
July 1, 2016	Proposal Launch Meeting
August 1, 2016	Proposal ready for Legal Review
September 14, 2016	Director Review
September 21, 2016	AC & Senior Staff Briefing
October 4, 2016	Rule Document and Briefing Memo to Governor's Office
October 19, 2016	Filing with OAL
November 21, 2016	NJR Publication
January 4, 2017	Public hearing
January 20, 2017	End of 60 day comment period
May 2017	Adoption Launch Meeting
June 2017	Adoption ready for Legal Review
August 2017	Director Review
August 2017	AC and Senior Staff Briefing
September 2017	Rule Document and Briefing Memo to Governor's Office
October 2017	Filing with OAL
November 2017	NJR Publication of Rule Adoption