Aquatic Life Designated Use Rulemaking

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Delaware River Basin Commission
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Water Quality Advisory Committee

Water Quality Standards To Protect Aquatic Life in the Delaware River

- EPA issued a proposed rule on December 21, 2023.
- EPA had two public hearings on February 6 & 7, 2024.
  - DRBC Executive Director Steve Tambini provided oral testimony. (https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/tambini_comments_EPApublic-hearing020624.pdf)
- Comment period ended on February 20, 2024.
  - DRBC also provided technical written comments. (https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/DRBC_comments_EPAproposedDOrule022024.pdf)
- The rulemaking process is currently lead by EPA and DRBC staff has no further update to offer.

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Design conditions have changed since (around) EPA's proposed rule

- In mid December 2023, PWD held a webinar on the construction of the sidestream deammonification process to reduce wastewater ammonia being received by the SWWPCP. Approximately 25 percent ammonia-nitrogen load reduction is expected from the PWD's SW plant.
- In late January 2024, DELCORA informed that DELCORA is no longer pursuing 70 MGD expansion. DELCORA WWTP will remain at current permitted flow of 44 MGD.

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EPA requested new simulations for Economic Analysis to reflect the changes

- DRBC provided three updated simulation results for year 2019 per EPA's request.
  1. Baseline condition at actual flows: From the simulation in draft AA Report, PWD SW plant's sidestream treatment is incorporated.
  2. Baseline condition at design flows: From the simulation in draft AA Report, PWD SW plant's sidestream treatment and 44 MGD from DELCORA are incorporated.
  3. Restored condition at design flows: From Simulation #2, anticipated ammonia nitrogen reduction are implemented for major dischargers (seven Class A' and two Class A).

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