



Water Quality Standards  
Stakeholder Meeting #2

May 24, 2022, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Linton Room (4011)

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introduction ..... Andrew Edwards
2. 2022 Triennial Review Update ..... Andrew Edwards
  - A. Discussion began related to the 2022 Triennial Review timeline. The following timeline was noted:
    - (1) Notice of Drafting February 25, 2022
    - (2) Notice of Proposed Regulation potentially by August 2022
    - (3) NPR followed by additional stakeholder meeting potentially in September 2022
    - (4) Notice of Final Regulation potentially by November 2022
    - (5) NFR to Legislature potentially by January 2023
  - B. All of the stakeholder comments that had already been submitted were highlighted. Those comments include:
    - (1) Delay the Human Health Criteria update
    - (2) Reclassify the waters of Sewee Bay and a portion of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from Shellfish Harvesting Water to Outstanding Resource Water
    - (3) Delay the Narrative Flow Standards revisions
3. Questions and Comments ..... Stakeholders

A. Following the 2022 Triennial Review Update discussion was opened to stakeholders for questions and comments. The following topics were discussed:

- (1) EPAs 2015 Water Quality Standards Rule Update - A question was raised regarding what requirements this rule update placed on the Department's triennial review. Clarification was provided that the Department would be required to evaluate criteria for any parameters for which EPA has published new or updated CWA section 304(a) criteria recommendations since May 30, 2000. If the Department chooses not to adopt any of these criteria recommendations, then the Department must explain its decisions when reporting the results of its triennial review to EPA. During the 2022 triennial review the Department must evaluate the following:
  - Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia – Freshwater
  - Human Health Ambient Water Quality Criteria: 2015 Update
  - Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Selenium – Freshwater
  - Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Aluminum
  
- (2) Narrative Flow Standards - Discussion regarding narrative stream flow standards followed the presentation. A response was given to explain the Department is considering revising the narrative stream flow standards. Discussion among Department staff, EPA staff, and stakeholders followed regarding EPA's recommendations for narrative flow standards including how other states have recently approached flow standards. A follow up question was raised to clarify potential impacts of a narrative flow standard. A response was given that the narrative flow standards focus was to protect designated uses and would allow the Department to designate surface waters on the 303(d) list under Category 4C if conditions are warranted.
  
- (3) Aluminum Criteria - Questions were asked regarding the proposed aluminum criteria. A response was provided, explaining that the aluminum criteria is dependent on a site's characteristics including pH, hardness, and dissolved organic carbon. Discussion continued regarding possible changes to the Department's ambient monitoring strategy and possible impacts to drinking water treatment facilities.

- (4) Reclassifications - A specific question was raised related to Regulation 61-69 to inquire if about for surface water reclassifications related to the recent boundary changes at Congaree National Park. It was suggested that all the waters of Running Creek and Bates Old River are now within the park boundary and as such should be reclassified to Outstanding Resource Waters.