

Department of Environmental Quality

Notice of 30-day Public Comment Period on the Draft List of Impaired Waters Prioritized for TMDL or TMDL Alternative Development for 2016-2022

The Public Comment Process

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written or electronic comments from interested persons on the draft list of impaired waters prioritized for [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\) or TMDL alternative development](#) throughout 2016-2022. The public comment period will begin on July 27th 2015 and end on August 26th, 2015. Please note that all written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. DEQ will hold a public meeting to address and discuss the draft list of impaired waters prioritized for TMDL or TMDL alternative development if there is sufficient interest from the public. For more information or to submit written or electronic comments, please contact:

Will Isenberg
DEQ
PO Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218
Telephone: (804) 698-4228
Email: William.Isenberg@DEQ.Virginia.gov

DEQ is implementing the national [303\(d\) Vision](#), which facilitates the prioritization of impaired waters for TMDL or TMDL alternative development over throughout 2016-2022. While the national 303(d) Vision involves prioritizing impaired waters for TMDL or TMDL alternative development, DEQ took this opportunity to also prioritize impaired waters that require a stressor analysis report or a natural conditions report. TMDLs or TMDL alternatives are reports that outline necessary reductions in pollutant or pollution loads in order to restore water quality. In some cases, stressor analyses must be conducted prior to any restoration plan development due to the uncertain causes of water quality impairment. These reports analyze water quality data to determine what the most probable stressors are that contribute to the impaired status of the water. In other cases where either a stressor analysis or a watershed characteristic suggests that the impaired status of the water is due more to natural conditions than human activity, a natural conditions report is conducted.

Before finalizing the list of prioritized impaired waters, DEQ is seeking comments from the public on this draft list of priorities. DEQ will hold a public meeting to address and discuss the draft priorities list if there is sufficient interest from the public. Once all of the comments have been addressed following the 30-day public comment period, DEQ will finalize the 2016-2022 priorities list and post it on [DEQ TMDL program webpage](#). The final list will also be published in the 2016, 2018, and 2020 biennial [305\(b\)/303\(d\) Integrated Reports](#), where it will be available for additional public comment under the comment period for the entire Integrated Report.

External links to priorities information

1. [Description of the Process for Prioritizing Impaired Waters](#)
2. [Maps of Draft Two Year Targets \(2016-2017\)](#)
3. [List of Draft Two Year Targets \(2016-2017\)](#)
4. [Map of Draft 2016-2022 Priority Waters and Watersheds](#)
5. [Summary of Draft 2016-2022 Priorities](#)
6. [Draft List of 2016-2022 Priority Waters by City/County](#)