

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Recategorization Of Waterbodies from 303(d) List of Impaired Waters
General Call for Recategorization Candidates

Item 4F.
BCWMC 10-17-13
Need to complete Step 1 below.

Internal reminder to Basin Coordinators, Impaired Waters Coordinators, and PCA Water Quality Project Managers:

Recategorization Candidate Reviews for Calendar Year: 2014

Please refer to the **Guidance Manual for Assessing the Quality of Minnesota Surface Waters Section X. Removal of Waterbodies from the 303(d) List** for the ways in which water bodies are removed from the current or draft 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. There are three basic ways in which waterbodies are removed from the list, besides the completion of a TMDL plan and subsequent approval by EPA:

- 1) If, during subsequent monitoring or the development of the TMDL study, new and reliable data or information indicates that the waterbody is no longer impaired and is meeting water quality standards. Such a waterbody would be de-listed before a TMDL plan was completed.
- 2) If the sources of impairment are determined to be not caused by a pollutant (4C) or non-anthropogenic in origin (4D).
- 3) If it is determined that a reach was placed on the list in error (correction).

Note that any recommendations resulting from this review will be reflected in the next draft Impaired Waters 303(d) list. The first priority will be reviews for candidates in watersheds scheduled for assessment early this year:

- Leech Lake River
- Pine River
- South Fork Crow River
- Zumbro River
- Red Lake River
- Red River – Grand Marais Creek
- Lake of the Woods

Submitting candidates for recategorization is a 2-step process

Step 1:

For each candidate fill out 1-7 below, save a copy of the form, and send to Miranda Nichols. Submit candidates to Miranda by **November 1st, 2013**

1. AUID (Assessment Unit ID#) or Lake ID#
2. Reach name / description:
3. Pollutant / Impairment:
4. Year first listed:
5. Reason for removal:
6. Staff contact:
7. Brief summary of reasons for requesting a listing change review:

Step 2:

Depending on the type of review, submit the following data and information to Miranda Nichols by January 1st, 2014.

- Delisting Review:
 - Original listing data (summary of #obs/exceedances or description, and list of stations with EQuIS IDs)
 - New data collected under similar or critical conditions (identified from original listing data)
 - All water quality data fully documented, in EQuIS, and verified (preliminary flags removed)
 - Flow data (USGS, Hydstra, or other)
 - Other data (e.g. continuous monitoring dataloggers, NPDES monitoring data, weather records, etc.)
 - Point source data/information (if applicable) such as NPDES permits, ISTS, feedlots, etc.
 - Documented changes or actions in watershed that might explain change to impairment status
- Category 4C Review Request [Form](#)
- Category 4D Natural Background Streams Review Request [Form](#)
- Category 4D Natural Background Lakes Review Request [Form](#)
- IBI Fish & Invertebrate Delistings-Corrections [Form](#)

Regarding continuous monitoring data:

1. Have the data been finalized? (reviewed and corrected based on equipment field calibrations)
2. Are the continuous monitoring data stored in the Hydstra database?

Since it's not possible to put continuous monitoring data into EQuIS at this time we need to have the data stored in the Hydstra database, and it needs to be reviewed, corrected and determined to be final data. We need to be sure that any data used for delisting decisions is 'captured' and available in a central database for documentation purposes.

We cannot start the delisting reviews until all the data have been finalized in EQuIS (preliminary flag removed) and any continuous monitoring data are also finalized (including any corrections) in Hydstra.

Additional Information:

Category 4C Decisions: Non-Pollutant

Category 4D Natural Background Decisions: Natural

Summary of 2012-2013 Delisting reviews and decisions: Delisting Guidance Outline

Examples of recent Delisting Reviews: Reviews (check folder by year)