



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Oct. 11 WKCTC Science Seminar to feature presentation on Clark's River Watershed contamination *Division of Water biologist will discuss pollution sources and role of public in restoring health to watershed*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 3, 2011) – The Oct. 11 Science Seminar at Western Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) will feature a presentation by Andrea Fredenburg, Ph.D., a biologist with the Kentucky Division of Water, on the topic “*E. coli* Total Maximum Daily Load Development for Clark’s River Watershed.”

The free presentation is open to the public and will be held on the WKCTC campus in Room 112 of Waller Hall from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (CST). (The main entrance to the WKCTC campus is located at 4810 Alben Barkley Drive in Paducah, Ky.) Fredenburg’s presentation will address how the streams were identified to have an *E. coli* problem, the potential sources of *E. coli* to streams, how the allowable amount of *E. coli* in the stream was determined and the role the public can play in returning health to the watershed.

Portions of the Clark’s River in western Kentucky have been found to be contaminated with *E. coli*, a bacterium that can be harmful to people if ingested or absorbed into the body through open wounds. In order to reduce the levels of *E. coli* so that the waterway will again meet water quality standards, it is important to become educated about the sources of the contaminants. In Clark’s River, these include wastewater discharges, animals standing in or near streams, failing septic tanks and straight pipes carrying human waste directly from homes into streams.

The Clean Water Act requires states to submit a list of surface waters that do not meet water quality standards. Once these impaired waters are identified, the Act requires the states to establish limits on the amount of pollutants that can enter the water body without causing exceedances of those standards. These limits are called Total Maximum Daily Loads, or TMDLs.

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