

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

300 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 Phone: (502) 564-2150 Fax: 502-564-4245

Draft 2024 303(d) List and 2022-2032 303(d) Prioritization Framework, April 16, 2024

The Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) has opened a 60-day comment period on the draft 2024 303(d) list of impaired waters as required by KRS 224.70-150. Accompanying this public notice is a draft of Kentucky's 2022-2032 303(d) and Impaired Waters Prioritization Framework, also open for public comment. Comments received by email or mail must be dated or postmarked no later than June 15, 2024. Comments may be sent:

- Via email (preferred method) to <u>TMDL@ky.gov</u> (Subject line: "303(d) List")
- Via U.S. Mail to: Water Quality Branch (ATTN: 303(d) List)

Kentucky Division of Water 300 Sower Blvd., 3rd Floor Frankfort, KY 40601

The DOW has developed a dedicated <u>public notice site</u> to view the draft 303(d) list with the prioritization framework, new listings, proposed delistings, waters with completed total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), and the 305(b) list. Spreadsheets and interactive maps with video tutorials are available through this site. Links to assessment summaries and TMDL documents are available through the map dashboards or in the provided spreadsheets.

Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to submit a biennial report to EPA describing the quality of the state's waters and to provide an inventory of waterbodies with water quality that supports, or fails to support, its designated uses (e.g., primary contact recreation, aquatic life, fish consumption, etc.). Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to identify and maintain a list of impaired waters, and to develop a TMDL for each pollutant-waterbody combination that does not meet water quality criteria.

EPA recently released its <u>2022 - 2032 Vision for the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program</u>. As part of the 2024 public notice process, DOW has provided a draft of Kentucky's 2022-2032 303(d) and Impaired Waters Prioritization Framework. The draft Prioritization Framework communicates goals and priorities in addressing impaired waters in the Commonwealth for the coming years.

The 2024 reporting cycle focuses on DOW's Ambient Rivers program from the Green and Tradewater Rivers Basin Management Unit, DOW's Ambient Lakes program from 2021 and 2022, and DOW's Probabilistic Biological Monitoring program from 2017-2021, where a statewide approach was newly implemented. Data collected by other internal programs and external data contributors provide updates throughout the state. In total, 993 stations had new data available to update 780 assessments.

Assessment results from the <u>2022 Integrated Report</u> can be accessed at the <u>Kentucky Water Health</u> <u>Portal</u>. Responses to comments received during the public comment period will be included in the Integrated Report to Congress. Upon EPA approval of the 2024 303(d) list, the Water Health Portal will be updated with the 2024 305(b) assessment information. Information, updates, and resources about the Prioritization Framework will be maintained on the <u>TMDL Priorities webpage</u>.



Andy Beshear

GOVERNOR

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D

Rebecca Goodman

Anthony R. Hatton