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**Draft 2026 303(d) List and Updated Assessment and Listing Methodology, May 6, 2026**

The Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) has opened a 60-day comment period on the draft 2026 303(d) list of impaired waters requiring a total maximum daily load (TMDL) pursuant to KRS 224.70-150. Accompanying this public notice is an updated Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM). Responses to comments received during the public comment period will be included in the 2026 Integrated Report to Congress.

Comments received must be dated or postmarked no later than July 5, 2026, and can be submitted via:

- Email (preferred) to TMDL@ky.gov (Subject line: "303(d) List")
- 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 public notice site to view the draft 305(b) list, the 303(d) list, new listings, proposed delistings, waters with completed TMDLs, and the CALM. 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 and in the provided spreadsheets.

Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to report to Congress every two years on the health of waters in the state. The report includes an inventory of waterbodies with water quality that supports, or fails to support, its designated uses (e.g., recreation, aquatic life). Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to identify and maintain a list of impaired waters (those that do not meet water quality standards). Waterbodies on the 303(d) list require a TMDL, which is a calculation of the maximum amount of a specific pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.

The 2026 reporting cycle focuses on monitoring data collected by DOW's Ambient Rivers program from the Kentucky River Basin Management Unit (BMU) and the Big Sandy River, Little Sandy River, and Tygarts Creek BMU, DOW's Ambient Lakes program from 2023, and DOW's Probabilistic Bioassessment Monitoring program from 2022. Data collected by other internal programs and external data contributors provide updates throughout the state. In total, new information was available from 719 locations, leading to the update of 576 assessments.

Helpful resources for those seeking to make a comment:

- Assessment results from the 2024 Integrated Report via the Kentucky Water Health Portal.
- The 2022 - 2032 TMDL Prioritization Framework maintained on the TMDL Priorities webpage.
- *E. coli* listings addressed under a previous EPA-approved fecal coliform TMDL for Primary Contact Recreation are described in the linked memorandum.
- Fact sheet on regulations that apply to source water versus finished drinking water.