

North Fork Kentucky River TMDL Fact Sheet

- Project Name:** North Fork Kentucky River Fecal Coliform TMDL
- Location:** Southeastern Kentucky draining the counties of Letcher, Perry, Breathitt, and Lee
- Scope/Size:** TMDL covers all 162.6 miles of the North Fork Kentucky River and its tributaries
- TMDL Issues:** PS/NPS
- Data Sources:** Ambient monitoring, Intensive surveys, municipal facilities' monitoring, and compliance sampling surveys
- Monitoring Plan:** Monthly sampling of the upper North Fork Kentucky River main stem during PCR season and random compliance sampling inspections at wastewater plants
- Control Measures:** NPDES Permits and Enforcement. Local communities will receive educational, technical, and limited financial assistance regarding fecal contamination from non-point sources.
- TMDL Development:** In 1987, ambient monitoring indicated excessive levels of fecal coliform (FC) caused violations of the FC standard for the North Fork Kentucky River. Several intensive surveys and follow-up monitoring indicated that the majority of the pollution was coming from wastewater plants. All point sources are required to meet the FC standard (400/100 ml) prior to discharge. Strict enforcement of the NPDES permits resulted in improvement of the river, however due to numerous raw discharges from households the standard was still being violated. Education and other forms of assistance will be provided to local residents in order to reduce the fecal contamination from the direct pipe sources.
- Implementation Controls:** Fines, compliance inspections and monitoring have reduced the level of fecal contamination from wastewater plants. Strict enforcement of NPDES permits will continue. Communities will receive educational, technical and financial assistance regarding non-point sources of fecal contamination.