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Draft 2018/2020 303(d) List at Public Notice, June 4, 2021

The Kentucky Division of Water has opened a 60-day comment period on the draft 2018/2020 303(d) list of impaired waters as required by KRS 224.70-150. Comments received by email or mail must be dated or postmarked no later than August 3, 2021. Comments on the draft 303(d) list may be sent:

- Via email (*preferred method*) to: TMDL@ky.gov (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

New to this combined 2018/2020 reporting cycle is a dedicated public notice site (<https://2018-2020-303d-public-notice-kygis.hub.arcgis.com/>) to view the draft 303(d) list, 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 report to Congress every two years on the health of waters in the state, and whether the water quality of individual waterbodies is sufficient to support their designated uses. In Kentucky, these designated uses include primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation, aquatic life, domestic water supply, fish consumption, and outstanding state resource waters. The determination of designated use attainment is based on water quality sampling and assessment methodologies developed by the state and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to identify impaired waters, the pollutant(s) causing the impairment, and to develop a TMDL for each of those pollutants. Section 303(d) also requires states to prioritize waters for TMDL development. The TMDL, which is a daily maximum allowance for a pollutant, supports plans and strategies for restoring water quality.

Monitoring that occurred to update assessments for the draft 2018/2020 305(b) and 303(d) lists was primarily from streams, rivers, and reservoirs in the Green and Tradewater Rivers Basin Management Unit (BMU), the Kentucky River BMU, and the Upper Cumberland and Four Rivers BMU. Monitoring also occurred outside of the BMUs of focus to provide statewide assessment updates. In total, 1,106 stations had data collected for assessment and 915 assessments were completed.

As a reference, assessment results from the 2016 Integrated Report can be accessed at the Kentucky Water Health Portal (<https://watermaps.ky.gov/WaterHealthPortal/>). Upon EPA approval of the 2018/2020 303(d) list, the Water Health Portal will be updated with the 2018/2020 305(b) assessment information.