
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS

Surface Water Quality Standards, N.J.A.C. 7:9B

Surface Water Quality Criteria

Notice of Administrative Changes and Corrections - N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.4., 1.5, 1.7 and 1.14

Take notice that the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is making administrative changes to the Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS), N.J.A.C. 7:9B, to incorporate site-specific criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g). The Department is additionally making administrative corrections to correct an error in the pH criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d) and to correct and update cross-references and citations, as discussed further below.

Site-specific criteria; N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g)

The SWQS contain water quality criteria applicable to the State's waters. In addition to criteria applicable to waters statewide, the rules include site-specific criteria. Site-specific criteria are alternative criterion established in place of an existing Statewide criterion to protect existing or designated uses for specific waterbodies. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g), site-specific criterion developed through a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) adopted as an amendment to the applicable Areawide Water Quality Management Plan(s) (WQMP) in accordance with the Department's Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15, are incorporated into that subsection of the SWQS through publication of a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register. TMDLs are required under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C.

1

1313(d), to be developed for waterbodies that cannot meet water quality standards after the implementation of technology-based effluent limitations.

The Department is amending N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g) to incorporate site-specific criteria for total phosphorus and chlorophyll- α developed through the TMDL process applicable to specific waterbodies as described below. The existing site-specific criteria for copper is recodified without change as N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g)1, with the two new site-specific criteria for total phosphorus and chlorophyll- α codified at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g)2 and 3 respectively.

Total Phosphorus in the non-tidal Raritan River Basin; N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g)2

On May 24, 2016, the Department adopted amendments to the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County, Mercer County, Monmouth County, Northeast, Upper Delaware and Upper Raritan WQMPs establishing TMDLs to address total phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, pH and total suspended solids impairments in the non-tidal Raritan River Basin (see 46 N.J.R. 1485(c); 48 N.J.R. 1321(a)). Findings incorporated into the TMDL report included the determination that site-specific criteria for total phosphorus were appropriate for the following five waterbodies; Carnegie Lake (Mercer and Middlesex Counties), Gordon Pond (Middlesex County), Grovers Mill Pond (Mercer County), Peddie Lake (Mercer County) and Plainsboro Pond (Middlesex County). The site-specific total phosphorus criterion identified as an annual average concentration for each of these waterbodies in the TMDL report is as follows: Carnegie Lake (Mercer and Middlesex Counties), 0.050 mg/L;, Gordon Pond (Middlesex County), 0.053 mg/L; Grovers Mill Pond (Mercer County), 0.040 mg/L; Peddie Lake (Mercer County), 0.059 mg/L; and Plainsboro Pond (Middlesex County), 0.043 mg/L. To reflect these site-specific criteria developed through the TMDL for the non-tidal Raritan River Basin, N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g) is amended to incorporate at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g) 2 the above identified site-specific criteria

for total phosphorus applicable to these waterbodies. The new paragraph additionally identifies the TMDL through which the site-specific criteria were developed for ease of reference.

Chlorophyll a and Total Phosphorus in the non-tidal Passaic River Basin, N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g)3

On April 24, 2008, the Department adopted amendments to the Northeast, Upper Raritan, Sussex County and Upper Delaware WQMPs establishing TMDLs to address total phosphorus impairments in the non-tidal Passaic River Basin (see 39 N.J.R. 1814(b); 40 N.J.R. 2574(b)). As indicated in the New Jersey Register notices and in the TMDL document summarized in those notices, the TMDL determined that two waterbodies in the area of study, Wanague Reservoir and Dundee Lake, were the critical locations representative of the upstream watershed draining into Wanaque Reservoir and Dundee Lake, where total phosphorus is causing excessive primary productivity. For other waterbodies in the study area, it was determined that the in-stream numeric criterion does not apply because total phosphorus, although exceeding the SWQS numeric criterion, is not rendering the waters unsuitable for the designated uses of those waters. Accordingly, total phosphorus was removed as a basis for impairment for the other waters in the study area. For the Wanaque Reservoir and Dundee Lake, the TMDL determined that chlorophyll- α would be utilized as a response indicator as the best means to ensure protection of the designated uses in these two waterbodies and the streams draining into these two waterbodies, with the TMDL establishing sitespecific criteria for chlorophyll-a of 10 μg/L as a seasonal average in the Wanaque Reservoir and 20 ug/L as a seasonal average in Dundee Lake.

To reflect the site-specific criteria developed through the TMDL for the non-tidal Passaic River Basin, N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g) is amended to incorporate at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g)3 the site-specific criteria for chlorophyll-a applicable in the Wanague Reservoir and Dundee Lake. As

in the TMDL study area need not be subject to the statewide total phosphorus criterion of 0.1 mg/L. Accordingly, those waterbodies that are excepted from the statewide criterion are identified at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g)3i. The new paragraph additionally identifies the TMDL through which the site-specific criteria were developed for ease of reference.

Administrative correction; Saline coastal water classification for pH; N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)5iii

The general surface water quality criteria for freshwater 2 (FW2), saline waters of estuaries (SE) and saline coastal (SC) waters are codified at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d), with the criteria for pH specified at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)5i - iii. For SC waters, the applicable criterion is that natural pH conditions shall prevail.

In 2009, the Department readopted the SWQS with amendments to incorporate new pH criteria applicable to FW2 and SE waters, with the new criteria then codified at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)4i and ii. As part of this rulemaking, the existing criterion applicable to SC waters was recodified from N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)4ii to (d)4iii without any change to the criterion or the classification (see 41 N.J.R. 1565(a), 1587-1588; 41 N.J.R. 4735(a), 4765). However, while there was no change in the pH criteria or classification applicable to SC waters, the SC classification then codified at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)4iii did not continue to appear in the Administrative Code with that column left blank for this subparagraph. Through this Notice of Administrative Change and Correction, the Department is correcting this oversight by including SC under the classification column applicable to pH, currently codified at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)5iii.

Other administrative corrections and changes; N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)4 and N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g)

As indicated above, the SWQS contain water quality criteria that apply statewide to the State's waters unless site-specific water quality criteria have been established for specific waterbodies. The statewide and site-specific criteria are codified in separate subsections of N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14; with statewide criteria specified in N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d) – (f), and site-specific criteria codified at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g). As indicated at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g), the site-specific criteria supersede the statewide criteria contained in (d) – (f) in the specifically identified waterbodies. In order to reflect those substances for which site-specific criteria have been developed that are applicable in place of the statewide standards in certain waters, the Department is adding a footnote applicable to total phosphorus in N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)4ii, and to copper in N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(f). The footnotes provide a cross-reference to N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g) to help ensure that those impacted by the rules are aware of the standard that is applicable to their proposed activity.

References to the Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15

The SWQS rules cross-reference to the Water Quality Management Planning rules in several sections; particularly, the "watershed-specific translators" definition at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.4, general policies at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.5(a)9, the antidegradation policies at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.5(d)1iv, waterway loadings in areawide water quality management plans at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.7 and the surface water quality criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g). In 2016, the Department repealed and replaced the Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) rules with new rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15 (see 47 N.J.R. 2531(a); 48 N.J.R. 2244(a)). The Department is revising the cross-references in the above-mentioned sections of the SWQS to reflect the recodification of the referenced provisions in the current WQMP rules, as discussed below.

The Department is revising the definition of "watershed-specific translators" to update the reference to the applicable provision of the recodified WQMP rules, from N.J.A.C. 7:15-6 to N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.

The Department is revising the policy at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.5(a)9 to update the reference to the applicable provision of the recodified WQMP rules, from N.J.A.C. 7:15-6.2 to N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.2.

The Department is revising the antidegradation policy at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.5(d)1iv to remove reference to the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan, which is no longer part of the WQMP rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15, and replace it with a reference to applicable provisions of the WQMP rules regarding the continuing planning process at N.J.A.C. 7:15-2.2.

The Department is revising provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.7 to remove reference to the process for amendments to areawide water quality management plans under the WQMP rules previously codified at N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4 and replace it with a reference to the applicable provisions of the WQMP rules regarding plan amendment procedures for 303(d) List and TMDLs at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.4.

The Department is revising the provisions regarding site-specific water quality criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g) to remove reference to the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan, which is no longer part of the WQMP rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15, and replace it with a reference to the applicable provisions of the WQMP rules regarding amendment procedures for 303(d) List and TMDLs at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.4.

Full text of the proposal follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

7:9B-1.4 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

. .

"Watershed-specific translators" means numeric translators developed, as part of a total maximum daily load (TMDL) in accordance with N.J.A.C. [7:15-6]**7:15-5**, to demonstrate compliance with the narrative criterion pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)4i to protect existing or designated uses for specified watershed(s).

. .

7:9B-1.5 Statements of policy

- (a) General policies are as follows:
 - 1 8 (No change.)
- 9. The Department uses the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods developed pursuant to N.J.A.C. [7:15-6.2]**7:15-5.2** to evaluate water quality data and identify waters where water quality does not meet the Surface Water Quality Standards in this chapter as required by Section 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act.
- (b) (c) (No change.)
- (d) Antidegradation policies applicable to all surface waters of the State are as follows:

Existing uses shall be maintained and protected. Designated uses shall be maintained
or, as soon as technically and economically feasible, be attained wherever these uses are not
precluded by natural conditions.

i. – iii. (No change.)

iv. Where water quality exceeds levels necessary to support the designated uses, including but not limited to, propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water, that quality shall be maintained and protected unless the Department finds, after full satisfaction of the intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions of the Department's continuing planning process [as set forth in the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan] (see N.J.A.C. 7:15-2.2), which includes, but is not limited to, the NJPDES Regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:14A), that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located.

v. – vii. (No change.)

2. (No change.)

(e) – (h) (No change.)

7:9B-1.7 Waterway loadings in areawide water quality management plans

Any total maximum daily load, wasteload allocation, or load allocation established as an amendment to an areawide water quality management plan under N.J.A.C. [7:15-3.4]**7:15-5.4** shall be consistent with all of the provisions of this subchapter.

7:9B-1.14 Surface water quality criteria

(a) - (c) (No change.)

(d) Surface water quality criteria for FW2, SE, and SC Waters:

N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d) General Surface Water Criteria for FW2, SE and SC Waters:

(Expressed as Maximum concentrations unless otherwise noted)

Substance Criteria Classifications

1. – 3. (No change.)

4. Nutrients

i. (No change.)

ii. Phosphorus (mg/L)*

(1) – (2) (No change.)

5. pH (Standard Units)

ii. Natural pH conditions shall prevail. SC

6. - 13. (No change.)

- * See N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g) for site-specific criteria
- (e) (No change.)
- (f) Surface water criteria for toxic substances are as follows:
 - 1. 6. (No change.)
 - 7. Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Substances: $(\mu g/L)$

. .

Toxic Substance	CAS	Fresh Water (FW2) Criteria			Saline Water (SE & SC) Criteria		
TOXIC SUBStatice	Number	Aquatic		Human Health	Aquatic Human Health		
		Acute	Chronic	Tidillali Healtii	Acute	Chronic	Tidillali Healtii

. . .

Copper*	7440-50-8	(a)	(a)	1,300(h)(T)	4.8(d)(s)	3.1(d)(s)	
---------	-----------	-----	-----	-------------	-----------	-----------	--

. . .

* See N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(g) for site-specific criteria

(g) Site-specific surface water quality criteria listed below apply to specific waterbodies that supersede the State-wide criteria listed at (d) through (f) above. Any site-specific criterion developed through a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) adopted as an amendment to the [Statewide Water Quality Management Plan or the] applicable Areawide Water Quality Management Plan in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-[6.4]5.4 shall be incorporated into this section. The Department shall publish a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register.

1.

Toxic	CAS	Freshwater Criteria		iteria	Saline water Criteria			Waterbodies		
Substance	Number	Aquatic		Aquatic		Human	Aq	uatic	Human	vaterboares
		Acute	Chronic	Health	Acute	Chronic	Health			
Copper	(No chang	(No change in text.)								
(μg/L										
dissolved)										

2.

Substance	Criteria	Duration	Waterbody	Associated HUC14 Name	Associated HUC14 Number
Total	0.050	Annual	Carnegie Lake	Stony Bk (Princeton)	02030105090090
Phosphoru		average	(Mercer &	Millstone R (Rt. 1 to Cranbury Bk)	02030105100140
s (mg/L) ^(A)			Middlesex Counties)	Millstone R (Heathcote Bk to Harrison St.)	02030105110020
	0.053	Annual average	Gordon Pond (Middlesex County)	Devils Brook	02030105100110
	0.040	Annual average	Grovers Mill Pond (Mercer County)	Bear Brook (below Trenton Road)	02030105100130
	0.059	Annual average	Peddie Lake (Mercer County)	Rocky Brook (below Monmouth Co line)	02030105100050
	0.043	Annual average	Plainsboro Pond (Middlesex County)	Cranbury Brook (below NJ Turnpike)	02030105100090

(A) In accordance with the Amendment to the Lower Raritan/Middlesex, Mercer County, Monmouth County, Northeast, Upper Delaware and Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plans; Total Maximum Daily Load Report for the Non-Tidal Raritan River Basin Addressing Total Phosphorus, Dissolved Oxygen, pH and Total Suspended Solids Impairments Watershed Management Areas 8, 9 and 10; adopted May 24, 2016 at 48 N.J.R. 1321(a)). The TMDL Report may be downloaded at https://www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bears/docs/raritan tmdl adopted.pdf.

3.

Substance	Criteria	Duration	Waterbody	Associated HUC14	Associated HUC14
				Name	Number
Chlorophyll α (μg/L) ^(B)	20	Seasonal average (June 15 th to September 1 st)	Dundee Lake	Passaic R Lwr (Dundee Dam to F.L. Ave)	02030103120080
	10	Seasonal average (June 15 th to September 1 st)	Wanaque Lake	Wanaque Reservoir (below Monks gage)	02030103070050

- (B) Chlorophyll *a* is a watershed-specific translator applicable for the lakes identified above where the total phosphorus criterion of 0.1 mg/L does not apply to the upstream waterbodies identified in Table (i) below in accordance with the Amendment to the Northeast, Upper Raritan, Sussex County and Upper Delaware Water Quality Management Plans; Total Maximum Daily Load Report for the Non-Tidal Passaic River Basin Addressing Phosphorus Impairments. Watershed Management Areas 3, 4 and 6; adopted April 24, 2008 at 40 N.J.R. 2574(b)). The TMDL Report may be downloaded at https://www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bears/docs/passaic_tmdl.pdf.
- i. The total phosphorus criterion of 0.1 mg/L at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(d)4ii(1) does not apply to the following waterbodies

Waterbody	Associated HUC14 Name	Associated HUC14
		Number
Passaic River from source to Dundee Lake Dam,	Passaic R Upr (above Osborn Mills)	02030103010010
including all named and unnamed tributaries	Passaic R Upr (Dead R to Osborn Mills)	02030103010070
	Passaic R Upr (Plainfield Rd to Dead R)	02030103010110
	Passaic R Upr (Snyder to Plainfield Rd)	02030103010120
	Passaic R Upr (40d 45m to Snyder Ave)	02030103010130
	Passaic R Upr (Columbia Rd to 40d 45m)	02030103010150
	Passaic R Upr (Hanover RR to Columbia Rd)	02030103010160
	Passaic R Upr (Rockaway to Hanover RR)	02030103010170
	Passaic R Upr (Pine Bk br to Rockaway)	02030103010180
	Passaic R Upr (Pompton R to Pine Bk)	02030103040010
	Passaic R Lwr (pump stn to Pompton R)	02030103120100
	Passaic R Lwr (Goffle Bk to pump stn)	02030103120110
	Passaic R Lwr (Fair Lawn Ave to Goffle)	02030103120070
	Passaic R Lwr (Dundee Dam to F.L. Ave)	02030103120080
High Mountain Brook, entire length	Meadow Brook/High Mountain Brook	02030103120060
Meadow Brook, entire length	Meadow Brook/High Mountain Brook	02030103070060
Wanaque River from Wanaque Reservoir dam	Meadow Brook/High Mountain Brook	02030103070060
to Pequannock River including all named and	. •	
unnamed tributaries	Wanaque R/Posts Bk (below reservoir)	02030103070070
Posts Brook including all named and unnamed	Wanaque R/Posts Bk (below reservoir)	02030103070070
tributaries		
Ramapo River from Pompton Lake to Pompton	Ramapo R (below Crystal Lake bridge) P	02030103100070 P
River including all named and unnamed		
tributaries		
Pompton River from confluence with	Pequannock R (below Macopin gage) P	02030103050080 P
Pequannock River to Passaic River, including all named and unnamed all tributaries	Pompton River	02030103110020
Beaver Brook including all named and	Lincoln Park tribs (Pompton River)	02030103110010
unnamed all tributaries		
Preakness (Singac) Brook, entire length	Preakness Brook / Naachtpunkt Brook	02030103120030
Goffle Brook, entire length	Goffle Brook	02030103120050
Molly Ann Brook, entire length	Molly Ann Brook	02030103120040
Deepavaal Brook, entire length	Deepavaal Brook	02030103120060
Peckman River, entire length	Peckman River (above CG Res trib)	02030103120010
	Peckman River (below CG Res trib)	02030103120020
Canoe Brook, entire length	Canoe Brook	02030103010140
Slough Brook, entire length	Slough Brook	02030103010190
Crooked Brook including all named and	Montville tribs.	02030103030160
unnamed all tributaries		
Rockaway River, from downstream boundary	Rockaway R (Passaic R to Boonton dam)	02030103030170
of Jersey City (Boonton) Reservoir to Passaic		
River including all named and unnamed		
tributaries		

		•
Whippany River from Washington Valley Road	Greystone / Watnong Mtn tribs	02030103020030
to Passaic River including all named and	Whippany R (Lk Pocahontas to Wash Val	02030103020040
unnamed all tributaries	Rd)	
	Whippany R (Malapardis to Lk	02030103020050
	Pocahontas)	
	Whippany R (Rockaway R to Malapardis	02030103020100
	Bk)	
Dead River, entire length	Dead River (above Harrisons Brook)	02030103010080
	Dead River (above Harrisons Brook)	02030103010100
Harrisons Brook, entire length	Harrisons Brook	02030103010090
Primrose Brook, entire length	Primrose Brook	02030103010020
Loantaka Brook, entire length	Loantaka Brook	02030103010040
Great Brook including all named and unnamed	Great Brook (above Green Village Rd)	02030103010030
all tributaries	Great Brook (below Green Village Rd)	02030103010050
Malapardis Brook, entire length	Malapardis Brook	02030103020060
Black Brook, entire length	Black Brook (Hanover)	02030103020070
Black Brook including all named and unnamed	Black Brook (Great Swamp NWR)	02030103010060
all tributaries		
Troy Brook including all named and unnamed	Troy Brook (above Reynolds Ave)	02030103020080
tributaries	Troy Brook (below Reynolds Ave)	02030103020090

D	Dartia	I HUC14
Р	Parua	I HULL

(h) ((No	char	ige.)	
-------	-----	------	-------	--

Date	
	Bruce Friedman
	Director, Division of Water Monitoring and Standards
	Water Resource Management
	Department of Environmental Protection