



Contaminated Site Remediation & Redevelopment



From NJ Department of Environmental Protection
To NJDEP@public.govdelivery.com
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Subject Adoption of the Ground Water Quality Standards N.J.A.C 7:9(C)

Adoption of the Ground Water Quality Standards N.J.A.C 7:9(C)

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has adopted amendments to the Ground Water Quality Standards (GWQS), N.J.A.C. 7:9C. The adoption was published in the February 3, 2025, New Jersey Register at 57 N.J.R. 234(a) (<https://advance.lexis.com>). Pursuant to the Remediation Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:26D-2.2, the GWQS are incorporated by reference as the Remediation Standards for groundwater. Please note that the Soil Leachate Remediation Standards for the Migration to Ground Water per N.J.A.C.7:26D-4.4 are also calculated using the numeric GWQS and will be updated through a Notice of Administrative Change in the near future.

As with previous remediation standard readoptions, a phase-in timeframe outlined in the Remediation Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:26D-1.4(b) is applicable to the updated GWQS. This rule provision allows a responsible party to complete remediation at a site using the former remediation standards provided that the remedial action workplan or remedial action report is approved by the Department or is certified by a licensed site remediation professional within six months of the adoption of updated standards (August 3, 2025) if the standard has not decreased by more than an order of magnitude. More information regarding the phase-in or the Order of Magnitude provisions can be found at <https://dep.nj.gov/srp/guidance/rs/>.

A courtesy copy of the rule adoption is available on the Department's Notice of Rule Adoptions webpage (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/adoptions.html>).

The Environmental Standards Compendium has also been updated. An updated list of all the GWQS can be found at <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/standards/ground-water-standards.pdf>.

Additional information, including an updated Technical Support Document, is available on the Department's GWQS website at <https://dep.nj.gov/wms/bears/ground-water-quality-standards-gwqs/#Rules>.

For questions and clarifications related to the adopted amendments or the GWQS, please email mgwqs@dep.nj.gov or call the Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards at (609) 633-1441.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is dedicated to protecting New Jersey's environment and public health. The agency prioritizes addressing climate change, protecting New Jersey's water, revitalizing its communities and managing and promoting its natural and historic resources.

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