

# Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division

## Notice of Availability and Request for Comment of the 2024 Draft Impaired Waters List, 2024 Assessment Manual, and 2024 Revisions to Appendix A of the Statewide Mercury TMDL and Request for Comment

Public Comment Period Begins: 11/14/2023  
Public Comment Period Ends: 1/12/2024, 11:59 P.M.

### Background

Every two years, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through the Clean Water Act (CWA), to submit a list of impaired waters to EPA for their review and approval. This serves as joint notice of a 60-day formal written comment period for [1] the draft 2024 Impaired Waters List [2] 2024 Assessment Manual and [3] Revisions to Appendix A of the statewide mercury TMDL.

Minnesota's 2024 Draft Impaired Waters List [1], 2024 Assessment Manual: Guidance for Assessing the Quality of Minnesota Surface Waters [2], and revisions to Appendix A of the approved mercury TMDL [3] are located at the Impaired Waters List webpage at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/minnesotas-impaired-waters-list>

### [1] & [2] Draft 2024 Impaired Waters List and supporting documentation

In accordance with the requirements of Section 303(d) of the CWA, the MPCA is required to list waters that do not meet standards and update that list every even-numbered year. In addition to updating this list, the MPCA updates an Assessment Manual that describes state water quality standards, the data collection and quality requirements, and assessment methods used when developing the Impaired Waters List. Both documents are found on the MPCA's Impaired Waters List webpage and are open for public comment **November 14, 2023 – January 12, 2024**:

- 2024 Draft Impaired Waters List (wq-iw1-81)
- 2024 Assessment Manual: Guidance for Assessing the Quality of Minnesota Surface Waters for Determination of Impairment 305(b) Report and 303(d) List (wq-iw1-04m)

While the entirety of both documents are open for comment, MPCA particularly requests comments on areas that have changed since the last public notice of the Impaired Waters List.

- Updates to the Impaired Waters List are (A) new 2024 impairments (indicated by "Year added to List"), and (B) Delistings and Changes and Corrections (each with their own section of the List).
- Significant update to the Guidance Manual is Appendix H regarding beneficial use designations of Waters Used for Production of Wild Rice

### [3] The revisions to Appendix A of the approved statewide mercury TMDL

Every two years the MPCA updates Appendix A of the EPA-approved statewide mercury total maximum daily load (TMDL). Appendix A, included in its own section of the Impaired Waters List, contains the list of lakes and river segments covered by the TMDL. New waters added to Appendix A are indicated by “Year added to List.”

### **Submit written comments**

This notice is being published today for the purpose of providing opportunity for public comment on [1] Minnesota’s 2024 Draft Impaired Waters List [2] 2024 Assessment Manual: Guidance for Assessing the Quality of Minnesota Surface Waters, and [3] the revisions to Appendix A to the statewide mercury TMDL.

Written comments must:

- Indicate what the comment is regarding – either [1], [2] and/or [3], and
- Be received by SmartComments or postmarked to the agency contact listed below by **11:59 P.M. CST January 12, 2024.**

### **Attend a regionally or specially-focused public meeting**

The MPCA will hold five public meetings in December to discuss the content of the Impaired Waters List including the new impairments, delistings and changes proposed for 2024. All meetings will be virtual. Online meeting information can be found at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/minnesotas-impaired-waters-list>, or email the agency contact to request additional information for any of the meetings.

**Statewide Assessments**, focused conversation on statewide assessments of PFOS in fish tissue and statewide assessments of sulfate in waters used for production of wild rice

- Friday, December 8, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
  - <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1611597830>
  - Meeting ID: 161 159 7830
- Tuesday, December 12, 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
  - <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1618866549>
  - Meeting ID: 161 886 6549

**Central regional meeting**, including Mississippi River – Twin Cities watershed & Minnesota River – Yellow Medicine River watershed

- Monday December 4, 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
  - <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1610032817>
  - Meeting ID: 161 003 2817

**Greater MN regional meeting**, including Bois de Sioux, Mustinka River watersheds, Crow Wing, and Big Fork River watersheds

- Tuesday, December 5, 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
  - <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1618521103>
  - Meeting ID: 161 852 1103

**Southeast regional meeting**, including Mississippi River – Winona and Mississippi River - La Crescent watershed

- Thursday, December 7, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
  - <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1615063795>
  - Meeting ID: 161 506 3795

**Agency contact person**

Written comments and requests for more information should be directed to:

Leya Charles

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division – Water Assessment Section

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Toll free: 1-800-657-3864

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TTY users may call the MPCA teletypewriter at (651) 282-5332 or 1-800-657-3864.

Dated: November 14, 2023