



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

TENNESSEE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by:

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Division of Water Resources

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This water quality management plan, mentioned in Sections 205(j), 208, and 303 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and referenced in Tennessee's Continuing Planning Process (CPP) Document, describes the annual activities of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Water Resources' (DWR) clean water program. The requirements for Water Quality Management Plans are described in 40 C.F.R. § 130.6. Tennessee's plan will be updated annually and as needed to reflect ongoing activities.

1. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reports.

Tennessee's commitment to prepare TMDL reports are outlined in the workplans the DWR develops for EPA as a requirement for receiving section 106 funding for implementation of water pollution control programs. The development of the TMDL reports follow the [watershed approach schedule](#).

In Federal Fiscal Year 2019, TDEC committed to prepare TMDL reports for these Group 5 Watersheds:

- Nolichucky River (06010108)
- North Fork Obion River (08010202)
- South Fork Obion River (08010203)

In Federal Fiscal Year 2020, TDEC has committed to prepare TMDL reports for these Group 5 and Group 1 Watersheds:

- Group 5
 - Lower French Broad River (06010107)
- Group 1
 - Conasauga River (03150101)
 - Harpeth River (05130204)
 - Emory River (06010208)
 - Ocoee River (06020003)

2. Effluent Limitations.

TDEC uses the [watershed approach schedule](#) for issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit re-issuance. In calendar year 2020, TDEC will review permit renewal applications for permits in these Group 5 watersheds:

- Cordell Hull Lake 05130106
- Cheatham Lake 05130202
- Lake Barkley 05130205
- Upper French Broad River 06010105

- Pigeon River 06010106
- Lower French Broad River 06010107
- Nolichucky River 06010108
- Sequatchie River 06020004
- Gunter'sville Lake 06030001
- Mississippi River 08010100
- North Fork Obion River 08010202
- South Fork Obion River 08010203

3. Municipal and Industrial Waste Treatment Facilities.

Tennessee's State Revolving Fund (SRF) program accepts applications for loans and grants based on a priority ranking system described in [RULE 0400-46-01](#) and set by an EPA-Tennessee agreement. For fiscal year 2019, Tennessee's Priority Ranking list was published in July of 2019. SRF project proposals have a timeline which includes a start and end date and a facilities plan which addresses community opportunities from improvements in water quality. In addition, for new or modified NPDES discharges, [Tennessee State Revolving Fund Program rules](#) require a preliminary engineering report that provides schedules for start-up, final inspection, and commissioning of treatment works.

4. Nonpoint Source Management and Control.

The section 319 program for managing nonpoint sources was transferred to the [Tennessee Department of Agriculture \(TDA\)](#) by executive order in 1995. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture awards grants to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) to abate pollution. The BMPs are Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)-approved practices. The EPA-approved [Nonpoint Source plan](#), developed by the TDA Water Resources Program, is updated every five years and addresses economic, institutional, and technical factors as part of an ongoing effort to evaluate and modify BMPs to achieve water quality goals. The current plan is approved through September 30, 2019. The nonpoint source program exchanges information with TDEC and NRCS, participates in NRCS National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) planning, and participates in bi-monthly planning calls with TDEC and NRCS.

5. Management Agencies.

TDEC/DWR has established and utilizes good working relationships with the following state and federal agencies:

- US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
- Tennessee Department of Agriculture

- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

6. Implementation Measures.

Most implementation measures are covered through specific programs within TDEC/DWR. Financing and time needed to carry out water quality improvements are reported through many DWR documents, including [SRF project proposals and Preliminary Environmental Reviews](#). Social and economic impacts are addressed in new and expanded [permit](#) applications, consistent with Tennessee's antidegradation policy.

7. Dredge or Fill Program.

Section 404 of the CWA establishes a program to regulate dredge and fill activities. Individual permits are reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which evaluates the environmental criteria promulgated by EPA. In Tennessee, TDEC/DWR uses a section 401 Water Quality certification process, through its own regulatory authority through the Natural Resources Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit (ARAP) program to regulate dredge or fill permits. ARAPs serve as both state permits and section 401 certifications.

8. Basin Plans.

There is no new relationship to applicable basin plans developed under section 209 of the Act in 2019.

9. Ground Water.

Tennessee Rules establish the [Ground Water Protection Program](#) and the [Drinking Water Supply](#) program, both of which establish guidelines for ground water pollution controls. All public water systems that use groundwater as a source of water are required to develop a Wellhead Protection Plan that is reviewed and approved by DWR. The plan should include the wellhead area delineation, an inventory of all potential contaminant sources, photographs, hazardous chemical use and storage, spill response notification, and contingency planning and the steps that will be taken to protect the area around the wellhead.

10. In addition, DWR also addresses the following activities:

- Land Disposal. Disposal of pollutants by land and subsurface excavation in order to protect ground and surface water quality is permitted by TDEC through State Operating Permits. The [Biosolids State Operating Permit](#) program provides oversight to the land application of biosolids as described in [Rule 0400-40-15](#).
- Agriculture and Silviculture. Agricultural controls are based on the time-honored practices of incentive-based control measures (BMPs). Silvicultural practices are addressed by 1) BMPs and 2) a TDEC-Division of Forestry Memorandum of Agreement for problem resolution. TDEC has a limited scope stop work authority for silvicultural activities that cause pollution as a result of a lack of proper BMPs.
- Mines. Since 1977, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has primacy for issuing coal mining permits in Tennessee. In 2018, the state legislature voted to request OSM to return primacy to Tennessee. TDEC regulates non-coal mining through its Knoxville based mining unit. TDEC also regulates runoff from all mining activity in Tennessee.
- Construction. TDEC issues coverage under both individual and general construction stormwater permits for all construction activities over one acre, or smaller than one acre if it is part of a larger common plan of development. Both types of permits are valid for five years. The current General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities expires on September 30, 2021.
- Urban stormwater. The [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System \(MS4\) program](#) issues permits for discharges of stormwater associated with urban areas. The MS4 permits are issued every five years. Large MS4s, including Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation are covered by individual permits. Small MS4s are covered under a general permit that will expire in 2021.