



Water Quality Standards
Stakeholder Meeting #1

April 19, 2022, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Microsoft Teams

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introduction.....Andrew Edwards
2. 2022 Triennial Review UpdateAndrew Edwards
 - A. Discussion began related to the 2022 Triennial Review timeline. The following timeline was noted:
 - (1) Notice of Drafting February 25, 2022
 - (2) Notice of Proposed Regulation potentially by August 2022
 - (3) NPR followed by additional stakeholder meeting potentially in September 2022
 - (4) Notice of Final Regulation potentially by November 2022
 - (5) NFR to Legislature potentially by January 2023
 - B. All of the stakeholder comments that had already been submitted were highlighted. Those comments include:
 - (1) Delay the Human Health Criteria update
 - (2) Reclassify the waters of Sewee Bay and a portion of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from Shellfish Harvesting Water to Outstanding Resource Water
 - (3) Delay the Narrative Flow Standards revisions
3. Questions and CommentsStakeholders

- A. Following the 2022 Triennial Review Update discussion was opened to stakeholders for questions and comments. The following topics were discussed:
- (1) Public Comments - A question was raised about submitting comments even though the public comment period for the Notice of Drafting had ended. Clarification was provided that the Department would receive comments given at the Stakeholder Meetings and include those comments in the public record. Stakeholders were encouraged to submit any comments to the Water Quality Standards Coordinator in writing.
 - (2) Narrative Flow Standards - Questions regarding narrative stream flow standards were raised. A response was given to explain the Department is considering revising the narrative stream flow standards. Discussion followed regarding EPA's recommendations for narrative and numeric flow standards including how other states have recently approached flow standards. A follow up question was raised to clarify if the flow standards were specifically related to low flow or high flow conditions. A response was given that the narrative flow standards focus was to protect designated uses against low flow conditions.
 - (3) Numeric Nutrient Criteria - Questions were asked regarding the development status of numeric nutrient criteria for lakes, streams, and estuaries. A response was provided, explaining that development of numeric nutrient criteria is ongoing, though it will likely not be ready for adoption into the State's water quality standards during the 2022 Triennial Review. Questions regarding the most recent version of the Department's adoption plan for numeric nutrient criteria were raised. An explanation was given that the nutrient plan captures the Department's goal to adopt numeric nutrient criteria for all waters of the state as well as the steps necessary to achieve that goal.
 - (4) Reclassifications - A specific question was raised related to Regulation 61-69 to inquire if about for surface water reclassifications related to the recent boundary changes at Congaree National Park. It was suggested that all the waters of Running Creek are now within the park boundary and as such should be reclassified to Outstanding Resource Waters.

- (5) Nonstandard Conditions - A question was raised regarding the rise of nonstandard conditions and how the water quality standards are implemented in the light of extreme weather events and climate change. A response was given that the existing water quality standards account for some variation of natural conditions to the state's waters, but do not specifically address climate change.