

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

May 15, 2009

## Re: Request for Water Quality Data for the 2010 List of Impaired Waters – 303(d) List

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division (Division) is asking for your assistance in preparing for the 2010 List of Impaired Waters. This effort requires compilation of recent water quality parameters including biological, physical, chemical, and other related data that has been collected throughout the river basins. This compilation of data from streams, lakes, and reservoirs will be the basis of the Division's recommendations to the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) for the development of the 2010 303(d) List of Impaired Waters.

The schedule for the review of WQCC Regulation No. 93 Section 303(d) List Water-Quality-Limited Segments Requiring TMDLS and Regulation No. 94 Colorado's Monitoring and Evaluation List and subsequent rulemaking is as follows:

Rulemaking Notice and Proposal	October 15, 2009*
Rulemaking Evidence Due	December 4, 2009*
Responsive Pre-Hearing Statement	January 5, 2010*
Responsive Pre-Hearing Statement Rebuttal	January 27, 2010*
Rulemaking Hearing	February 11, 2010

\* dates are approximate

The Division recognizes that other parties may have water quality data that would be appropriate to include in the data analyses for the triennial review process. In addition, there are numerous stream segments that the Division was unable to sample and third party data may fill these data gaps. A list of the Division's monitoring sites is available upon request.

Therefore, the Division is requesting water quality data from any sampling events that have been conducted in the basins during the last ten years. There is no need to submit data that have previously been submitted to the Environmental Data Unit. However, data that have been previously submitted to other areas within the Division should be resubmitted in order to ensure that it is used in this assessment process. The data will assist in determining ambient water quality across the state during this period. The data should follow the credible evidence guidelines used in the compilation of previous 303(d) lists. The guidelines are:

1. Information to describe the methods used for sample collection and field or laboratory analysis.
2. Sufficient information and data to indicate that the measurement represents existing conditions.
3. In general, the Division assesses data from the most recent five year period of record. Older data may be used on a case-by-case basis if the Division believes conditions have not changed and this older data is still representative or the older data is used with newer data to determine trends.
4. Physical and biological assessments performed by an observer who has training and experience in performing such observations, and recorded observations adequately account for seasonal variation.

Along with the site location (latitude/longitude, descriptive information, and/or a map) and date and time of the sampling event, any of the following parameters are of particular interest to the Division, although any other parameters or analytical techniques may be helpful and are welcomed:

Parameters of Interest

- Flow Rate
- pH
- Water Temperature
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Specific Conductivity
- Arsenic (dissolved and total recoverable)
- Cadmium (dissolved)
- Chromium III and VI
- Copper (dissolved)
- Iron (dissolved and total recoverable)
- Lead (dissolved)
- Manganese (dissolved)
- Mercury (total)
- Nickel (dissolved)
- Selenium (dissolved)
- Silver (dissolved)
- Zinc (dissolved)
- Ammonia (un-ionized and total with accompanying pH and temperature)

- Hardness (total as CaCO<sub>3</sub>)
- Nitrite
- Nitrate
- Sulfate
- *E. Coli* (per 100 ml)
- Aquatic life data (fish, macroinvertebrates, algae, macrophytes)
- Aquatic life habitat data
- Fish tissue residue data
- Organic chemicals and/or pesticides

Additional Parameters of Interest for Lakes & Reservoirs

- Depth Profiles
- Temperature Profiles
- Dissolved Oxygen Profiles
- Secchi depth
- Chlorophyll *a*
- Total Phosphorous

The water quality data should be provided in electronic format, including the associated meta-data, detection limits and information explaining that the samples were collected and analyzed according to established quality assurance procedures. Data can be submitted in one of two formats, STORET compatible format or the “flat” format. An example of the acceptable data formats has been attached with this data request letter. An agency contact person and telephone number should also be provided. **Data must be submitted to any of the Division staff below.** All information collected by the Division will be available for public review and use after the hearing Pre-Hearing Statements are submitted. Data must be received by **August 1, 2009**. Data received after this date will not be reviewed and incorporated into the Division’s proposals for the 303(d) rule making hearing in 2010.

In order to submit data, for more information or any questions please contact Robert Hillegas (303-692-3137, [robert.hillegas@state.co.us](mailto:robert.hillegas@state.co.us)), John Hranac (303-692-3586, [john.hranac@state.co.us](mailto:john.hranac@state.co.us)), Aimee Konowal (303-692-3530, [aimee.konowal@state.co.us](mailto:aimee.konowal@state.co.us)), Christy Pickens (303-692-3584, [christy.pickens@state.co.us](mailto:christy.pickens@state.co.us)) or Sarah Wheeler (303-692-3436, [sarah.wheeler@state.co.us](mailto:sarah.wheeler@state.co.us) ).

The Division uses email distribution lists from the WQCC Office. Please contact the WQCC office if you would like to be removed, or know of any individuals or organizations that should be added.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. Beley  
Environmental Data Unit Manager  
Water Quality Control Division