

# The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program in Illinois

Watershed Management Section

Bureau of Water

**Illinois Environmental  
Protection Agency**



# Illinois EPA TMDL Program

- Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report
- What is a TMDL
- The TMDL Process

## *Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report*

- Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, Clean Water Act of 1977 and subsequent amendments.
- Prepare and submit a report which shall include a description of the water quality of all waters in the State.
- Illinois publishes this report every two years

## Conti...

# (Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report)

- Fulfills requirement of Sections 305(b) –assessment of waterbodies, and 303(d) – listing of impaired waters of the Federal Clean Water Act
- Serves as the primary assessment of State W.Q. Report - for rivers, streams, lakes
- Based on the 305(b) Report, impaired waters are placed on the 303(d) List

# Surface Water Monitoring

- Monitoring networks
  - Rivers and streams
  - Inland lakes
- Ambient monitoring networks
- Intensive river basin surveys
- Other sources and programs
  - Water samples are collected and sent to the lab for chemical analysis.
  - Physical and biological data are also collected and analyzed



# Designated Uses and WQ Standards

- Designated Uses include – Aquatic Life, Primary Contact, Aesthetic Quality, Public Water Supply Use, Fish Consumption
- Water Quality Standards
  - Numeric values (0.05 mg/L Phosphorus)
  - Narrative statements (water shall be free of excessive algae)
  - Standards determined by IPCB

# Water Body Assessments

- Selected methodologies and criteria are used to assess whether or not a waterbody's designated uses are being supported.
  - Each lake or stream segment is assessed
    - Fully Supporting (good),
    - Not Supporting (impaired)
      - Causes and Sources are then assigned for each designated use listed as impaired

# Section 303(d) Requires States to.....

- Identify waters which are not meeting applicable water quality standards/designated uses
- Establish priority ranking for those waters taking into account the severity of pollution and the uses to be made of such waters
- Target waters for the development of TMDLs



# 303(d) List Prioritization



- Priority based on:
  - Public and Food Processing Water Supply Use
  - Primary Contact Recreation\Swimming
  - Total number of impairments per watershed (All other uses)
- Watersheds then ranked into High, Medium, and Low Priority

# 303(d) List

- Draft “*Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and 303(d) List*” available for public review
- Public Notice for 30 days comment period
- Responsiveness Summary prepared and submitted to USEPA
- 303(d) List must be approved by USEPA

# What does it mean to be on the 303(d) List?

- Development of TMDLs and Implementation Plans--Strategy to meet W.Q. Standards
- High Priority watersheds scheduled for early TMDL development
- All waters scheduled within 8 to 13 year timeframe
- No additional loadings are to be permitted until the waterbody is delisted (Full Support)

# Watersheds

- Waterbodies are grouped into watersheds
  - Based on drainage patterns and topography
- A watershed is all of the area of a landscape that drains into a particular waterbody, such as a stream or a lake.
- A watershed can be as small as an area that drains into a small tributary, to as large as the Mississippi River Basin.

# What is a TMDL?

- “TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards and support designated uses.”

# TMDL PROCESS IN ILLINOIS

- Consultants are hired thru competitive bidding process to develop TMDLs
- Public meetings held in the watersheds\ Virtually throughout the TMDL development process to inform stakeholders on the TMDL developments.



# What's Next?

- Comments and suggestions received during the comment period will be reviewed and considered.
- A Final Stage One TMDL Report will be completed and posted online.
- Stage 3 modeling and Implementation Plan development will begin.
  - Public Meeting will be held for draft Stage 3 Report



# IEPA Needs Your Help



- We need information on –
  - Water quality data
  - Possible pollutant sources
  - Potential stakeholders
  - Studies, reports, documents
  - Projects that have improved water quality





# For more information on Illinois TMDLs

- Illinois EPA TMDL web site:  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/tmdls/Pages/reports.aspx>
- Email: [Abel Haile@Illinois.gov](mailto:Abel.Haile@Illinois.gov)
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