

2016 Water Quality Standards Revisions Public Hearings and Comment Period

In 2014, ANR completed the first major upgrade to the Standards in many years, by upgrading over 100 individual water quality criteria, fixing previously flawed E. coli criteria, and introducing the regions first nutrient criteria for phosphorus for inland lakes and rivers/streams.

These new Standards were adopted in October, 2014, and approved by USEPA in September, 2015. With these important technical changes complete, the Division is now engaging a second rulemaking process to address structural components of the Standards, to improve Vermont's ability to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore surface waters.

These proposed changes are intended to address two longstanding issues. The first issue regards the long-term challenges of implementing the "Water Management Types" component of the Standards. The second issue capitalizes on an opportunity presented by Act 64 of 2015, to revise the Antidegradation Policy within the Standards to obtain consistency with the Federal approach to antidegradation, while developing a companion Antidegradation Rule.

Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted until **9/7/2016**, and may be addressed to [Neil Kamman](#) at the Watershed Management Division.

Public Hearings will be held:

- August 22nd, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. The Pavilion Auditorium, Montpelier, VT
- August 22nd, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Offices, Canal St., Winooski, VT.
- August 24th, Time 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Arlington VT Town Office, Arlington, VT.
- August 31st, 1:00pm to 3:00 pm, Londonderry Town Offices, Londonderry, VT