

Site Specific Water Quality Criteria In Pennsylvania

(LAST REVISED ON 11/04/2015)

According to [25 Pa Code Section 93.8d](#), the Department is required to maintain publicly available lists of site-specific criteria.

§ 93.8d. Development of site-specific water quality criteria.

(a) The Department will consider a request for site-specific criteria when one or more of the following apply:

(1) There exist site-specific biological or chemical conditions of receiving waters which differ from conditions upon which the water quality criteria were based.

(2) More stringent criteria are needed for a parameter listed in § 93.7 (relating to specific water quality criteria) to protect more sensitive, intervening uses.

(3) There exists a need for a site-specific criterion for a substance not listed in § 93.8c, Table 5 (relating to water quality criteria for toxic substances).

(b) The request for site-specific criteria must include the results of scientific studies for the purpose of:

(1) Defining the areal boundaries for application of the site-specific criteria which will include the potentially affected wastewater dischargers identified by the Department, through various means, including, but not limited to, the total maximum daily load (TMDL) process described in Chapter 96 (relating to water quality standards implementation) or biological assessments.

(2) Developing site-specific criteria which protect the surface water's existing and designated uses.

(c) Scientific studies shall be performed in accordance with the procedures and guidance in the Water Quality Standards Handbook (EPA 1994), as amended and updated, including: "Guidance on the Determination and Use of Water-Effect Ratios for Metals" (February 1994); and the "Methodology for Deriving Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health" (2000). Other guidance approved by the Department, which is based on other EPA-approved or scientifically defensible methodologies, may be used.

(d) Prior to conducting studies specified in subsections (b) and (c), a proposed plan of study shall be submitted to the Department for review, consideration and approval.

(e) Signed copies of all reports including toxicity test data shall be submitted to the Department within 60 days of completion of the tests.

(f) If the Department determines that site-specific criteria are appropriate in accordance with subsection (a), the Department will do the following:

(1) Publish the site-specific criterion in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, along with other special conditions under § 92a.82(b)(3) (relating to public notice of permit applications and draft permits) and provide for public participation and public hearing in accordance with §§ 92a.81, 92a.82, 92a.83 and 92a.85.

(2) Maintain publicly available lists of site-specific criteria.

(3) Submit the methodologies used for site-specific criteria development to the EPA's Regional Administrator for review and approval, within 30 days of Department's final action.

(4) Prepare a recommendation to the EQB in the form of proposed rulemaking, incorporating that criterion for the water body segment.

(g) If the Department determines that new Statewide criteria or modifications to Statewide criteria are appropriate, the Department will prepare a recommendation to the EQB in the form of proposed rulemaking, incorporating the criteria into this chapter. The new criteria and changes to the criteria will become effective following adoption by the EQB as final rulemaking and publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

(h) A person challenging a Department action under this section shall have the burden of proof to demonstrate that the Department's action does not meet the requirements of this section.

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Site-Specific Water Quality Criteria Development Methods may include:

Criteria Recalc – Criteria Recalculation:

- Appendix B: the Recalculation Procedure. Interim Guidance on Determination and Use of Water-Effect Ratios for Metals. U.S. EPA. Feb. 1994. (EPA-823-B-94-001)

WER – Water-Effect Ratio:

- Interim Guidance on Determination and Use of Water-Effect Ratios for Metals. U.S. EPA. Feb. 1994. (EPA-823-B-94-001)
- Streamlined Water-Effect Ratio Procedure for Discharges of Copper. U.S. EPA. March 2001. (EPA-822-R-01-005)

BLM – Biotic Ligand Model: (for Freshwater Copper Only)

- On-line Model Resources & Application available thru HydroQual's website (www.hydroqual.com/wr_blm.html)

Human Health Criteria Method:

- Methodology for Deriving Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health (2000). U.S. EPA. October 2000. (EPA-822-B-00-004)

Aquatic Life Criteria Method:

- Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses. U.S. EPA. 1985. (PB85-227049)

Great Lakes WQ Criteria Methods:

- [Appendix A to Part 132](#)—Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative Methodologies for Development of Aquatic Life Criteria and Values
- [Appendix C to Part 132](#)—Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative Methodologies for Development of Human Health Criteria and Values

Other guidance approved by the Department, which is based on other EPA-approved or scientifically defensible methodologies may be used.

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The following table represents this publicly available list for site-specific criteria that have been developed, and that are being implemented by the Department. This table will be updated as needed, whenever new site-specific criteria are developed, or any existing site-specific criteria are revised and updated.

<i>DEP Region</i>						
Discharge Facility	NPDES	Waterbody	Segment / Location	Parameter	Methods(s)	WER Value
<i>Southeast (Norristown)</i>						
Upper Gwynedd Twp STP	PA0023256	Wissahickon Cr	Basin	Copper	Criteria Recalc	CCC: 0.17 mg/l CMC: 0.27 mg/l
			Lat. 40° 11' 23" Long. 75° 17' 01"	Copper	WER	WER: 4.89
Bucks Co. Water & Sewer Auth. - Green St STPs	PA0021181	Country Club Cr	Basin	Copper	Criteria Recalc	CCC= $e(0.8545 \times \ln(H) - 1.016)$ CMC = $e(0.9422 \times \ln(H) - 1.015)$ for H = 186 ppm CCC= 31.48 ppb CMC = 49.83 ppb
Upper Moreland- Hatboro Joint Sewer Authority	PA0025976	Pennypack Cr	Basin	Copper	Criteria Recalc	WQBEL: 0.1369
			Lat. 40° 09' 31" Long. 75° 06' 21"	Copper	WER	WER: 5.7
Abington Twp STP	PA0026867	Sandy Run	Lat. 40° 18' 54" Long. 75° 08' 22"	Copper	WER	WER: 3.7
Ambler Borough	PA0026603	Wissahickon Cr	Lat. 40° 18' 01" Long. 75° 07' 22"	Copper	WER	WER: 5.7
				Aluminum	WER	WER: 2.05
Downingtown Area Regional Authority	PA0026531	E Br Brandywine Cr	Lat. 39° 59' 44" Long. 75° 42' 16"	Copper	WER	WER: 5.1
Bucks County Water & Sewer Auth - Harvey Avenue STP	PA0021172	Cooks Run	Basin	Copper	Criteria Recalc	CCC: 148.83 ug/l CMC: 235.84 ug/l
			Lat. 40° 18' 55" Long. 75° 08' 20"	Copper	WER	WER: 5.7
Media Borough	PA0024121	Ridley Cr	Lat. 39° 54' 53" Long. 75° 23' 55"	Copper	WER	WER: 4.6
Horsham Water & Sewer Authority - Park Creek STP	PA0051985	Park Cr	Lat. 40° 13' 00" Long. 75° 09' 30"	Copper	WER	WER: 2.8
Penridge Wastewater Treatment Authority	PA0020460	E Br Perkiomen Cr	Lat. 40° 21' 15" Long. 75° 18' 48"	Copper	WER	WER: 3.9

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Discharge Facility	NPDES	Waterbody	Segment / Location	Parameter	Methods(s)	WER Value
Warminster Twp Municipal Authority	PA0026166	Little Neshaminy Cr	Lat. 40° 13' 51" Long. 75° 06' 35"	Copper	WER	WER: 5.6
West Chester Borough	PA0026018	Taylor Run	Lat. 39° 58' 03" Long. 75° 37' 42"	Copper	WER	WER: 5.7
West Goshen Twp	PA0028584	Chester Cr	Lat. 39° 56' 44" Long. 75° 34' 35"	Copper	WER	WER: 5.7
Upper Dublin WWTP	PA0029441	Pine Run (UNT to Sandy Run Cr)	Lat. 40° 08' 3.8" Long. 75° 11' 34.1"	Copper	WER (Total)	WER: 2.47
Souderton Borough STP	PA0021857	Skippack Creek	Lat. 40° 17' 40.13" Long. 75° 19' 55.92"	Copper	WER	WER: 2.55
<i>Northeast (Wilkes-Barre)</i>						
Upper Saucon Sewage Treatment Authority	PA0053147-A1	Saucon Creek	Lat. 40° 33' 03" Long. 75° 23' 40"	Copper	WER	WER: 2.53
<i>Southcentral (Harrisburg)</i>						
South Londonderry Twp - Campbelltown East STP, Lebanon County	PA0087700	Killinger Creek, (Quittapahilla Creek basin)	Lat. 40° 17' 18.84" Long. 76° 33' 43.25"	Copper	WER	WER: 3.8 total WER: 3.46 diss
Lewisberry Area Joint Authority	PA0081922	Bennett Run (08458)	Lat. 40° 07' 56" Long. 76° 51' 42"	Copper	WER	WER: 1.215
		West Branch Perkiomen Creek	Basin	1,4 Dioxane	EPA 2000 HH Method	HH: 0.35 ug/L
<i>Northcentral (Williamsport)</i>						
Wellsboro Municipal Authority Borough of Wellsboro, Tioga County	PA0021687	Marsh Creek	Lat. 41° 45' 24" Long. 77° 17' 55"	Copper	WER	WER: 4.4
OSRAM Sylvania, Inc.	PA0008915	Charleston Creek	Lat. 41° 44' 56" Long. 77° 17' 09"	Copper	WER (Total)	WER: 2.7
<i>Northwest (Meadville)</i>						
Municipal Authority of St Marys STP	PA0026387	Elk Creek	Lat. 41° 25' 17.8" Long. 78° 34' 43.6"	Copper	WER	WER: 5.8
				Zinc	WER	WER: 1.235
Great Erie Industrial Development Corporation (GEIDC), Lord Corporation	Act II Clean-up	Cascade Creek	Basin	Acetone – CAS No. 00067641	GLI WQ Agreement	6250 ug/L
				Chloroform –	GLI WQ Agreement	6.9 ug/L

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				CAS No. 00067663		
				Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene – CAS No. 00156592	GLI WQ Agreement (Note: WQS also in Table 5)	12 ug/L
				Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene – CAS No. 00156605	GLI WQ Agreement	150 ug/L
				Tetrachloroethylene – CAS No. 00127184	GLI WQ Agreement	14.7 ug/L
				Trichloroethylene – CAS No. 00079016	GLI WQ Agreement	N/A
				Vinyl Chloride – CAS 00075014	GLI WQ Agreement	0.048 ug/L
<i>Southwest (Pittsburgh)</i>						
McCandless Twp Sanitary Authority Longvue No. 2 STP	PA0028193	UNT to Girty's Run	Lat. 40° 33' 01" Long. 80° 01' 40"	Copper	WER	WER: 1.7