

Executive Summary
No Change Recommendations for
Three Petitions for Stream Redesignation Evaluation

As part of its continuing water quality management program and ongoing review of water quality standards, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends that the Environmental Quality Board (Board) accept the following No Change recommendations for three Petitions for Stream Redesignation Evaluation.

Purpose of the Recommendations

Section 303(c)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires states to periodically review and revise, as necessary, water quality standards. These reports include waterbodies that were considered for redesignation as a result of petitions submitted and accepted by the Board. Stream evaluations were conducted by DEP to determine the appropriate designated use of the candidate waterbodies. The streams in these reports were all evaluated in response to three petitions as follows:

Stream	County	Petitioner
Pickering Creek	Chester	Green Valleys Association
Dwarfs Kill	Pike	Dwarfs Kill Watershed Association
Little Sewickley Creek	Allegheny	Duquesne University

Summary of the Recommendations

DEP staff evaluated the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics and other information on these waterbodies to determine the appropriateness of the current and requested designations using applicable regulatory criteria and definitions. In reviewing whether waterbodies qualify as high quality (HQ) or exceptional value (EV) waters, DEP considers the criteria in § 93.4b (relating to qualifying as HQ or EV Waters). Based on these data and appropriate regulatory criteria, DEP developed these recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Affected Parties

DEP gave notice, in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and on DEP's website, that an evaluation will be conducted on all or portions of the streams listed below to determine the proper Aquatic Life Use or Special Protection designations in this Commonwealth's Water Quality Standards. Persons who have technical data concerning the water quality, instream habitat or biological conditions of these stream sections were encouraged to make it available to DEP for consideration in the assessment. Potentially affected municipalities were also notified by letter of the stream evaluations and asked to provide any readily available data.

The petitioners, affected municipalities, County Planning Commissions, County Conservation Districts and other State Agencies were later notified of the availability of draft evaluation reports for their review and comment.

The draft stream evaluation reports were also made available on DEP's website and were offered for a 30-day public review and comment opportunity. The comment period was

extended for an additional 30 days for both the Pickering Creek and the Dwarfs Kill reports based on requests from the petitioners. All data and comments received in response to these notifications were considered in the determination of DEP's recommendations.

DEP recommends that the Board approve these no change recommendations for petitions for stream redesignation evaluation and subsequent publication of decision in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Summary Table: No Change Recommendations

Stream Name	County	Zone Description†	List	Current DU*	Requested DU*	Recommended DU*
Pickering Creek	Chester	Basin, Source to Philadelphia Suburban Water Company Dam	F	HQ-TSF, MF	EV	HQ-TSF, MF
Dwarfs Kill	Pike	Basin	C	HQ-CWF, MF	EV	HQ-CWF, MF
Little Sewickley Creek	Allegheny	Basin	W	HQ-TSF	EV	HQ-TSF

*WWF = warm water fishes

*CWF = cold water fishes

*TSF = trout stocking

*HQ = high quality

*EV = exceptional value

*MF = migratory fishes