

Final-Form Rulemaking Class A Stream Redesignations (25 Pa. Code Chapter 93)

Bureau of Clean Water
3/10/2026



Purpose

This final-form rulemaking redesignates surface waters that have been classified as Class A Wild Trout Streams by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC).

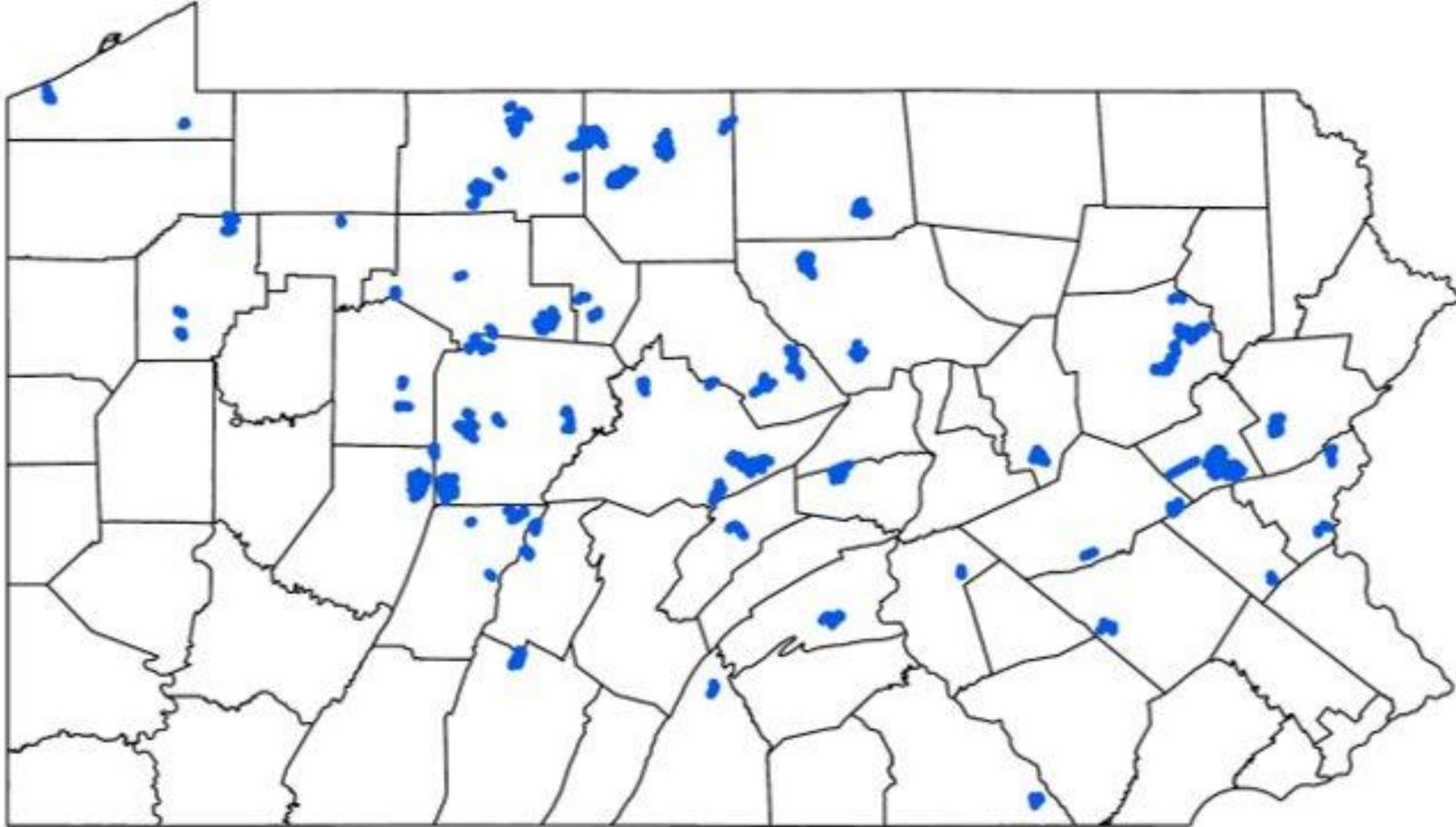
§ 93.4b. Qualifying as High Quality or Exceptional Value Waters.

(a)(2)(ii) *Class A wild trout stream qualifier.* The surface water has been designated a Class A wild trout stream by the [PFBC] following public notice and comment.



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98 stream segments across 34 counties





Also included in this Final Rule

- Correction of an error for the Haldeman Quarries entry in Drainage List O
- Correction of the protected water use for the Mill Creek Basin in Drainage List P to High Quality – Cold Water Fishes (HQ-CWF)
- Correction of the protected water use for the Logan Run Basin in Drainage List Q to HQ-CWF
- Reformatting of Drainage Lists C, D, F, H, I, K, M, N, O, S, X, and Z



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Opportunities for Public Participation Prior to Rulemaking

- PFBC published notice and requested comments on the Class A classification of these streams
- DEP notice of intent to assess the streams
- DEP notice and minimum 30-day comment period on draft evaluation report



Rulemaking Notifications

Four notification letters via USPS

- Prior to EQB meeting – proposed
- Beginning of public comment period on the proposed rulemaking
- Prior to EQB meeting – final
- Final rule sent to IRRC/Committees

eNotice notifications at similar times

- When the rulemaking is on the agenda for an EQB meeting
- At the beginning of public comment period
- When the EQB has proposed or adopted the rulemaking



Public Comment

- EQB adopted the proposed regulation on September 10, 2024
- Published in *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on February 1, 2025 (55 Pa.B. 914)
 - One virtual public hearing held on March 13, 2025
 - 45-day public comment period ended on March 18, 2025
- Comments received from seven individual commentators, including the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC), USEPA Region 3, and PFBC. Comments were generally supportive.
- DEP considered all public comments received on the proposed rulemaking in preparing the final rulemaking
 - The comments received, and DEP's responses, are summarized in the Comment and Response Document

Changes from Proposed to Final Rulemaking

- Changes to the limits of the stream zones

Stream Name	Initial Designated Use	Zone Recommended by DEP at Proposed Rulemaking for HQ-CWF	Zone Recommended by DEP at Final Rulemaking for HQ-CWF	Description of Change
Bradley Run	CWF, MF	Basin, UNT 26562 to Mouth	Basin	Recommendation now includes the entire basin.
Penns Creek	CWF, MF	Basin, Penns Cave Spring to Pine Creek (excluding UNT 18429, UNT 18423, Sinking Creek, UNT 18375, UNT 18367 and UNT 18360)	Basin, Penns Cave Spring to Pine Creek (excluding Sinking Creek)	Recommendation now includes additional UNTs.
Saucon Creek	CWF, MF	UNT 03382 to Saucon Creek	Basin , Source to UNT 03378	Recommendation now includes additional UNTs.

- Additional amendments to ensure consistency of entries, consolidate entries, and clarify or correct stream names, zone descriptions and county listings



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Advisory Committee

DEP presented this final-form rulemaking to the Agricultural Advisory Board on August 28, 2025.



Implementation

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

- Requires effluent limitations that are protective of the Designated Use (§ 92a.12)
- Designated Use changes should have no impact on existing discharges
- New or expanding discharges may be subject to more stringent treatment requirements to meet Designated Uses and Existing Uses



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Affected Parties

Out of a statewide total of >17,000 NPDES permits, DEP identified only 166 facilities with active NPDES permits for discharges to the stream segments being redesignated in this final-form rulemaking.



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Recommendation

DEP recommends the EQB adopt this Class A Stream Redesignation final-form rulemaking.



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Questions?

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The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).