

WHAT IS A 303(D) LIST?

te Clean Water Act calls on each state to list its polluted water bodies and to set priorities for their up. Waterbodies qualify for these "impaired waters when they are too polluted or otherwise degraded to out their designated and existing uses (like drinking r, swimming, recreation, and fishing). The impaired rs list is also called the 303(d) list, named after the on in the Clean Water Act that requires it. The states uit their lists to Congress every two years. States must plete TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) for each 1 parameter for each waterbody on the list.

The new federal TMDL regulations call for states to nit 303(d) lists every four years. Until the new lations are enforced, states must complete them every years.

There is a thirty day public comment period on each list.

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CONTACTS & MORE INFORMATION

Federal Contact for TMDLs in Georgia: Robert F. McGhee, USEPA, Region 4 Sam Nunn Federal Center 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303 (404) 562-9900

State Contact for TMDLs in Georgia:

Alan Hallum, EPD Water Protection Division
4220 International Parkway
Suite 101

Atlanta, Georgia 30354
(404) 675-1751

Grassroots Contact for TMDLs in Georgia: Beth Fraser, Community Watershed Project 264 N. Jackson Street Athens, Georgia 30605 (706) 546-9008

Websites of interest:

EPA's TMDL page: www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl
National Wildlife Federation's Saving Our Watersheds: A field guide
to watershed restoration using TMDLs:
www.nwf.org/Northwest/watersheds
Georgia Legal Watch/Community Watershed Project:
www.georgialegalwatch.org
The Clean Water Network: www.cwn.org

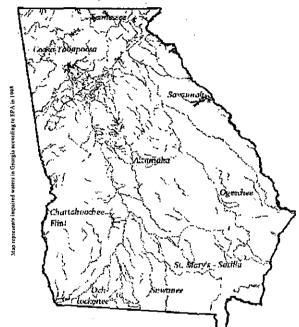
COMMUNITY WATERSHED PROJECT

The Community Watershed Project is a program of Georgia Legal Watch and works to engage communities in the TMDL process.

Contacts:

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Beth Fraser – Community Coordinator
Doug Atkinson – GIS Coordinator
Barry Sulkin – Technical Review Coordinator
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Kes Roberts – Staff Attorney

A series of primers.... What Every Citizen Should Know



Georgia's 303(d) List



264 North Jackson Street • Athens, Georgia 30601 Voice: (706) 546-9008 • Fax: (706) 546-6481 www.georgialegalwatch.org According to the EPD's 1996-1997 Water Quality Report, waters are placed on the "partially-supporting" list if: (1) the chemical data (dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature) indicated an exceedance of a water quality standard in 11% - 25% of the samples collected or (2) if a fish consumption guideline was in place for the waterbody. The partially supporting list also includes stream reaches based on predicted concentrations of metals at low streamflow, in excess of state standards, as opposed to actual measurements on a

stream sample.

Waters are placed on the "notsupporting" list if (1) the chemical data (dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature) indicated an exceedence of a water quality standard in greater than 25% of

quality standard in greater than 25% of the samples collected, (2) if a fish consumption ban was in place for the waterbody, or (3) if acute or chronic toxicity tests documented or predicted toxicity at low streamflow in a municipal or industrial discharge to the waterbody.

All waters on the list must receive TMDLs, irrespective of whether the waterbody is classified as "partially" or "not fully" supporting. We have asked the GA-EPD that the two sections be combined to reduce confusion.

The 303(d) or "Impaired Waters" list is divided into 14 sections - one for each watershed.
Headings are used to divide the list into sections and are arranged alphabetically throughout the entire list.

River & creek names are listed alphabetically for each section.

The numbers listed beneath each name refer to the data source relied upon to confirm impairment. A complete list of data sources used for the Year 2000 list can be found in this primer. (The reader should keep in mind that regulations specifically say that states must use "all readily available data and information.")

Location descriptions are provided so that the reader can determine which segment of the water is being listed. For years, these descriptions have failed to indicate precisely where these waters are located. Even state and federal level agency personnel have a difficult time

locating exactly where an impaired segment is located.

Water Use Classification (or designated use) is the crux of the 303(d) list. There are water quality standards attached to each designated use, and when a water is found not to meet these criteria (see number 1) the water is listed. All of Georgia's waters are currently classified as having one or more of the following uses: either fishing, recreation, drinking water, wild river, scenic river, or coastal fishing.

This column identifies the water quality parameter that is violated. A list of code definitions can be found within this primer. A TMDL must be developed for each parameter listed in this column. Keep an eye on whether subsequent 303(d)

lists retain all of the parameters listed. There is a common trend of "de-listing" parameters between listing cycles. If this h

to a water in your community, consid requesting the data that justifies this delisting.

This column indicates the cause of the "criterion violated". Again, the code definitions are listed in this primer. No one knows a community better than the people who live there! notice discrepancies, falsehoods, or mistakes, let your state agency know

"Actions to alleviate" are generally broad statements, regarding what EPD intends to do to clean up the water. Citizens should ask for more cwhen reviewing the 303(d) list.

The number of impaired river miles. This is where the notion of "segments" comes in. Portions of waterbodys can be listed. When map can see that listed segments sometim in the middle of the length of waterw and sometimes near the source; som near the mouth. Finding exactly wher segments are delineated is a challeng everyone and a great source of debat Knowing your watershed and pressur agencies to be specific is a role that can play in the listing process.

An X in this column indicates that the water is in the 305(b) report. This report is submitted to Congress every other year and is a narrative of water quality conditions in Georgic group should obtain a copy of the late version of the report. To do so, call 404-675-1751 and ask for "the latest version of the State's 305(b) report".

This is where things get a little interes GA-EPD has decided that if there is "action to alleviate" for a particular s

of water, then the listing can be on the 305(b) and not the 303(d) - removing it from the TMDL line-up. This is a great soul debate. If there is a 3 in this column, the segment has already recieved a TMDL and will be removed once water quality standards are met. The N/A indicates that the water is unable to meet water quality standards due to "natural" cause. Yet another source of great debate. Citizens can ask that these classifications be clarified.

The priority column, for now, is not relevant in Georgia's TMDL process. The court order requires that TMDLs be

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One page of the 1998 303(d) list.