
22. REPORTING

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Data from WDNR monitoring activities are analyzed, interpreted, and summarized to develop reports for EPA and the public. In 2005, the Water Division began a multi-program Assessment Methodology Team designed to update how we identify use designations and how we assess waters for Clean Water Act reporting as well as general management. Below are some of the most common reporting mechanisms used across programs.

Assessment Methodology Effort:

The Assessment Methodology (AM) Team is a cross-program team comprised of staff from the Bureau of Fisheries Management, Integrated Science Services, and Watershed Management. The Assessment Methodology Team will be sponsored by the Bureau of Watershed Management and will oversee the development of decision protocols, documentation standards, and strategies to meet future (2008 and beyond) reporting requirements. This information will be used to manage waters and to determine which of the five federally-required integrated reporting (“IR”) categories a water body or segment belongs and will address Clean Water Act 305(b), 303(d) waters. Methodologies recommended by the AM Team will be consistent with sound science and statistics and with water quality standards contained in Ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code.

Integrated 303(d)/305(b) Report: Water Quality Report to Congress & List of Impaired Waters

WDNR is preparing to move from separate 303(d) and 305(b) reports to a single, integrated document as requested by EPA. The descriptions below describe the separate reports that have been used in the past and store much of the information provided by WDNR’s monitoring programs to date.

305(b) Report: Water Quality Report to Congress

Section 305(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires that states report their assessment of the quality of waters to the Congress. These biennial reports are referred to as "305(b) Reports" and provide a summary of water programs and resource condition on a statewide basis. The 305(b) report structure and content is currently under evaluation by an internal WDNR team and will be modified for the next iteration to provide more integrated reporting between 303(d) and 305(b) reports. 305(b) reports are available on the web at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/watersummary/Waterqualityassessment.html> or in hard copy at public libraries and WDNR offices.

303(d) Report: List of Impaired Waters

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires each state to periodically submit to EPA for approval a list of impaired waters. Impaired waters are those that are not meeting the state's water quality standards. The most recent 303(d) list for Wisconsin was approved by the EPA on September 3, 2004. In the future, an integrated 303(d)/305(b) Report will be prepared.

The WDNR is currently in the process of updating the listing methodology used to place waters on the 303(d) list. It is expected that this will be completed and adopted into state code in summer of 2007 and that the results of that effort will lead to updates to this *Strategy*. The 303(d) list is available on the web at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/303d.html>.

USGS Reports

- *Water-Resources Investigations in Wisconsin* is a biennial report produced by the USGS. It describes a variety of projects done throughout the state supporting all aspects of water resource management and research. Summaries of several joint WDNR-USGS projects are included in this document. The full report, as well as project descriptions organized by team, are available online at <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/projects/index.html>.
- *A Summary of Cooperative Water Resource Investigations* focuses specifically on joint USGS-WDNR water research programs. It is produced biennially through USGS and WDNR, and describes these agencies joint water research programs. This report is not available online, and distribution is limited.
- Annual *Water Resources Data: Wisconsin* report. This is one of a series of annual reports (one per state) that documents hydrologic data gathered from USGS surface and groundwater data collection networks. Each state's data reports are available online at <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/wdr/>.
- The annual *Water Quality and Lake Stage Data for Wisconsin Lakes* publication focuses specifically on lake data.
- A list of USGS reports prepared for individual projects (since 1948) can be found at: http://wi.water.usgs.gov/pubs/publist_0404.pdf and a subset of these reports (primarily since 1994; continually updated) are available on-line at: <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/pubs/publist0604.html>