2020 WisCALM Public Comment Period

UPDATE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
JANUARY 9, 2018
WisCALM Background

- **WisCALM**: Wisconsin Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology
  - Describes standardized procedures WDNR uses to assess surface water quality data against criteria.
  - Describes how/why a water would be determined impaired or healthy.
- Updated every 2 years.
- Every two years Wisconsin assesses the water quality of its surface waters as required by sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. §130.7(b)).
Major 2020 WisCALM Updates

- Chlorophyll-a terminology change.
- Aligned language with current state Water Monitoring Strategy.
- Updated listing categories to match other EPA Region 5 states.
- Added more description of general assessments.
- Removed language on vestigial mercury listings.
- Added Quick-Link section.
- Updated References section.
Chlorophyll-a Language Update

- Change phrase “nuisance algal blooms” to “moderate algae levels”.
- Based on External Advisory Committee for assessment standards rule updates.
Chlorophyll-a Language Update

- “Half of lake users perceive some impairment to their enjoyment & recreation due to algae, but over 90% would still swim.

- The number of lake users who would not swim skyrockets as chlorophyll-a rises above 20 ug/L.
Match State Monitoring Strategy

- Removed language on “Tiered” monitoring. Updated Figure 1.

**Figure 1.** Wisconsin’s integrated reporting process.

- Monitoring
  - Baseline
  - Prescribed
  - Local Needs

- Assessments
  - General Condition
  - Impairment

- Reporting
  - Water Quality Report to Congress CWA 305(b)
  - Impaired Waters List CWA 303(d)
Updating Listing Categories

- Category 4 no longer considered part of the Impaired Waters List (aligns with other EPA R5 states).

- Newly created "Restoration Waters" List for all waters with TMDL or alternative plan.

- Newly created "Healthy Waters" List.

1. Attains all uses.

2. Attains at least one use; no use impaired.

3. Insufficient information for an attainment decision.

4. An impairment exists and a cleanup plan (TMDL or alt.) has been approved by the EPA.

5. An impairment exists but a cleanup plan (TMDL or alt.) is still needed.
Add water chemistry metrics as way to do general assessments (previously only described as biology).
Mercury Listing Language

- Removed language referring to listings made before the 2001 statewide mercury advisory.

- EPA originally wanted WDNR to sample all waters that had been listed for mercury before delisting even when sample levels used for listing were below the new statewide criteria.

- Worked with EPA in Fall 2018 to approve proposal to remove these vestigial 1998 listings (total of 90).
Quick-Link Section

- Links to federal guidance, state administrative code, monitoring plans, topic pages, resources and tools, and other sources.

- Added to give easier access to these documents.
Minor 2020 WisCALM Updates

- Terminology changes:
  - Fish and Aquatic Life Use (FAL) → Aquatic Life Use (AL).
  - Impairment “Water Quality Use Restrictions” is now “High Phosphorus Levels”.

- Clarifying Language:
  - More information on assessment station selection (section 4.2).
  - Updated lake dissolved oxygen assessment language (section 4.5).
  - Added Wildlife Use sections 4.8 and 5.5.
  - Further description of TMDL Status (High, Medium, Low) determination (section 8.1).
Minor 2020 WisCALM Updates

- New Tables & Figures:
  - Assessment cycle date ranges (Table 1).
  - New List definitions (Figure 3, Tables 2 & 3).
  - Station selection in database, for DNR staff (Figures 7 & 14).
  - Outline of what parameter assessments result in certain impairments (Table 22).
  - Examples of listing decision process based on parameter attainment and use (Figures 16 & 17).
  - Example of pollutant-level and waterbody-level category determination (Table 24).

- Other Changes:
  - Added Acronyms & Terminology to Quick-Reference Section.
Public Comment Period

- A 30-day public comment period on draft WisCALM changes.

- **January 22nd to March 1st, 2019.**

- Submit comments:
  - Via Email: dnrimpairedwaters@wisconsin.gov
  - Via Mail to Ashley Beranek, DNR, Bureau of Water Quality, 101 S. Webster St. WQ/3 Madison, WI 53707.

- WDNR will respond to comments with finalization of guidance.