

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, COMMENT PERIOD

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) will hold a public hearing August 17, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. (Central Time) to receive comments on the proposed 2018 Impaired Waterbodies List. The hearing will be held in the Commission Room at ADEQ Headquarters at 5301 Northshore Drive in North Little Rock. ADEQ will accept written comments on the proposal through September 10, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. (Central Time).

ADEQ submits a proposed integrated water-quality report including a 2018 list every two years under requirements of Section 305 (b) and 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act. ADEQ assesses water-quality-monitoring data from numerous locations around Arkansas based upon a comprehensive assessment methodology to determine which waters are not meeting their water-quality standards and/or designated uses as listed in the Arkansas Water Quality Standards (Regulation 2 of the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission).

Water-quality data from stream and lake sampling sites were considered during the development of the proposed 2018 list. The evaluated water-quality data were collected by multiple entities including ADEQ; other state, federal, and local government agencies; and private entities in Arkansas and from surrounding states.

Copies of the 2018 list, related documents, and a web-based, interactive map are available on ADEQ's website at:

<https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/planning/integrated/303d/list.aspx> and copies of the 2018 list can be obtained by contacting the ADEQ Office of Water Quality at 501-682-0663 or WaterbodyComments@adeq.state.ar.us.

Copies of the proposed 2018 list are also available for public inspection during normal business hours at the ADEQ headquarters building at 5301 Northshore Drive in North Little Rock. In addition, copies of the 2018 list are available for public review during normal business hours at ADEQ information depositories located in public libraries at Arkadelphia, Batesville, Blytheville, Camden, Clinton, Crossett, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Harrison, Helena, Hope, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock (main branch), Magnolia, Mena, Monticello, Mountain Home, Pocahontas, Russellville, Searcy, Stuttgart, Texarkana, and West Memphis; in campus libraries at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the University of Central Arkansas at Conway; and in the Arkansas State Library, 900 W. Capitol, Suite 100, Little Rock.

At the hearing, Office of Water Quality staff will provide a short presentation discussing the proposed 2018 list prior to accepting formal public comments. A period of time will also be set aside for informal discussion and questions and answers before the formal public comment period begins.

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, a decision may be made to postpone the hearing. If the hearing is postponed and rescheduled, a new legal notice will be published to announce the details of the new hearing date and comment period.

Oral and written comments on the proposed 2018 list will be accepted at the public hearing, but written statements are preferred in the interest of accuracy. In addition, written comments sent by mail or email will be considered if received no later than September 10, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. (Central Time). Written comments should be sent to: Water Quality Planning Branch, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Quality, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118. Email comments should be sent to WaterbodyComments@adeq.state.ar.us.

Proposed revisions to the 2018 list may be incorporated into the 2018 Arkansas Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report after approval by the ADEQ Director and the Region 6 Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Dated this Thursday, July 26, 2018

Caleb J. Osborne
Associate Director, Office of Water Quality
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality