



February 17, 2017

**Re: 2018 303(d) and 305(b) Water Quality Call for Data**

Both state and federal law require the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to maintain and regularly update Montana's List of "threatened and impaired waters." We are beginning work on the 2018 update. Our monitoring teams collect data during field seasons to update the water quality assessments of a number of waterbodies. We realize that many other organizations, both within and outside of state government, also collect water quality data and information, which could be very useful for updating the list.

**What kind of information is needed?** Our staff seeks physical, chemical, and biological data relating to the current condition of streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in the state acquired since 2010. Data and information relating to the use and condition of riparian areas may also be relevant. Older data is likely to be of less value as it may not reflect current conditions. Specifically, Montana law requires DEQ to base its water quality assessments on data, which is "sufficient and credible" to allow for a determination of whether state water quality standards are being met.

**How to get information to the Water Quality Planning Bureau?** Electronic data may be uploaded to Montana EQuIS Water Quality Exchange (MT-eWQX) by following the instructions contained in this document [MT-eWQX Guidance Manual - Call for Data](#). We also would appreciate being told of other sources of information (e.g., reports or water quality-related documents) which you believe could assist us.

Please be aware that the **deadline for submittal** of water quality data and other materials has been set for **May 26, 2017**. All data and materials received on or before May 26, 2017 will be considered for review in developing the 2018 305(b)/303(d) Water Quality Integrated Report. Materials submitted after that date may not be used in the 2018 Report, but will be considered for subsequent list updates.

Please address any questions to Pamela Arroues, Integrated Report Coordinator, at [parroues@mt.gov](mailto:parroues@mt.gov), or phone (406) 444-6763. Any relevant data or information that you can provide will be appreciated.

If you would like to be included in future notifications please join the WQP Data Management Data Providers listserv at <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/ListServe/AllListsStep1.asp>.

Sincerely,  
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