



MEMO

1520 E 6th Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena MT 59620-0901
(406) 444-6697 • FAX: (406) 444-3836

January 7, 2016

TO: Members of the Water Pollution Control Advisory Council

FROM: DEQ Water Quality Standards Section

MEETING DATE: January 8, 2016

SUBJECT: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

BACKGROUND:

Montana Code Annotated 75-5-301 requires that Montana's water quality standards be reviewed and, if appropriate, revised every three years. Montana's water quality standards consist of the Administrative Rules of Montana Title 17, Chapter 30, Subchapters 5, 6, 7 and 10. These subchapters comprise rules regarding mixing zones, water use classifications, water quality criteria, nondegradation of water quality, and ground water quality standards. Montana's numeric water quality criteria are referred to throughout the water quality standards rules, and are housed in DEQ Circular 7.

The last triennial review ended in October of 2012; therefore, it is necessary to initiate another triennial review.

ACTION REQUIRED BY COUNCIL:

DEQ is seeking a recommendation from WPCAC to request that the Board of Environmental Review open Montana's water quality standards for public comment as part of a required triennial review of the standards.

For questions, please contact Amy Steinmetz, DEQ – Metcalf Building P.O Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620; 406.444.0371; asteinmetz@mt.gov