



April 24, 2026

Dear Interested Party,

The Montana Water Quality Act and Federal Clean Water Act require the State of Montana at least every three years to review and, as appropriate, modify adopted standards of water quality. In 2026, the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) is opening a public comment period and holding a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing Montana's water quality standards. Montana's water quality standards include the Administrative Rules of Montana Title 17, Chapter 30, subchapters 5 (mixing zones), 6 (water quality standards), 7 (nondegradation), and 10 (groundwater protection), and Department Circular DEQ-7.

Beginning on April 24, 2026, the Department is soliciting comments from all interested persons regarding potential revision to any aspect of Montana's water quality standards. Comments should identify the water quality standard at issue, any suggested revision to the standard, and the basis for the suggested revision, including technical information.

On June 10, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., the Department will hold a public hearing in the Wilderness Room on the second floor at 2401 Colonial Drive, Helena, Montana, to hear comments on water quality standards. You may also join the hearing virtually via Zoom. More information is available on the department's website, including instructions for attending the public hearing remotely via Zoom, at <https://deq.mt.gov/public/water-public>. The Department will make reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public hearing or need an alternative accessible format for associated materials. If you require accommodation, please advise the Department of the nature of the accommodation that you need no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2026, by contacting Katie Makarowski at Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901; phone (406) 444-3639; email [kmkarowski@mt.gov](mailto:kmkarowski@mt.gov).

You are invited to submit data, views, or arguments concerning water quality standards either orally or in writing at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted by mail to Katie Makarowski at the Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana, 59620-0901, or e-mailed to [deqwqtriennialreview@mt.gov](mailto:deqwqtriennialreview@mt.gov), and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2026. To be guaranteed consideration, mailed comments must be postmarked on or before that date.

We thank you for your interest in Montana's water quality standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Makarowski", written in a cursive style.

Katie Makarowski  
Standards and Modeling Section Supervisor  
(406) 444-3639  
[kmkarowski@mt.gov](mailto:kmkarowski@mt.gov)