

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL
SURFACE WATER DIVISION
P.O. Box 2261
Jackson, Mississippi 39225
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PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality (“Commission”) is considering the proposed amendments to the Regulations for Water Quality Criteria for Intrastate, Interstate, and Coastal Waters (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, Ch. 2) pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. § 49-17-19 (Rev. 2012), Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law, Mississippi Code Ann. § 25-43-1.101 et seq. (Rev. 2010), Mississippi Code Ann. § 49-2-9 (1), and Mississippi Code 49-17-34 (Rev. 2012). The Commission now seeks public comment on the proposed regulations and announces a public hearing regarding the proposed modifications to these regulations.

I. Substance of the Proposed Regulations

In accordance with Section 303(c)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act, States are required to review their surface water quality standards at least once every three years to ensure consistency with federal requirements and to address any public concerns. A public notice and a public hearing are required as part of this process. The public hearing is held at the close of the review period. The Commission now solicits public comment on the proposed modifications made to the state’s water quality standards document titled Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality Regulations for Water Quality Criteria for Intrastate, Interstate, and Coastal Waters (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, Ch. 2).

These regulations apply to state’s surface waters such as rivers, lakes, streams, and estuaries. These regulations do not directly apply to or affect the quality of drinking water or the standards applied to drinking water by the Mississippi State Department of Health.

A copy of the water quality standards with proposed modifications may be obtained by contacting Patrick Felch at (601) 961-5275 or by email at pfelch@mdeq.ms.gov. The water quality standards with proposed modifications are also available for review at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality office at 515 East Amite Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Information on the proposed modifications to the water quality standards along with an electronic version of document showing modifications are available on the MDEQ website at <http://www.mdeq.ms.gov/water/surface-water/watershed-management/water-quality-standards>.

II. Manner by Which the Public May Comment

Any interested party may submit comments regarding these proposed modifications by submitting the comments in writing by mail to Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Attn: Kim Caviness, P.O. Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225 or by email to Kim Caviness at kcaviness@mdeq.ms.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2021. Members of the public may also present verbal comments at the public hearing described below.

III. Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held regarding the proposed regulations on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Due to issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the public hearing will be held telephonically. The public is invited to participate, to ask questions of the staff, to gain information regarding the proposed modifications to the regulations, and/or to present verbal comments on the proposed regulations. You must register in advance to attend the public hearing by sending an email to kcaviness@mdeq.ms.gov or calling (601) 961-5062 and leaving a voice mail, indicating that you plan to attend the hearing, including your contact information (name, telephone number, and email address). A response will be sent to you prior to the hearing, which contains the call-in telephone number and details needed to access the hearing.

Regardless of how comments are received, equal consideration will be given to all comments prior to final adoption of these modifications by the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality and submission to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

IV. Additional Information

For additional information, please contact Kim Caviness, P.E., BCEE, of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality at (601) 961-5390 or at kcaviness@mdeq.ms.gov.