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**Department of Environmental Quality**

**Office of the Secretary**

**Legal Affairs Division**

**Updates to the Water Quality Management Plan**

**Volume 3: Permitting Guidance Document for Implementing Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards**

Under the authority of the Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2071 et seq., the secretary gives notice that procedures have been initiated to amend Volume 3 of the Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). (2405Pot1)

Volume 3 is a component of the WQMP, as required by Sections 208 and 303(3) of the federal Clean Water Act, and establishes procedures to effectively incorporate water quality standards into wastewater discharge permits. Volume 3 of the WQMP provides a consistent approach to the application of narrative and numerical water quality standards, derivation of water quality based effluent limitations, and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Federal regulations, 40 CFR 130.6(e) requires that Water Quality Management Plans be updated as needed. Freshwater ammonia criteria are being proposed in Rule WQ114. In accordance federal and state regulations (40 C.F.R. § 130.5 and 130.6(c)(2); LAC 33:IX.1119.B), updates to Volume 3 of the WQMP are being made to establish a process for developing freshwater ammonia effluent limitations and schedules of compliance. Other minor updates to Volume 3 of the WQMP are being proposed: (1) Revisions to critical flow and harmonic mean flow determinations and (2) Revisions to Appendix G, clarifying the applicablity of TMDLs. Amendments to Volume of the WQMP were proposed published for public review and comment on August 20, 2023 (2308Pot2). Public comments were received. Further amendments and revisions have been made in response to the public comments, specifically the inclusion of Appendix H, Louisiana Mussel Survey Performance Based Approach and Survey Methodology.

You may access the complete draft revision of Volume 3 by entering Document ID number 14198991 into the search engine in LDEQ’s Electronic Document Management System (EDMS): <https://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/edmsv2/advanced-search>. Only the proposed changes (additions and deletions) to Volume 3 are open for public comment at this time. Additions are indicated by redline and deletions are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.

Written comments regarding the proposed revision must be received no later than July 2, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., and should be sent to Christy Clark, Office of the Environmental Services, Water Permits Division, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313 or by E-mail to Christy.Clark@la.gov.

Aurelia S. Giacometto

Secretary