

POTPOURRI

Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Services Water Permits Division

Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Comments to Initiate Triennial Review of Louisiana Water Quality Standards

In accordance with section 303(c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality hereby gives notice of its intent to initiate a triennial review of Louisiana's Water Quality Standards (WQS), which can be found in LAC 33:IX.Chapter 11. This review is being conducted to evaluate the need to update or revise the WQS in order to remain consistent with state and federal law. The review will also ensure that Louisiana's WQS continue to reflect the best available science and support sound water quality management policies to improve and protect the water resources of the state. This is a preliminary step in the review and potential rulemaking process. Official rulemaking, if necessary, will be initiated after review and consideration of the comments received. (1601Pot1)

With this notice, the department is soliciting comments from interested parties, including members of the public, on any aspect of the WQS that the department should consider for potential revision. Persons commenting should reference this potpourri notice, 1601Pot1. A public hearing will be held on March 30, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. in the Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock Conference Room, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and submit oral comments on any aspect of the WQS they would like the department to consider. Interested persons may also submit written comments through postal mail or e-mail. Comments should include the name of the commenter and the organization which they represent, if appropriate. Comments are due no later than 4:30 p.m., March 30, 2016. Written comments may be sent through postal mail to Sandy Stephens, Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Water Permits Division, P.O. Box 4314, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314. Electronic comments may be submitted via e-mail to wq.standards@la.gov.

Written responses to the comments will not be provided. Progress on the triennial review will be communicated to the public through the Water Permits Division, Water Quality Standards and Assessment webpage, (<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/WaterQualityStandardsAssessment.aspx>). Any proposed revisions to the WQS resulting from the review will be subject to the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

Herman Robinson
General Counsel