



**NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

***Surface Water Quality Bureau***

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November 26, 2013

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT  
Draft Changes to the Water Quality Standards for the  
Animas River in San Juan County, New Mexico**

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) is inviting the public to comment on the draft Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) supporting changes to surface water quality standards for the Animas River in San Juan County, in northwestern New Mexico. The amendments would change the aquatic life use for the New Mexico portion of the Animas River.

As required by the Clean Water Act, New Mexico has developed water quality standards for its surface waters. The water quality standards group surface waters into hydrologically similar segments which are assigned designated uses and associated criteria to protect the uses.

The current designated aquatic life uses for the Animas River are marginal coldwater and warmwater from the San Juan River upstream to Estes Arroyo in Aztec (lower reach) and coldwater from Estes Arroyo upstream to the Southern Ute tribe boundary at the Colorado border (upper reach). In accordance with 20.6.4.15 NMAC, the Department has conducted a UAA that demonstrates the attainable aquatic life uses are coolwater for the lower reach. The appropriate designated use for the upper reach is coolwater with a segment-specific maximum temperature criterion of 27°C.

A public meeting will be held to present and discuss the draft UAA. The meeting will be held in Farmington, New Mexico on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Farmington Civic Center, 200 West Arrington Avenue.

The comment period on the draft UAA opens November 18, 2013 and closes December 20, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. MST. Comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted by mail to Deborah Sarabia at NMED-SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; or by e-mail: [deborah.sarabia@state.nm.us](mailto:deborah.sarabia@state.nm.us).

The draft UAA is available on the SWQB website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards/>