
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), states establish water quality standards, which are submitted and subject to approval of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Under Section 303(d)(1) of the CWA, states are required to develop a list of waters within a state that are impaired and establish a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for each pollutant. A TMDL is defined as “*a written plan and analysis established to ensure that a waterbody will attain and maintain water quality standards including consideration of existing pollutant loads and reasonably foreseeable increases in pollutant loads*” (USEPA 1999). A TMDL documents the amount of a pollutant a waterbody can assimilate without violating a state’s water quality standards. It also allocates that load capacity to known point sources and nonpoint sources at a given flow. TMDLs are defined in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 130 as the sum of the individual Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) for point sources and Load Allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources and natural background conditions, and includes a margin of safety (MOS). This document provides TMDLs for assessment units within the Río Puerco watershed that are impaired based on a comparison of measured concentrations and conditions with water quality criteria and numeric translators for narrative standards.

This document is divided into several sections. Section 2.0 provides background information on the location and history of the Río Puerco watershed, provides applicable water quality standards for the assessment units addressed in this document, and briefly discusses the intensive water quality survey conducted in the Río Puerco watershed in 2004. Section 3.0 presents the TMDL developed for sedimentation/siltation (previously referred to as stream bottom deposits) in the Río Puerco watershed. Section 4.0 presents the rationale for delisting of other Río Puerco Consent Decree impairments. Pursuant to Section 106(e)(1) of the Federal CWA, Section 5.0 provides a monitoring plan in which methods, systems, and procedures for data collection and analysis are discussed. Section 6.0 discusses implementation of TMDLs (phase two) and the relationship between TMDLs and Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRAS). Section 7.0 discusses assurance, Section 8.0 public participation in the TMDL process, and Section 9.0 provides references.