

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU**

**Surface Water Quality Bureau Seeks Water Quality Data and Input on the  
Assessment Protocol Used to Determine Impairment Status for Development of the  
2012-2014 State of New Mexico CWA §303(d)/ §305(b) Integrated Report**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) is soliciting surface water quality data and input on assessment methodologies to develop the *2012-2014 State of New Mexico CWA §303(d)/ §305(b) Integrated Report*. Specifically, the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states, territories, and authorized tribes to develop a list of waterbodies where water quality does not currently meet applicable surface water quality standards. Category 5 waters in the Integrated List constitute the *List of Impaired Waterbodies* (also known as the “303(d) List”). This list is used to establish priorities for water quality improvements, including development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) water quality planning documents that establish goals for impaired waters.

SWQB is specifically soliciting chemical, physical, biological, bacteriological, and toxicological data for all surface waters of the state that can be compared to water quality standards published in 20.6.4 NMAC. All data submitted must be accompanied by the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) protocols under which the data were collected. All data submissions from outside sources will be reviewed by the SWQB QA Officer to ensure the suitability of the QA/QC procedures under which the data were collected. Specifically, submitted documentation associated with the dataset will be reviewed to determine: (1) if there is documentation of QA/QC procedures that, at a minimum, meet the QA/QC requirements described in the SWQB’s most recent quality assurance project plan (QAPP); and (2) if there is reasonable evidence or assurance that these procedures were followed.

SWQB is also soliciting comment on the draft *Procedures for Assessing Water Quality Standards Attainment for the State of New Mexico CWA §303(d)/§305(b) Integrated Report* (also known as the “Assessment Protocol”). The Assessment Protocol explains how the SWQB evaluates existing and readily available surface water quality data and other information to determine whether or not surface water quality standards are attained.

Copies of the draft Assessment Protocol, as well as the QAPP, SOP, and water quality standards, can be downloaded from the SWQB’s website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWQB/>. If you experience trouble downloading or require a CD or hardcopy, please contact [gary.king@state.nm.us](mailto:gary.king@state.nm.us) or [lynette.guevara@state.nm.us](mailto:lynette.guevara@state.nm.us) at (505) 827-0187.

**Data packages and comments on the draft Assessment Protocols will be accepted from March 22, 2011, until the close of business on April 20, 2011.** Data packages and

comments submitted after this time period may be considered for the development of subsequent Integrated Lists.

Data packages should be provided in electronic format (preferably Excel or compatible format) and include:

- Information on sampling and analysis QA/QC procedures;
- Contact information for the entity that generated the data set; and
- A citable report summarizing the data (if available).

Data packages and comments on the Assessment Protocols must include contact information and should be emailed (preferred) to [lynette.guevara@state.nm.us](mailto:lynette.guevara@state.nm.us), or mailed to: **NMED-SWQB, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505, ATTN: Lynette Guevara**. For additional questions regarding this public notice, contact Ms. Guevara at (505) 827-2904 or the above email address.