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**SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU INVITES PUBLIC INPUT
FOR THE TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

The Surface Water Quality Bureau is beginning preparations for the next Triennial Review of New Mexico's Surface Water Quality Standards. Such a review must be conducted periodically as required by the federal Clean Water Act and EPA regulations. **The public is invited to identify issues of concern in the standards and to propose revisions for consideration.**

Please note that this is the scoping phase of the Triennial Review preparations; there will be opportunities for public comment on specific proposals at a later date.

The Water Quality Standards ([20.6.4 NMAC](#)) establish designated uses for surface waters across the state, specify water quality criteria to protect those uses and contain an antidegradation policy. The Bureau has identified a number of issues that may need attention during the upcoming review. Among the changes the Bureau is considering are the following:

- Revisions to segment-specific standards to apply appropriate protections for existing and designated aquatic life uses, particularly in the southern part of New Mexico.
- Procedures to allow temporary site-specific standards to be proposed, adopted, and implemented.
- Updates to aquatic life, primary contact recreation and wildlife habitat criteria based on EPA's most recent recommendations.
- Listing of unclassified waters determined to be ephemeral waters (20.6.4.97 NMAC) pursuant to Subsection C of Section 20.6.4.15 NMAC.
- Conduct review of waters designated with limited aquatic life and secondary contact uses to ensure these designations are still correct.
- Revisions to clarify applicability of criteria or to correct grammatical errors.

Interested parties may comment on these areas or others. Suggestions may apply to statewide provisions or only to a particular water body. Bureau staff are also available to meet with stakeholder groups, as requested, for informal discussions regarding their issue of concern. Please direct any comments **by Wednesday, May 15, 2013** to:

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Information about New Mexico's water quality standards can be found at:
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards>. Additional information about water quality in general is available on the Surface Water Quality Bureau's website: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb>.