



New Mexico Environment Department

Intro to the Clean Water Act
New Mexico Environment Department
Surface Water Quality Bureau
October 2022





NMED SWQB

Celebrating 50 Years of the Clean Water Act



CHEERS to 50 YEARS!
The Clean Water Act
turns "50" on October 18th!

JOIN the New Mexico Environment Department - Surface Water Quality Bureau
this October to celebrate a month of Clean Water.

FOLLOW US to remember the waters from our past,
highlight how we currently **protect and restore** our precious water resources,
and evaluate how to **plan and prepare** for future generations.





SWQB Anniversary Celebration



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, October 18, 2022 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, which aims to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution in the nation's waters with the goal of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters for the use and benefit of every American; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, we have made great strides towards achieving a vision of abundant clean water for people to use and to protect the environment and sustain New Mexico's future; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of New Mexico are dependent on clean waters to protect public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's precious lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands provide its citizens with numerous recreational and commercial opportunities and greatly enhance their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, clean water plays a vital role in the economic prosperity of New Mexico by supporting agriculture, tourism, industry, and wildlife and sustaining important cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has cooperated with states, tribes, local communities, businesses, and concerned individuals to significantly reduce all forms of water pollution, making our waters better suited for recreation, irrigation, and other pursuits and more hospitable to aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, with the vulnerability of watersheds caused by climate change, all citizens will need to continue to build upon the great accomplishments of the past 50 years and work toward a more resilient ecosystem and more efficient land management and water use.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as:

"Month of Clean Water"

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
20th day of September 2022.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor



- Governor Proclamation - "Month of Clean Water"
- NMED solicitation for personal stories related to surface waters ([NMED's public comment portal](#))
- NMED-SWQB website for the [50th Anniversary](#)
- NMED will release content each week as follows:
 - Week 1 = Highlight the past
 - Weeks 2-4 = Highlight the present
 - Protecting Clean Water
 - Financing Clean Water
 - Restoring Clean Water
 - Week 5 = Looking to the future
- [Clearing the Waters](#) special winter edition = highlight stories/memories from solicitation.
- Any Commissioner(s) want to be interviewed and highlighted during this celebration?



NMED SWQB

Follow the New Mexico Environment Department for updates on our celebration of the **Clean Water Act!**



<https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/cwa50/>



Clean Water Act



CUYAHOGA RIVER

Ca. 1960s

present day

Photo Credit: Cleveland State University Library

Clean Water Act (CWA)

“Restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters”

- enhances drinking water quality,
- protects habitat for fish and other wildlife, and
- sustains our economy.

As a result, the number of places that meet CWA goals has doubled; the cost to treat our drinking water is lower because our waters are healthier; and as water quality improved, fish and wildlife rebounded.





Clean Water Act (CWA) Goals

It is a National goal to:



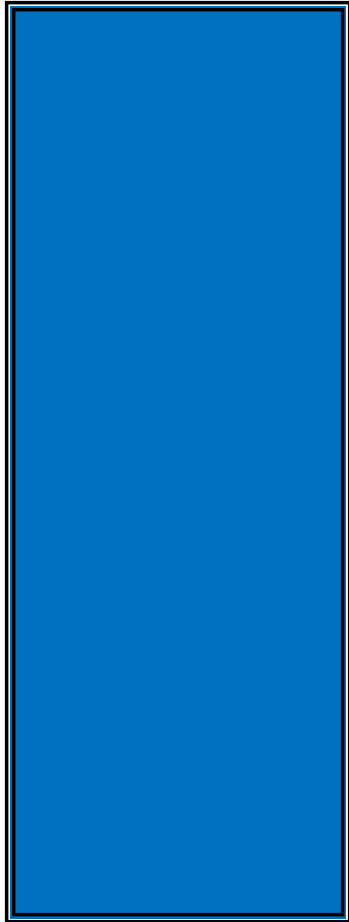
- Eliminate the discharge of pollutants into the navigable waters by 1985 (??)

- Provide for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and for recreation in and on the water (a.k.a. “fishable/swimmable goals”)





Key Sections of the Clean Water Act



- ▣ 101 – Outlines objective and major goals
- ▣ 106 – Grants for Water Pollution Control Programs
- ▣ 301 and 302 – Related to Developing Effluent Limits for Discharge Permits
- ▣ Section 303 – Water Quality Standards requirements; List of Impaired Waters; TMDLs
- ▣ Section 319 – Nonpoint Source Pollution
- ▣ 401 – State/Tribal Certification of Federal Discharge Permits
- ▣ 402 – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- ▣ 404 – Permits for Dredged or Fill Material
- ▣ 502 – Key Definitions
- ▣ 510 – State/Tribal Authority
- ▣ 604 – Grants for Water Quality Management Planning



Importance of the Clean Water Act

- ❑ Aims to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters."
- ❑ Provides the basic structure for regulating discharges.
- ❑ Makes it unlawful to discharge pollutants from a point source into our Nation's waters without a permit.
- ❑ Prevents wetlands from being filled in or paved over without first getting a permit.
- ❑ Sets "fishable/swimmable" goals for the Nation's waters.
- ❑ Directs states/tribes to adopt water quality standards.
- ❑ Requires clean-up plans for waters that don't meet water quality standards (aka TMDLs)
- ❑ Funds important grant programs to help States/Tribes maintain, enhance, and restore water quality.
- ❑ Helps communities build and upgrade wastewater infrastructure through the CWSRF loan program.
- ❑ Provides opportunities for meaningful public engagement.





CWA and U.S.C.

- The Clean Water Act (CWA). Available at:
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-08/documents/federal-water-pollution-control-act-508full.pdf>
- 33 United States Code (U.S.C.) Chapter 26, § 1251-1387. Available at:
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2018-title33/pdf/USCODE-2018-title33-chap26.pdf>



Here's to the next 50 years!

“The future depends on what we do in the present.” - Mahatma Ghandi

