



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Environmental
Conservation

DIVISION OF WATER
Office of Director

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April 27, 2018

Dan Opalski
Office of Water and Watersheds
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Alaska's 2018-2020 Triennial Review

Dear Mr. Opalski

In accordance with Clean Water Act section 303(c)(1), the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has completed its 2018-2020 Triennial Review planning process and is notifying U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 of DEC's water quality standards rulemaking priorities.

DEC issued public notice of the 2018-2020 Triennial Review cycle on November 1, 2017 and accepted comments until December 31, 2017. Public outreach took place at numerous venues including the Alaska Forum on the Environment, the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, and via the State of Alaska Online Public Notification portal and Alaska Water Quality Standards listserv. A responsiveness summary is enclosed for EPA consideration.

2018-2020 Triennial Review Priorities

Based on the results of the public comment process, DEC stakeholder engagement, DEC/EPA discussions, and available state resources, DEC will be prioritizing the following topics over the next three years:

- Antidegradation Implementation Regulations
- Update of Alaska's 2008 Toxics Manual
 - Update of carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic human health criteria
 - Adoption of EPA 2013 aquatic life criteria for ammonia (freshwater)
 - Adoption of EPA 2016 aquatic life criteria for cadmium
- Adoption of Water Quality Standards Variance Authority
- Water Quality Standards Clarifications
 - Clarification of duration and frequency values for select pollutants in 18 AAC 70.020(b)
 - Adoption of a definition for fresh and marine waters
 - Adoption of EPA 2017 recommended Standard Analytical Methods

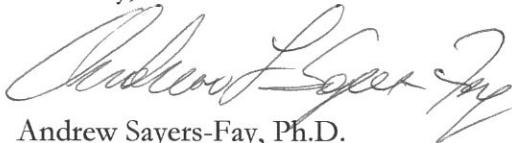
304(a) Criteria not to be addressed during the 2018-2020 Triennial Review

Per EPA 2015 *Water Quality Standards Regulatory Revisions Final Rule*, DEC is providing a summary of the following 304(a) aquatic life criteria that will not be addressed during the 2018-2020 Triennial Review cycle.

- **Mercury/Methylmercury human health criteria (2001)**: DEC is currently working to address adoption of 2015 EPA-recommended Human Health Criteria and potential implementation issues specific to methylmercury. DEC anticipates specifically addressing this pollutant in future triennial review cycles.
- **Carbaryl criteria for aquatic life (2012)**: Carbaryl is a non-priority pollutant (pesticide) used for pest control and fruit thinning. Alaska has not previously adopted criteria for this pollutant. Carbaryl is not considered to be a pollutant of public concern in Alaska at this time and DEC will not be adopting 2012 EPA recommended criteria during this triennial review cycle.
- **Copper criteria for aquatic life (2007)**: Aquatic life criteria for copper were last adopted by Alaska following the EPA *1995 Updates: Water Quality Criteria Documents for the Protection of Aquatic Life in Ambient Water* (EPA-820-B-96-001, September 1996). DEC is well aware of the biotic ligand model and is currently working to apply the model on a site-specific basis as referenced in the EPA 2007 document. However, due to the data collection challenges associated with developing a statewide criterion in a state as geographically diverse as Alaska is, DEC will continue to continue to research this issue and its implementation implications during this triennial review cycle.
- **Nutrient criteria for aquatic life (2003)**: Alaska addresses nutrients through narrative criteria at 18 AAC 70.020(11) and (23) Toxic and Other Deleterious Organic and Inorganic Substances: There may be no concentration of toxic substances in water or in shoreline or bottom sediments, that, singly or in combination, cause, or reasonably can be expected to cause, adverse effect on aquatic life or *produce undesirable or nuisance aquatic life*, except as authorized by this chapter (emphasis added). Alaska is not currently considered part of the National Nutrient Strategy. DEC does not consider nutrients to be an imminent and widespread threat in Alaska at this time. Alaska is continuing to monitor this issue on a site-specific basis based on the 2004 Alaska Nutrient Criteria Development Plan approved by EPA.

Alaska appreciates EPA's comments submitted during the 2018-2020 Triennial Review public comment period and looks forward to continued collaboration with EPA. For additional questions or concerns regarding the triennial review process, please contact Brock Tabor at brock.tabor@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



Andrew Sayers-Fay, Ph.D.
Director

Enclosure

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