



**Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Water
Petroleum Hydrocarbons Listing Methodology
FACT SHEET**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking written comments on a proposed guidance document, *Listing Methodology for Determining Water Quality Impairments from Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Oils And Grease*. The deadline to submit written comments is June 19, 2015.

What is a listing methodology?

A listing methodology provides guidance to DEC staff and stakeholders with water quality monitoring projects on (1) how DEC recommends collecting data to assess pollution in state waters and (2) how DEC determines whether or not waters are exceeding water quality standards and should be considered impaired (i.e. polluted).

Why develop a listing methodology?

Every two years DEC submits an Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report to the US Environmental Protection Agency on the health of Alaska's waters. This Integrated Report, includes the list of polluted waters known as the "impaired waters list" as required under Clean Water Act Section 303(d). The listing methodology describes the process DEC uses to add or remove a water from Alaska's impaired waters list.

What does the listing methodology say?

The listing methodology outlines the minimum amount of information needed to make a decision on waterbody impairment. Procedures for collecting and analyzing water column and sediment data as well as evaluating sheen information are provided in the draft listing methodology. The methodology includes guidance on the minimum number of samples and sampling period required to demonstrate a persistent exceedance of water quality criteria. The water assessment must evaluate the magnitude, frequency and duration components of the water quality criteria. For each pollutant the listing methodology specifies the numeric value or narrative condition that exceeds the water quality criteria (magnitude), how often values must be in excess of the criteria (frequency), and the averaging period used to evaluate harmful exposure (duration).

How were the numbers derived?

The magnitude, frequency and duration recommendations for analyzing water column data are based on the scientific literature used to develop the state water quality criteria for petroleum hydrocarbons. Recommendations from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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Factsheet

(NOAA) screening quick reference tables were used to determine whether sediment is impaired from petroleum hydrocarbons.

Where do I find the draft listing methodology?

The guidance is available online at

<http://www.dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/waterbody/integratedreport.htm>

Submit written comments by 5:00 PM on June 19, 2015 to:

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