

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION OF VIEWS
ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RELATING TO
STANDARDS OF QUALITY FOR WATERS OF THE STATE

TAKE NOTICE that the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality is soliciting comments and will hold a public hearing on the Standards of Quality for Waters of the State, North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 33.1-16-02.1. The hearing will be held at the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND 58503-1324, on March 17th, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. CT.

The purpose of soliciting comments and holding a public hearing is to begin the review of the Standards of Quality for Waters of the State, as required by federal law, 33 U.S.C. § 1313(c). The triennial review will evaluate the Standards of Quality for Waters of the State to ensure they continue to reflect the best available science to improve and protect the water resources of the state, and to remain consistent with state and federal law.

This hearing will provide an opportunity for all citizens and stakeholders to voice concerns and contribute input for considerations in amending the Standards of Quality for Waters of the State.

The NDDEQ will consider every request for reasonable accommodation to provide an accessible meeting facility or other accommodation for people with disabilities, language interpretation for people with limited English proficiency (LEP), and translations of written material necessary to access programs and information. Language assistance services are available free of charge to you. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Non-discrimination Coordinator at 701-328-5150 or degej@nd.gov by March 14th, 2025. TTY users may use Relay North Dakota at 711 or 1-800-366-6888.

The Standards of Quality for Waters of the State may be viewed at the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy St, Bismarck, ND 58503 or on the department's website at https://deq.nd.gov/WQ/3_Watershed_Mgmt/10_WQStand/WQStand.aspx. A copy of the standards may be requested by writing to the above address or by calling the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality at 701-328-5210. A virtual option to attend the hearing will be provided. Information to attend the virtual option can be obtained by calling the Department phone number listed above.

Public participation matters and is essential to developing more effective rules and regulations. The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality strives to draft environmental protection rules based on sound science and law, but it also counts on the public and other groups (both technical and nontechnical) to identify flaws and find solutions to reach the optimal outcome (protective, reasonable regulations without unintended consequences).

Make your public comments count. Visit <https://deq.nd.gov/PublicCommentTips.aspx> for helpful tips about submitting effective public comments.

Written and oral comments on the Standards of Quality for Waters of the State received until March 28th, 2025, will be fully considered.

Dated this 14th day of January 2025

Karl H. Rockeman, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality