

ACCESSING MAPPING LAYERS FOR THE DRAFT 2010 303(D) LIST

Assessment Units (AU) are the basic unit of record for conducting and reporting water quality assessments. For the 2010 assessment the AUs have been moved from 1:100,000 to the more accurate 1:24,000 mapping scale hydrography that is linked to the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD); the national coverage used by EPA. By transitioning to higher resolution mapping many of the smaller waterbodies missed by the 1:100,000 scale mapping, are now shown. As such the total number and size of assessment units reported in 2010 are significantly higher than in 2008. For example, the 2010 assessment includes approximately 7,000 more miles of rivers, approximately 450 more impoundments (approximately 1,500 acres), and approximately 375 additional lakes (approximately 4,600 acres). An additional advantage of transitioning to more accurate mapping is that the line work more closely resembles what is actually on the ground. These improvements have greatly enhanced the ability of DES to manage and report on the status of the State's water resources.

To help determine the extent and/or location of each AU, visual aids such as maps are very useful. Unfortunately, watershed report cards developed for the 2008 assessment have not yet been updated for the 2010 cycle but will be in the coming months.

The spatial source of the 2010 AUs is the event feature classes of the New Hampshire Hydrography Dataset (NHHD). While very useful for more complex analysis, the complexity of the dataset is not suitable for the normal user but is available upon request. As such, GIS layers have been set-up for users of the more common GIS software products. Currently, the AUs are available in Shape File and Geodatabase formats. KML files will soon be available for Google Earth users. All GIS layers may be found at the department's FTP site. To access the GIS files mentioned:

- 1) Go to this address using a web browser: ftp://199.192.6.23/DES/wmb/WaterQuality/305B_303D/2010/GIS/
- 2) A the login window, click on the box in the lower left hand corner labeled "Login Anonymously".
- 3) The User name will then be automatically filled in with the word "Anonymous".
- 4) Type in your email address in the Email Address block.
- 5) Then click on the Log On button.
- 6) The [GIS] Folder should appear containing the files above

All GIS layers are in NAD_1983, New Hampshire State Plane, Feet.