



5/29/07

***Guidance for Submitting Comments on the Comprehensive
Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM)***
(for the 2008 Section 305(b) Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters)

Dear Interested Party,

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) is in the process of revising the Comprehensive Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM) for use in the 2008 surface water quality assessments. The CALM describes, in detail, the process used to make surface water quality attainment decisions in accordance with state surface water quality standards. In other words, the CALM explains how the state determines if surfaces are healthy for fish to live or are suitable for other uses such as swimming. The current CALM, used for the 2006 assessment listing cycle, contains the assessment methodology for; rivers, lakes, impoundments, estuary, and ocean waters and may be found at <http://des.nh.gov/wmb/swqa/documents/2006CALM-20051227.pdf>.

Surface water quality assessments are required by Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Section 305(b) requires each state to prepare a water quality inventory of its surface waters every two years. Section 303(d) requires states to prepare a list of impaired surface waters for which comprehensive water quality studies [i.e., Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies] must be prepared to help guide restoration efforts. This list, which is commonly called the “303(d) List”, represents a subset of all impaired waters as some impaired waters do not require a TMDL study. The next Section 305(b)/303(d) surface water quality assessment is scheduled to be ready in 2008.

Why should you be interested in the CALM and how assessments are performed?

- Public waters are held in trust by the state for the benefit of all its citizens; consequently, you have a right to review and comment on the CALM and how the state determines the health of New Hampshire’s surface waters.
- The assessed health of a surface water can impact surrounding property values so it is important that the assessments are as accurate as possible.
- It is important to identify surface waters that are not healthy so that corrective efforts can be implemented and uses such as swimming and fishing restored.
- Surface waters that are listed as unhealthy (i.e., impaired) in the Section 305(b)/303(d) assessments may be eligible for restoration funds to make the surface water healthy again.

We encourage you to review the current CALM version and to provide comments for the many reasons mentioned above. Instructions for providing comments are provided below.

Thank you.



5/29/07

SCHEDULE

If you have suggested revisions for the CALM please submit them to the Watershed Management Bureau by June 28, 2007.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

General comments pertaining to sections of the current CALM are useful but specific recommendations with supporting background information are preferred.

Submittals should include the following:

- ✓ Contact Information:
 - Your name and organization
 - Mailing Address
 - E-mail
 - Phone number
- ✓ Your comments referenced to specific sections of the current CALM.
- ✓ Documentation supporting why you believe that section of the CALM requires the changes suggested.

HOW TO SEND COMMENTS TO DES

Submit your comments along with any supporting documentation, to DES by mail, fax or E-mail at the addresses shown below.

By mail: Water Quality Data
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Watershed Management Bureau
P.O. Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

By fax: Water Quality Data
603-271-7894

By E-mail: wqdata@des.state.nh.us or visit our website at www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa/

QUESTIONS? Please call 603-271-2457