

ACCESSING MAPPING LAYERS FOR THE 2014 305(B)/303(D) ASSESSMENTS

Assessment Units (AU) are the basic unit of record for conducting and reporting water quality assessments. For the 2010 assessment the AUs were 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. For the 2014 cycle the AUIDs have been further refined to better represent the existing landscape, for example, where dams have been removed. 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 since 2010 are significantly higher than in 2008. For example, compared to 2008 the 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 useful. To that end, a web mapping application was built and can be launched from the watershed Report Cards page http://www2.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed_SWQA/WaterShed_SWQA.aspx.

The spatial source of the 2014 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 Geodatabase format. All GIS layers may be accessed through the Department's FTP site by using the following instructions:

- 1) Go to this address using a web browser:
<ftp://pubftp.nh.gov/DES/wmb/WaterQuality/SWQA/2014/> (some browsers may require you to cut and paste this link directly).
- 2) At 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 described above.

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