

For several years the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has been in the process of examining the need for changes to the nondegradation (i.e. antidegradation) requirements of the state's water quality standards and is drafting new rules to more effectively protect water quality through the application of the antidegradation rules. The MPCA initiated this rulemaking with the multiple goals of improving the mechanisms for protecting Minnesota's water quality, providing a more transparent alignment of the state antidegradation program with the requirements of the Clean Water Act, and also to realistically address issues of implementability, from the perspective of the regulated community and also the regulators. In 2008/2009 the MPCA conducted a series of meetings to introduce these goals and to obtain stakeholder input about a number of fundamental questions associated with the concept of antidegradation. The information obtained at those meetings, subsequent stakeholder discussions, and internal staff and management dialog serves as a framework for the draft proposed rule.

Although the draft rules are not being formally proposed for public comment at this time, the MPCA staff who have been working with this rulemaking would like to move to the next stage of the rulemaking process by making a draft of the rule available for public review and by holding another stakeholder meeting to share thoughts about the direction being considered. At the stakeholder meeting MPCA staff will briefly re-acquaint participants with the issues associated with the antidegradation rulemaking and then provide an opportunity for a dialogue with the stakeholders who will be affected by the draft changes. A draft of the rules is available for viewing at the antidegradation website at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oxpg919>.

You are invited to either attend the meeting or participate via webcast at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=18308>. You may fully participate through the webcast and can e-mail your questions or comments during the meeting. You may also comment following the meeting, although we ask that you send your comments to Carol.nankivel@state.mn.us by October 10, 2012. Again, this meeting is not a formal hearing or official comment period. It is intended to provide an informal opportunity to explain how the MPCA will be proposing to address antidegradation and to hear your comments and suggestions for how to meet our common goal of clean waters.

Antidegradation Rule Stakeholder Meeting

Monday, September 10, 2012

9:30 to 11:30

(Informal poster session starting at 9:00)

MPCA Board Room

MPCA Central Office

520 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55115-4194

Parking information and directions can be found at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/mvri3e8>.

(Note: The security desk at the MPCA's St. Paul office requires that you provide a photo ID to enter the building.)