Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division

Notice of Availability of the 2018 Draft Impaired Waters List and 2018 Revisions to Appendix A of the Statewide Mercury TMDL and Request for Comment

Public Comment Period Begins: 11/27/2017
Public Comment Period Ends: 1/26/2018, 4:30 PM

Background
Every two years, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through the Clean Water Act, to submit a list of impaired waters to EPA for their review and approval. This serves as joint notice a 60-day formal written comment period for [1] the draft 2018 Impaired Waters List and [2] Revisions to Appendix A of the statewide mercury TMDL.

[1] The draft 2018 List of Impaired Waters and supporting documentation
In accordance with the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), the MPCA is required to list impaired waters that do not meet standards and update that list every even-numbered year. In addition to updating this list, the MPCA updates a Guidance Manual that describes state water quality standards, the data collection and quality requirements, and assessment methods used when developing the Impaired Waters List. Both documents are found on the MPCA's Impaired Waters List webpage and scheduled for public comment **November 27, 2017 – January 26, 2018**:
- 2018 Draft Impaired Waters List (wq-iw-58), including 2018 Mercury TMDL Appendix A, and
- 2018 Guidance Manual for Assessing the Quality of Minnesota Surface Waters for Determination of Impairment 305(b) Report and 303(d) List (wq-iw1-04j).

[2] The Revisions to Appendix A of the approved statewide mercury TMDL
Every two years the MPCA updates Appendix A of the approved statewide mercury TMDL. Appendix A, included in the draft Impaired Waters List, contains the list of lakes and river segments covered by the TMDL. Fish tissue impairments in the List have mercury concentrations greater than 0.2 mg/kg and equal to or less than 0.572 mg/kg. Greater concentrations are not assigned to the mercury TMDL and result in inclusion in the TMDL List because while they will be improved, they will not be fully restored by the actions in the statewide TMDL. It is important to note that the mercury TMDL documentation and reduction goals are not being changed with Appendix A revisions.

The TMDL was originally approved on March 27, 2007 and six revisions to Appendix A have followed.

Public Notice and Contact Information
Minnesota's 2018 Draft Impaired Waters List and 2018 Guidance Manual for Assessing the Quality of Minnesota Surface Waters [1], and revisions to Appendix A to the approved mercury TMDL [2] are all located at the MPCA web site at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/minnesotas-impaired-waters-list.

Removal of waterbodies contained in the draft 2018 list of impaired waters because of TMDL report approval by US EPA could occur up to and including the day the draft 2018 list of impaired waters is forwarded to US EPA for their review and approval.

This notice is being published today for the purpose of providing opportunity for public notice and comment for [1] the **new** reaches and lakes being proposed in the 2018 Draft Impaired Waters List, and other **changes**, and [2] the revisions to Appendix A to the statewide mercury TMDL. Written comments on the must be postmarked or received by the MPCA contact person listed below by **4:30 pm CST January 26, 2018**. Written comments and requests for more information should be directed to:

> Miranda Nichols
> Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
> Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division – Water
> Assessment Section
> 520 Lafayette Rd N
> St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
> Phone: 651-757-2614
> Toll free: 1-800-657-3864
> E-mail: miranda.nichols@state.mn.us
> TTY users may call the MPCA teletypewriter at (651) 282-5332 or 1-800-657-3864.

If Miranda is not available other contacts are Doug Hansen at 651-757-2406 or douglas.hansen@state.mn.us and Bill Cole at 651-757-2788 or william.cole@state.mn.us.

> Dated: 11/20/2018