

III. Water Quality Listings by Category

A. Overview of Category 5 – 303(d) List

Waterbody segments for which at least one characteristic or designated use is impaired, as evidenced by failure to attain the applicable water quality standard for one or more pollutants as described in this policy or by narrative evidence of impairment, or which are expected not to meet applicable water quality standards by the next assessment cycle, and which do not already have a TMDL or other adequate pollution control plan in place to address that impairment, will be placed in this category. This category will be submitted to EPA as the 303(d) list. A TMDL is required for each waterbody segment on this list, in accordance with the CWA, to guide efforts to bring it back into attainment. (The basis for prioritizing and scheduling TMDLs is found in Part 12 of Water Quality Policy 1-11 on *Prioritizing TMDLs*).

Assessment criteria used to determine inclusion on Category 5 due to persistent impairment can be found in Part 9 of Water Quality Policy 1-11.

For waters expected not to meet applicable water quality standards, listing will need to be based on clear trend information showing that, while they currently meet standards, they are likely to be impaired by the next assessment cycle.

A determination of impairment can be made based on either numeric or narrative information. If the source of impairment is unidentified but is suspected to be a pollutant (such as toxics, nutrients, or heat, as opposed to the non-pollutants described under *Impaired by a Non-Pollutant* category), the segment will be placed in this category.

A water that is placed on the 303(d) list due to one pollutant may also be placed in a different category for a different parameter. For example, if a second pollutant was tested for but did not show impairment, the water would be placed in *Meets Tested Standards* for that pollutant. Also, a water will be listed more than once if it shows impairment due to multiple pollutants.