Inventory of Water Quality Standards Projects, 2014 to 2016, with Status as of November 2015

Group A: New or revised water quality standards and amendments in rulemaking:

Topic	Status
Addition of **eutrophication** water quality standards (WQS) for river systems and replacement of the existing turbidity WQS with WQS for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) http://www.pca.state.mn.us/6paqdkc.	**Complete:** This amendment was formally adopted into rule on August 4, 2014. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its approval of the rule amendment on January 23, 2015. **Lead scientist(s):** Steve Heiskary and Phil Monson
WQS **use classification** changes for specific water bodies, including new Class 1 designations on a reach of the Thief River, updating Class 2A cold water surface waters (previously centered on trout waters), and reviewing and adding Class 7 limited resources value waters http://www.pca.state.mn.us/9fukp6y.	**On hold:** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is updating its list of designated trout waters, which is similar but not identical to trout waters identified in WQS Class 2A cold water surface waters. This rulemaking is on hold pending release of DNR's final proposal for trout stream designation, which Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will review to identify potential consistency concerns. **Lead scientist(s):** Gerald Blaha, Will Bouchard, and Angela Preimesberger
Updates to the **methods for deriving human health-based WQS** to maintain consistency with the Minnesota Department of Health's Health Risk Limits and EPA Methodology for Deriving Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health (2000) http://www.pca.state.mn.us/chdfaa8.	**Complete:** These amendments were formally adopted into Minnesota rule on March 16, 2015. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its approval of the rule amendments on November 5, 2015. **Lead scientist:** Angela Preimesberger
Revisions to **variance** rule language http://www.pca.state.mn.us/zihy1479.	**Making progress:** The Technical Support Document (TSD), Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR), and rule language were published in the *State Register* on November 9, 2015 and are open for public comment from November 9, 2015 through December 29, 2015. **Lead scientist:** Elise Doucette
Modification to the existing **non-degradation** rules http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oxpg919.	**Making progress:** The SONAR and rule language are undergoing administrative review in preparation for publication in the *State Register* and public comment. **Lead scientist:** William Cole

Group B: New or revised water quality standards and amendments progressing towards rulemaking:

Topic	Status
Modification of the existing sulfate standard for **protection of wild rice** http://www.pca.state.mn.us/ktqh1083.	**Making progress:** Development of the technical basis for this rulemaking is continuing. A draft proposal and request for comments was published in the *State Register* on October 18, 2015; comments on the draft proposal may be submitted through December 18, 2015. **Lead scientist(s):** Ed Swain and Gerald Blaha
Revision of the existing aquatic life use classifications to incorporate a **Tiered Aquatic Life Use** framework http://www.pca.state.mn.us/zihy1082.	**Making progress:** Final drafts of SONAR and rule language are nearing completion. **Lead scientist:** Will Bouchard
Revision to and update of existing **Class 3 (Industrial Consumption) and Class 4 (Agriculture and Wildlife)** designations and associated WQS. (Note: this does not include update of existing Class 4 designations and WQS related to the identification of waters used for production of wild rice and possible modification of the existing sulfate standard for protection of wild rice, which is a separate effort.)	**Making progress:** The technical approach for revising the use class designations and associated WQS is in development; a survey of external stakeholders focusing on Class 3 is underway. **Lead scientist:** Gerald Blaha

Group C: New or revised water quality standards and amendments that are priorities to develop 2014 to 2016:

Priority ranking*	Topic	Status
1	Revisions of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life based on EPA 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria (AWQC) or guidance for **chloride**.	**No progress:** MPCA had been waiting for EPA to complete revision of the AWQC for chloride; however, EPA recently put development of the revised AWQC for chloride on hold. MPCA is determining next steps regarding this priority need. **Lead scientist:** To be determined
1	Addition of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life for **nitrate**.	**No progress:** MPCA has been waiting for nitrate toxicity tests EPA requested to be completed. The toxicity test results are expected to be available before the end of 2015, however due to staffing limitations, no further progress is anticipated until mid-2016 at the earliest. **Lead scientist:** To be determined
1	Revision of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life based on EPA 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria or guidance for **ammonia**.	**No progress:** MPCA plans to revise the WQS for ammonia concurrently with nitrate, in order to address implementation considerations relevant to both pollutants. **Lead scientist:** To be determined

Group C: New or revised water quality standards and amendments that are priorities to develop 2014 to 2016:

Priority ranking*	Topic	Status
1	Additions of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life for **sulfate**.	**No progress:** MPCA is following EPA's and other research on the effects of sulfate and other ions on aquatic life. **Lead scientist:** Phil Monson
2	Revision of the approach for **Class 1**, Domestic Consumption, designations and associated WQS for groundwater and surface water for consistency with other State regulations.	**Making progress:** Continuing to scope the specific issues to be revised and their potential impact on related State regulations administered by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. **Lead scientist:** Doug Hansen
2	Revision of or additions to **pollutant-specific human health-based WQS**, employing updated human-health based WQS methods (adopted into *Minn. R.* chs. 7050 and 7052 on March 16, 2015).	**Making progress:** MPCA has completed an extensive review of candidate pollutants to identify those for which updated values will provide the most benefit relative to protecting human health for recreation and fish consumption in surface waters. Based on these reviews, MPCA is considering updating or establishing either state-wide standards or site-specific criteria for: 1) toxins associated with harmful algal blooms (e.g., mycrocystin, anatoxin a), 2) PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), 3) dioxins/furans, and 4) PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate). Development of these standards or site-specific criteria has not yet been scheduled. **Lead scientist(s):** Angela Preimesberger and Laura Solem
2	Revision of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life based on EPA 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria or guidance for **copper**.	**No progress:** Due to staffing limitations, no further work on this revision has occurred. **Lead scientist:** To be determined
2	Revision of recreational WQS for human health protection from **surface water pathogens** based on 2012 EPA 304(a) Recreational Water Quality Criteria.	**Making progress:** The technical review is complete and the impacts of adopting the national criteria are being evaluated. **Lead scientist:** Laura Solem
3	Revision of numeric WQS for protection of aquatic life based on EPA 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria or guidance for **cadmium**.	**No progress:** Due to staffing limitations, no further work on this revision has occurred. **Lead scientist:** To be determined
3	Updates to the list of **outstanding resource value waters** in *Minn. R.* 7050.0180.	**On hold:** Due to staffing limitations, this update is on hold. **Lead scientist:** To be determined
3	Review of **limited resource value waters** (Class 7).	**On hold:** Due to staffing limitations, this review is on hold. **Lead scientist:** To be determined

Opportunities for public comment:

Opportunities for public input on water quality standards occur with adoption of standards into Minnesota rule. In addition, all of Minnesota's water quality standards are open for public review and comment every three years as part of the Clean Water Act required, Triennial Standards Review.

More specific information about opportunities to comment on standards proposed for adoption is available here: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=16321 and at the webpage links provided in this report (where they exist).

The next Triennial Standards Review will begin in the fourth quarter of 2016.

NOTE: The easiest way to stay current with water quality standards development and adoption is to sign up for GovDelivery notices on the MPCA's Water Quality Standards webpage: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/qzqh1081.

*The WQS topics selected as priorities for 2014 to 2016 were subdivided into three priority tiers (1, 2 or 3). The tiers identify the WQS topics of highest priority while WQS projects nearing or in rulemaking are moved to completion.

This report fulfills the requirement of Laws of Minnesota 2015, First Special Session chapter 150, article 4, section 100, paragraph (b).