

EPA Updating Water Quality Standards Regulations (Newsletter)*

September 10, 2013

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing rule updates to federal water quality standards regulations. For the first time in 30 years, EPA is proposing changes to the core requirements of the federal water quality standards (WQS) regulation that interprets part of the Clean Water Act.

The proposed rule addresses the following key areas: Administrator's determinations that new or revised WQS are necessary, designated uses, triennial reviews, antidegradation, variances to WQS, and compliance schedule authorizing provisions.

Proposed changes are available online at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-21140>.

EPA will accept public comments for 90 days from September 4, 2013; comments must be received on or before December 3, 2013. Details on how to submit formal comments are available at this URL:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/09/04/2013-21140/water-quality-standards-regulatory-clarifications#p-5>.

EPA is hosting two public webinars and one public meeting during the public comment period. To register for the public webinars and/or public meeting look at: <http://www.tetrattech-ffx.com/wqsregs/public/>.

The public webinar and public meeting dates and times are as follows:

Public Webinar 1: September 24, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EST) Public Meeting: October 23, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EST) at the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in the Visitor Center Auditorium in Washington, DC. Public Webinar 2: November 14, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EST)

For more information about the proposed rule, see: http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/lawsguidance/wqs_index.cfm

For further information contact: Janita Aguirre
Environmental Protection Agency
Telephone: 202-566-1860
Fax: 202-566-0409
Email: WQSRegulatoryClarifications@epa.gov

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