

Presented below are water quality standards that are in effect for Clean Water Act purposes.

EPA is posting these standards as a convenience to users and has made a reasonable effort to assure their accuracy. Additionally, EPA has made a reasonable effort to identify parts of the standards that are not approved, disapproved, or are otherwise not in effect for Clean Water Act purposes.

401 KAR 10:001. Definitions for 401 KAR Chapter 10.

RELATES TO: KRS 146.200 through 146.360, 146.410 through 146.535, 146.550 through 146.570, 146.600 through 146.619, 146.990, 224.1-010, 224.1-400, 224.16-050, 224.16-070, 224.70-100 through 224.70-150, 224.71-100 through 224.71-145, 224.73-100 through 224.73-120, 40 C.F.R. 136

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 224.10-100, 224.70-100, 224.70-110

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 224.10-100 authorizes the cabinet to promulgate administrative regulations for the prevention, abatement, and control of all water pollution. This administrative regulation establishes definitions for terms used in 401 KAR Chapter 10.

Section 1. Definitions. (1) "Acute criteria" means the highest instream concentration of a toxic substance or an effluent to which an organism can be exposed for one (1) hour without causing an unacceptable harmful effect.

(2) "Acute to chronic ratio" means the ratio of the acute toxicity, expressed as an LC₅₀, of an effluent or a toxic substance, to its chronic toxicity. It is used as a factor to estimate chronic toxicity from acute toxicity data.

(3) "Acute toxicity" means lethality or other harmful effect sustained by either an indigenous aquatic organism or a representative indicator organism used in a toxicity test, due to a short-term exposure, of ninety-six (96) hours or less, to a specific toxic substance or mixture of toxic substances.

(4) "Acute toxicity unit" means the reciprocal of the effluent dilution that causes the acute effect, or LC₅₀, by the end of the acute exposure period.

(5) "Adversely affect" or "adversely change" means to alter or change the community structure or function, to reduce the number or proportion of sensitive species, or to increase the number or proportion of pollution tolerant aquatic species so that aquatic life use support or aquatic habitat is impaired.

(6) "Balanced indigenous community" means a biotic community typically characterized by diversity, the capacity to sustain itself through cyclic seasonal changes, presence of necessary food chain species, and a lack of domination by pollution tolerant species. The community may include historically nonnative species introduced in connection with a program of wildlife management and species whose presence or abundance results from substantial, irreversible environmental modification. Normally, such a community does not include species whose presence or abundance is attributable to the introduction of pollutants that will be eliminated by compliance of all sources with 401 KAR 5:065, and may not include species whose presence or abundance is attributable to alternative effluent limitations imposed pursuant to 401 KAR 5:055.

(7) "Bathing area" means those surface waters that:

- (a) Are frequented by bathers for swimming;
- (b) Have a lifeguard; or
- (c) Have a bathhouse facility.

(8) "Best management practices" or "BMPs" means:

- (a) For agriculture operations, as defined by KRS 224.71-100(3); or
- (b) For all other purposes:

- 1. Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the commonwealth; and
- 2. Treatment requirements; operating procedures; and practices to control site run-off, pollu-

tion of surface water and groundwater from nonpoint sources, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

(9) "Chronic criteria" means the highest instream concentration of a toxic substance or an effluent to which organisms are able to be exposed for ninety-six (96) hours without causing an unacceptable harmful effect.

(10) "Chronic toxicity" means lethality, reduced growth or reproduction, or other harmful effect sustained by either indigenous aquatic organisms or representative indicator organisms used in toxicity tests due to long-term exposures, relative to the life span of the organisms or a significant portion of their life span, to toxic substances or mixtures of toxic substances.

(11) "Chronic toxicity unit" means the reciprocal of the effluent dilution that causes twenty-five (25) percent inhibition of growth or reproduction to the test organisms by the end of the chronic exposure period.

(12) "Clean Water Act" or "CWA" means the Clean Water Act as subsequently amended, 33 U.S.C. Section 1251 through 1387, otherwise known as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(13) "Cold water aquatic habitat" or "CAH" means surface waters and associated substrate that are able to support indigenous aquatic life or self-sustaining or reproducing trout populations on a year-round basis.

(14) "Combined sewer" or "combined sewer line" means a sewer or sewer line designed to carry stormwater runoff as well as sanitary wastewater.

(15) "Combined sewer overflow" or "CSO" means the flow from a combined sewer in excess of the interceptor or regulator capacity that is discharged into a receiving water without going to a POTW.

(16) "Conventional domestic water supply treatment" means or includes coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection.

(17) "Criteria" or "water quality criteria" means elements of state water quality standards expressed as constituent concentrations, levels, or narrative statements, that represent a quality of water that supports a particular designated use.

(18) "Day" means a twenty-four (24) hour period.

(19) "Discharge" or "discharge of a pollutant" means the addition of a pollutant or combination of pollutants to waters of the commonwealth from a point source.

(20) "Division" means the Kentucky Division of Water, within the Department for Environmental Protection, Energy and Environment Cabinet.

(21) "Domestic" means relating to household wastes or other similar wastes. It is used to distinguish municipal, household, or commercial water or wastewater services from industrial water or wastewater services.

(22) "Domestic water supply" or "DWS" means surface waters that with conventional domestic water supply treatment are suitable for human consumption through a public water system as defined by 40 C.F.R. 141.2, culinary purposes, or for use in a food or beverage processing industry; and meet state and federal regulations promulgated pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 300f - 300j-26.

(23) "Effluent limitations" is defined by KRS 224.1-010(11).

(24) "Environmental Protection Agency", "EPA", or "U.S. EPA" means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

(25) "Epilimnion" means the thermally homogeneous water layer overlying the metalimnion of a thermally stratified lake or reservoir.

(26) "E. coli" or "Escherichia coli" means an aerobic and facultative anaerobic gram negative, nonspore forming, rod shaped bacterium that is ortho-nitrophenyl-B-D-galactopyranoside

(ONPG) positive, and Methylumbelliferyl glucuronide (MUG) positive. It is a member of the indigenous fecal flora of warm-blooded animals.

(27) "Eutrophication" means the enrichment of a surface water with nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus resulting in adverse effects on water chemistry and the indigenous aquatic community. Resulting adverse effects on water chemistry manifest by daily dissolved oxygen supersaturation followed by low dissolved oxygen concentrations and diurnal increase in pH. Resulting adverse effects on the indigenous aquatic community include:

(a) Nuisance algae blooms;

(b) Proliferation of nuisance aquatic plants;

(c) Displacement of diverse fish or macroinvertebrate community by species tolerant of nutrient-enriched environments; or

(d) Fish kills brought on by severe, sudden episodes of plant nutrient enrichment.

(28) "Exceptional water" means a surface water categorized as exceptional by the cabinet pursuant to 401 KAR 10:030.

(29) "Existing use" means a legitimate use being attained where the quality or habitat to support the legitimate use was achieved in or on a surface water of the commonwealth on or after November 28, 1975, irrespective of its use designation.

(30) "Expanded discharge" means an increase in pollutant loading of twenty (20) percent or greater.

(31) "°F" means degrees Fahrenheit.

(32) "General permit" means a:

(a) "General permit" as defined by 40 C.F.R. 122.2; or

(b) KPDES permit issued pursuant to 401 KAR 5:055 authorizing a category of discharges or non-discharging facilities pursuant to KRS Chapter 224 within a geographical area.

(33) "Harmonic mean flow" means the reciprocal of the mean of the reciprocal daily flow values.

(34) "High quality water" means a surface water categorized as high quality by the cabinet pursuant to 401 KAR 10:030.

(35) "Impact" means a change in the chemical, physical, or biological quality or condition of a surface water.

(36) "Impairment" means a detrimental impact to a surface water that prevents attainment of a designated use.

(37) "Indigenous aquatic community" means naturally occurring aquatic organisms including bacteria, fungi, algae, aquatic insects, other aquatic invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes. Under some natural conditions one (1) or more of the above groups may be absent from a surface water.

(38) "Inhibition concentration of twenty-five (25) percent" or "IC₂₅" means the concentration that is determined by a linear interpolation method for estimating the concentration at which a twenty-five (25) percent reduction is shown in reproduction or growth in test organisms, and which statistically approximates the concentration at which an unacceptable chronic effect is not observed.

(39) "Intermittent water" means a stream that flows only at certain times of the year.

(40) "Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System" or "KPDES" means the Kentucky program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, revoking, monitoring, and enforcing permits to discharge, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements.

(41) "KPDES permit" means a Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued to a facility, including a POTW, or activity pursuant to KRS Chapter 224 for the purpose of operating the facility or activity.

(42) "LC₁" means that concentration of a toxic substance or mixture of toxic substances that is lethal, or immobilizing if appropriate, to one (1) percent of the organisms tested in a toxicity test during a specified exposure period.

(43) "LC₅₀" means that concentration of a toxic substance or mixture of toxic substances that is lethal, or immobilizing if appropriate, to fifty (50) percent of the species tested in a toxicity test during a specified exposure period.

(44) "Long-term CSO control plan" means a control plan that complies with the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy issued by the U.S. EPA and published in the Federal Register on April 19, 1994 (59 FR 18688).

(45) "Maintain" means to preserve or keep in present condition by not allowing an adverse permanent or long-term change to water quality or to a population of an aquatic organism or its habitat.

(46) "Measurement" means the ability of the analytical method or protocol to quantify as well as identify the presence of the substance in question.

(47) "µg/L" means micrograms per liter, same as ppb, assuming unit density.

(48) "Milligrams per liter" or "mg/L" means the milligrams of substance per liter of solution, and is equivalent to parts per million in water, assuming unit density.

(49) "Mixing zone" means a domain of a water body contiguous to a treated or untreated wastewater discharge with quality characteristics different from those of the receiving water. The discharge is in transit and progressively diluted from the source to the receiving system. The mixing zone is the domain where wastewater and receiving water mix.

(50) "Natural water quality" means those naturally occurring physical, chemical, and biological properties of waters.

(51) "Nonpoint" means a source of pollutants not defined by a point source.

(52) "Normal temperature" means the temperature that would exist in waters of the commonwealth without the change of enthalpy of artificial origin.

(53) "Other wastes" means sawdust, bark or other wood debris, garbage, refuse, ashes, of-fal, tar, oil, chemicals, acid drainage, wastes from agricultural enterprises, and other foreign substances not included within the definitions of industrial wastes and sewage that may cause or contribute to the pollution of waters of the Commonwealth.

(54) "Outstanding national resource water" means a surface water categorized by the cabinet as an outstanding national resource water pursuant to 401 KAR 10:030.

(55) "Outstanding state resource water" means a surface water designated by the cabinet as an outstanding state resource water pursuant to 401 KAR 10:031.

(56) "pCi/L" means picocuries per liter.

(57) "PCR" means primary contact recreation.

(58) "Point source" is defined by 33 U.S.C. 1362(14). The term does not include agricultural stormwater run-off or return flows from irrigated agriculture.

(59) "Pollutant" is defined by KRS 224.1-010.

(60) "POTW" means publicly owned treatment works as defined by KRS 224.1-010.

(61) "Primary contact recreation water" means those waters suitable for full body contact recreation during the recreation season of May 1 through October 31.

(62) "Productive aquatic community" means an assemblage of indigenous aquatic life capable of reproduction and growth.

(63) "Propagation" means the continuance of a species by successful spawning, hatching, and development or natural generation in the natural environment, as opposed to the maintenance of the species by artificial culture and stocking.

(64) "Regional facility plan" means a type of water quality management plan addressing point sources of pollution for the purpose of areawide waste treatment management planning prepared by the designated regional planning agency pursuant to Sections 201, 205, and 208 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251-1387, to control point sources of pollution within a planning area.

(65) "Representative indicator organism" means an aquatic organism designated for use in toxicity testing because of its relative sensitivity to toxicants and its widespread distribution in the aquatic environment.

(66) "SCR" means secondary contact recreation.

(67) "Secondary contact recreation waters" means those waters suitable for partial body contact recreation, with minimal threat to public health due to water quality.

(68) "Seven-Q-ten" or "7Q₁₀" means that minimum average flow that occurs for seven (7) consecutive days with a recurrence interval of ten (10) years.

(69) "Source" means a building, structure, facility, or installation from which there is or may be a discharge of pollutants.

(70) "Standard" or "water quality standard" means the designated uses of a surface water of the commonwealth and the water quality criteria necessary to maintain and protect the designated uses as established in 401 KAR Chapter 10.

(71) "Stormwater" is defined by 40 C.F.R. 122.26(b)(13).

(72) "Surface waters" means those waters having well-defined banks and beds, either constantly or intermittently flowing; lakes and impounded waters; marshes and wetlands; and any subterranean waters flowing in well-defined channels and having a demonstrable hydrologic connection with the surface. Lagoons used for waste treatment and effluent ditches that are situated on property owned, leased, or under valid easement by a permitted discharger are not considered to be surface waters of the commonwealth.

(73) "Total dissolved solids" or "TDS" is defined by 40 C.F.R. 122.2.

(74) "Total suspended solids" or "TSS" means the total suspended solids (nonfilterable residue) as determined by use of the method specified in 40 C.F.R. Part 136.

(75) "Toxic substance" means a substance that is bioaccumulative, synergistic, antagonistic, teratogenic, mutagenic, or carcinogenic and causes death, disease, a behavioral abnormality, a physiological malfunction, or a physical deformity in an organism or its offspring or interferes with normal propagation.

(76) "Warm water aquatic habitat" or "WAH" means a surface water and associated substrate capable of supporting indigenous warm water aquatic life.

(77) "Wetlands" is defined by 40 C.F.R. 122.2.

(78) "Zone of initial dilution" means the limited area permitted by the cabinet surrounding or downstream from a discharge location where rapid, first-stage mixing occurs. The zone of initial dilution is the domain where wastewater and receiving water initially mix. (35 Ky.R. 208; Am. 856; 1452; eff. 1-5-2009; 39 Ky.R. 561; eff. 4-5-2013; 46 Ky.R. 154, 1186; eff. 1-3-2020.)