

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.

ATTACHMENT C

In addition to the regulations contained in 62-302 and the provisions which were determined to be new or revised water quality standards in Attachment A, the following excerpts are from the SCI Primer, a document incorporated by reference into the State rule that relates to the floral metrics for streams. The bold text represents the portions of the text that EPA reviewed and approved as new or revised water quality standards on November 30, 2012.

Nuisance macrophyte growth (From SCI Primer Section 2.7.4 (page 23))

[I]f a stream exhibits a C of C score of >2.5 and a frequency of occurrence of FLEPCC exotics is <25% of the total plant occurrences, this would be considered an indication of no imbalance of flora.

Presence of algal mats (From SCI Primer Section 2.7.3 (page 22))

[I]f a stream exhibits RPS rank 4-6 percent coverage between the mean percent observed at these minimally disturbed and healthy sites (6-8%) and the associated 90th percentile values (25-32%), this would be considered an indication of no imbalance of flora.

Changes in algal species composition (From SCI Primer Section 2.7.3 (page 22))

[I]f the percentage of sampled points with a thickness rank of 4-6 is 20% or greater, the biologist collects a composite sample of the dominant groups of periphyton in the stream segment for lab identification of the dominant algal taxa. If autecological information is available for the dominant taxa, this is also qualitatively evaluated.

Algal blooms and Chlorophyll a levels (From SCI Primer Section 2.7.5 (page 24))

An unacceptable phytoplankton bloom would consist of a situation where an algal species, whose noxious characteristics or presence in sufficient number, biomass, or areal extent may reasonably be expected to prevent, or unreasonably interfere with, the designated use of the waterbody.

DEP evaluates the autecological information for the dominant bloom species, in conjunction with the associated chlorophyll a and the persistence of the bloom, as a line of evidence when assessing imbalances of flora.

If a stream exhibits annual geometric mean chlorophyll concentrations between the mean observed at these minimally disturbed and healthy sites (2.0-2.1µg/L) and the associated 90th percentile values (3.2-3.5µg/L), this would be considered a clear indication of no imbalance of flora.