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**Date:** Sept. 17, 2021  
**To:** Environmental Quality Commission  
**From:** Richard Whitman, Director  
**Subject:** Item D: Integrated Report 2022 Assessment Methodology (Informational)  
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2021, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** DEQ will provide an update on the 2022 Integrated Report Assessment Methodology, summarize key issues raised during public comment and hold a statutorily required public comment opportunity specific to the Integrated Report's methodology.

**Background** The Integrated Report documents Oregon's biennial water quality assessments to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Sections 303(d), 305(b), and 314 reporting requirements for Oregon's waters. DEQ recently completed updates to its 2022 Assessment Methodology.

Oregon statute requires that DEQ publish the Integrated Report assessment methodology prior to the start of drafting the Integrated Report. The Assessment Methodology for Oregon's 2022 Water Quality Report, and List of Water Quality Limited Waters, describes how data will be evaluated at the assessment unit level and how DEQ will develop Oregon's 2022 Integrated Report.

Following the submittal of the last Integrated Report in April 2020, DEQ began prioritizing updates to its 2022 Assessment Methodology. DEQ prioritized both short and longer-term methodology updates. DEQ hosted three informational webinars and workshops for priority updates and provided opportunities for both formal and informal comments from stakeholders regarding the methodology.

Priority updates for the 2022 Integrated Report Assessment Methodology include:

- Delisting method for dissolved oxygen using continuous data
- Assessment method for pH using continuous data

- Delisting method for historical freshwater fecal coliform listings
- Set minimum data requirements for attaining criteria (Category 2)
- Assessment method for recently promulgated aluminum criteria
- Assessment of watershed units by monitoring station

**Process updates**

DEQ posted the draft Assessment Methodology for public comment on Jan. 19, 2021, and accepted comments on the methodologies through March 8, 2021. As part of the Integrated Report development process, DEQ accepts data and information from the public that may be used to assess the condition of Oregon's waterbodies. DEQ posted its statewide call for data for the 2022 Integrated Report on Feb. 1, 2021, through April 2, 2021.

At the commission meeting, DEQ will describe the 2022 Integrated Report methodology improvements, summarize stakeholder feedback received and explain how DEQ addressed the comments. DEQ will highlight outreach that was completed throughout the process and provide an updated schedule for EPA submittal of the 2022 Integrated Report.

**Next steps**

DEQ will assess the water quality data submitted and draft a 2022 impaired waters list (303(d) list) and status report for Oregon waters in fall 2021. DEQ will incorporate internal and external stakeholder feedback into its final assessment in spring 2022. DEQ will submit its final assessment to EPA in April 2022 for approval. DEQ's Water Quality Assessment Program continues to make improvements to its assessment process for all future Integrated Report cycles.

**EQC involvement**

No commission action is requested at this time. The commission is not required to take action on the Assessment Methodology or the Integrated Report. Oregon Statute (ORS 468B.039) requires the commission to host a public comment period on assessment methodology, which will follow the staff presentation at the Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2021, EQC meeting.

DEQ may brief the commission on the draft Integrated Report in 2022.

Report compiled by Becky Anthony  
*Water Quality Assessment Program*