



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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August 7, 2024

Electronic Delivery

Karen Burgess, Acting Director
Water Division
US EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, OWW-135
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Submittal of the replacement temperature TMDLs for the Willamette Subbasins

Dear Ms. Burgess:

Please find a copy of the final replacement temperature TMDL for the Willamette Subbasins, adopted by reference into Oregon Administrative Rule 340-042-0090(3) on Aug. 6, 2024, by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission. This TMDL replaces the temperature TMDLs included in the Willamette Basin TMDL and the Molalla-Pudding Subbasin TMDL approved by EPA on Sept. 29, 2006 and Dec. 31, 2008, respectively. The TMDLs were updated and replaced, as required by federal court order, to be consistent with current temperature standards. The court order identifies September 15th, 2024 as the date for EPA approval or disapproval of the replacement TMDL.

This TMDL was developed under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and is submitted by this transmittal to the EPA for review and approval. To assist EPA's review, also attached are copies of DEQ's Willamette Subbasins temperature TMDL Water Quality Management Plan, also adopted by reference into OAR 340-042-0090(3) by the EQC on August 6, 2024, the TMDL Technical Support Document, and the Rulemaking Action Staff Report prepared for EQC, which includes a summary of public comments received and DEQ's responses.

The waters addressed by this TMDL are located within ten eight digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) subbasins within the Willamette Basin (HUC 170900), including the Middle Fork Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090001), Coast Fork Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090002), Upper Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090003), McKenzie Subbasin (HUC 17090004), North Santiam Subbasin (HUC 17090005), South Santiam Subbasin (HUC 17090006), Middle Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090007), Molalla-Pudding Subbasin (HUC 17090009), Clackamas Subbasin (HUC 17090011), and Lower Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090012). Waters excluded from the Willamette Subbasins TMDLs include the Willamette River, Multnomah Channel, and tributaries to the Willamette River downstream of the following dams: River Mill Dam, Detroit Dam, Foster Dam, Fern Ridge Dam, Dexter Dam, Fall Creek Dam, Dorena Dam, and Cottage Grove Dam.


DEQ developed this watershed TMDL to address all Category 5 listed assessment units on Oregon's 2022 303(d) list, and, as applicable, any assessment units found to be impaired in the future. Likewise, this TMDL includes a protection plan for all other assessment categories including assessment units identified as a potential concern, attaining, or unassessed. In total, the TMDL applies to 913 assessment units, of which 232 are Category 5 temperature impaired. Some of these assessment units have both year-round and spawning use designations impaired. If both use designations are impaired, it is counted as two

303(d) listings. Therefore, this TMDL addresses a total of 290 Category 5 temperature listings identified on the 2022 Integrated Report.

DEQ conducted a public participation process, per OAR 340-042-0050 and state rulemaking procedures. The public process, comments received, and DEQ's responses are summarized in the attached Staff Report. The final TMDL and WQMP rule, and technical support documentation were revised in response to public comments.

Please direct questions regarding this TMDL to DEQ Water Quality Manager, Steve Mrazik, Steve.MRAZIK@deq.oregon.gov or 971-563-8035.

We look forward to EPA's review and approval of the TMDL and acceptance of the protection plan.
Sincerely,


[Jennifer Wigal \(Aug 6, 2024 15:31 PDT\)](#)

Jennifer Wigal
Water Quality Administrator

Cc: Jennifer Wu, EPA Region 10
Rebecca Veiga Nascimento, EPA Region 10
Steve Mrazik, DEQ Watershed Management
Ryan Michie, DEQ Watershed Management
Michele Martin, DEQ Headquarters

Attachments: Willamette Subbasins TMDL
Willamette Subbasins TMDL Water Quality Management Plan
Willamette Subbasins TMDL Technical Support Document and appendices
Rulemaking Action Item A, Staff Report to the Oregon Environmental Quality
Commission, including Attachment F Response to Public Comments and Attachment G
Received Written Comments