



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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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 Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin

Dear Ms. Burgess:

Please find a copy of the final replacement temperature TMDL for the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin, adopted by reference into Oregon Administrative Rule 340-042-0090(4) on Aug. 6, 2024, by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission. This TMDL replaces the Sandy River Basin temperature TMDL approved by EPA on April 15, 2005. The TMDL was 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, attached are copies of DEQ's Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin temperature TMDL Water Quality Management Plan, also adopted by reference into OAR 340-042-0090(4) 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 temperature TMDL are located in the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin (HUC 17080001). The temperature TMDL does not include the section of the Columbia River that flows through the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin. The Columbia River is addressed by EPA's Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers temperature TMDL. However, this TMDL implements EPA's Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers temperature TMDL allocation to anthropogenic sources in Columbia River tributaries, including the Sandy River.

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 58 assessment units, of which 27 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 36 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

[Jennifer Wigal \(Aug 6, 2024 16:27 PDT\)](#)

Jennifer Wigal
Water Quality Division 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: Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL
Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin Water Quality Management Plan
Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin 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