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2018 Assessment Methodology Review/Clean Water Act: Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Announces Public Listening Session

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The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality ("ADEQ") announced it will hold a public listening session to receive input on a 2018 Assessment Methodology ("Methodology").

The Methodology contains procedures for how Arkansas will determine whether or not its waters are attaining their designated uses and water quality standards.

Section 303 of the Clean Water Act ("CWA") requires that each state develop water quality standards ("WQS") for jurisdictional waters of the United States within their borders. These WQS:

- Establish the water quality goals for a specific body of water
- Serve as the regulatory basis for the development of water-quality based effluent limits

A WQS consists of three parts:

- The designated uses of water body
- Water quality criteria that are necessary to protect existing uses and to attain the beneficial uses designated by the State
- An anti-degradation statement or policy to protect existing uses in high water quality

The CWA requires that each state assess its waters every two years to determine whether or not they are attaining their designated uses and WQS. State waters that do not attain either their designated uses or WQS are placed on the Section 303(d) Impaired Water Body List.

The listening session is stated to be Phase I of a three-phase review process. The subsequent phases will encompass:

- Phase II – Stakeholder workgroups
- Phase III – Formal comment response process

The listening session will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Room at ADEQ's headquarters.

[A link to the relevant information can be found here.](#)