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# 2023 Triennial Review/Arkansas Water Quality Standards: Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment - Division of Environmental Quality Schedules Next Stakeholder Meeting

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The Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment – Division of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”) announced the date, location, and time of its next 2023 Triennial Review of Arkansas’s Water Quality Standards (“WQS”) next meeting.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, May 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a break for lunch at 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR, 72118.

The WQS are found in Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Rule 2.

The Clean Water requires states and authorized tribes to periodically review and, as appropriate, adopt new or revised WQS to meet the requirement of the Clean Water Act. They must submit any new or revised WQS resulting from such a review to the EPA for review and approval or disapproval under Clean Water Act Section 303(c). This process is known as the Triennial Review. It must be undertaken with public notice and comment opportunities.

Section 303 of the Clean Water Act requires that each state develop WQS for jurisdictional waters of the United States within their borders. They establish the water quality goals for a specific waterbody and also serve as a regulatory basis for the development of water-quality based effluent limits and strategies for individual point source discharges.

WQS consists of three parts:

1. The designated use of a waterbody;
2. the water quality criteria that are necessary to protect existing uses and to attain the beneficial uses designated by the state; and
3. an antidegradation statement or policy to protect existing uses in high quality water.

Section 303 specifies the adoption of WQS as primarily the responsibility of the states and tribes. The states must adopt uses consistent with Clean Water Act objectives and water quality criteria sufficient to protect the chosen uses. However, EPA is required to ensure that the state WQS meet the minimum

requirements of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, the Clean Water Act regulations provide for EPA review of any state WQS changes.

A link to the Notice which contains links to the following related documents can be found [here](#):

- March 31, 2022 Rule 2 Presentation
- Coffee Creek & Effluent Channel Map
- Mossy lake Presentation
- Coffee Creek Presentation
- March 31, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- March 31, 2022 Meeting Handout