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Public Notice
Utah Division of Water Quality
Review of Colorado River Water Quality Standards
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
July 2020

BACKGROUND

In 1975, the seven Colorado River Basin States (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, UT, & WY) adopted water quality standards with respect to salinity for the entire Colorado River Basin (Basin) in the United States. This was required under the then newly enacted Clean Water Act. Every three years, the seven Basin states through their organization, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum), have reviewed these standards in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Forum has recently approved a draft of the *2020 Review, Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System, June 2020 Draft* (Review). The Forum and each of the Basin states are providing an opportunity for public comments on this Review. The draft Review can be found on the following website: www.ColoradoRiverSalinity.org.

In Utah, the Public Notice information can be found at <https://deq.utah.gov/public-notices-archive/water-quality-public-notices> and written public comments can be submitted to: Jeff Studenka, Utah Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or by e-mail at: jstudenka@utah.gov.

The deadline to receive comments is close of business August 7, 2020. If you have questions regarding this effort, please contact Jeff Studenka at (801) 536-4395 or by e-mail at: jstudenka@utah.gov.

OTHER INFORMATION

In general, the findings of the Review are that: 1) the salt load in the Colorado River has been reduced by 1.22 million tons per year thus far through implementation of the Salinity Control Program, 2) there is not a need to change the adopted numeric criteria, 3) there is a Plan of Implementation identified to remove an additional 62,400 tons of salt per year by the year 2023, and 4) with the plan of implementation in place, there is a low probability of exceeding the numeric criteria over the next 3 years. The Salinity Control Program continues to be a successful federal and state partnership that has environmental and economic benefits for users of Colorado River water.

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