Utah Water Quality Standards Ongoing Review Topics Workplan

Rule R317-2-	Standards Issues	DWQ LOE	Priority	Date Rqst	By	When	Notes
1C Triennial Review							
2 Scope							
3 Antidegradation Policy							
4 Colorado River Salinity Standards							
5 Mixing Zones							
6 Use Designations							
7 Water Quality Standards							
	Variance policy	High	High	2012	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Time needed to complete analyses for nutrients but policy extends beyond nutrients. Variance policy may not be necessary because USEPA will review all variance requests.
8 Protection of Downstream Uses							
9 Intermittent Waters							
10 Laboratory and Field Analyses							
11 Public Participation							
12 Category 1 and Category 2 Waters							
13 Classification of Waters of the State							
	Add footnotes when a site-specific criterion applies with different footnotes for site-specific criteria based on recalculation and site-specific criteria based on a use attainability analysis.	Low	Low	2016	Chris Bittner, DWQ	2017	This will help to ensure that appropriate criteria are applied
	Reclassify Pineview Reservoir, Weber River WMU, from 3A to 3B	Low	Medium	2002	Kari Lundeen DWQ		Recommendation of the 2002 TMDL
	Change beneficial uses of Salteratus Creek, Bear River WMU, from 3A to 3D	Low	Low	2013	Mike Allred, DWQ		DWQ no longer assesses Salteratus Creek, TMDL has most of work done.
	Change beneficial use of Recapture Reservoir, Colorado River Southeast, from 3A to 3B	Low	Medium	2013	Mike Allred, DWQ		Recommendation of TMDL
	Assign Beneficial Uses to Red Creek (Iron County), Cedar/Beaver WMU	Low	Low		Scott Daly, DWQ		Red Creek (Iron County) does not have specifically assigned uses and is therefore designated as Classes 2B, 3D (R317-2-13.13). An associated reservoir, Red Creek Reservoir (Iron County) has designated uses of Classes 2B, 3A, and 4. Red Creek upstream and downstream of the resevoir are recommended to include the same designated uses as the associated reservoir.
	Reclassify Mill Creek (Moab) from Class 2B to 2A	Low		2015	Arne Hulquist, Watershed Coordinator	2017	Change is supported by photographs, internet entries, a letter from the BLM, and the local watershed chapter.

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	Reclassify Utah Lake from Class 2B to 2A	Low	Medium	2015	Erica Gaddis, DWQ	2017	Utah Lake supports extensive frequent primary contact via water skiing and wake boarding.
	Review beneficial uses for Willard Spur, Bear River Bay, Great Salt Lake	High	Medium	2011	Jeff Ostermiller, DWQ	2017	Pending recommendations of ongoing studies
	Add Class 1C to Battle and Grove Creeks, Utah County	Low	Low	2016	American Fork City	2017	
14 Numeric Criteria							
	Resolve EPA disapproval of Great Salt Lake selenium Antidegradation Trigger	Low	Low	2012	EPA	2017	USEPA disapproved because inconsistent with EPA ADR Policy but has little affect on requirements
	Adopt updated aquatic life water quality criteria for chloride	Low	Medium	2011	EPA		USEPA updated AWQC. Adoption was delayed in 2011 until DWQ can evaluate the applicability to Utah of the USEPA default chloride standard. Aquatic life criteria for ions (e.g., TDS) in needed.
	Review iron criteria for dissolved and total	Medium	Medium	2011 & 2014	EPA		Iron criteria may have been erroneously changed to dissolved when other metals were changed to dissolved although absent a dissolved to total translator, 1 is assumed resulting in implementation as a totals criterion. However, the criterion could be modified site-specifically by measuring the dissolved fraction potentially resulting in an inappropriate modification to the criterion.
	State-wide nutrient criteria: numeric nutrient criteria for casual and response variables for streams/rivers and lakes/reservoirs	High	High	2011	Jeff Ostermiller, DWQ		2014 focus in on technology-based standards for N and P. Work on use-based criteria for headwaters is ongoing in 2016.
	Jordan River site-specific temperature and TDS	High	High	2011	Hilary Arens DWQ	2017	post TMDL, 2016 additonal data is being collected.
	Site-specific TDS Standard Antelope Creek, Uinta WMU	High	High	2013	DWQ TMDL	2015	post TMDL
	Adopt carbaryl criteria consistent with EPA 2013	Low	Medium	2014	EPA	2017	2nd most frequently detected insecticide in water. DWQ to investigate if Dept. c
	Adopt methylmercury criterion consistent with EPA 2000	Medium	High	2011 & 2014	EPA		Multiple implementation considerations, implementation methods should be developed prior to adopting tissue-based std. The 2016 EPA selenium criteria are also tissue-based, and implementation methods will be developed in tandem for both selenium (tissue-based) and methylmercury.
	Methylmercury criterion Implementation	High	High	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Need implementation methods prior to promulgating methyl mercury standard
	Resolve the units for phenol in the aquatic life table.	Low	Low	2012	Chris Bittner, DWQ		EPA no longer has aquatic life criteria for phenol, so criteria could potentially be deleted

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	Adoption of the new ammonia criteria consistent with EPA 2013 and implementation methods	High	High	2014	EPA		Historical surveys ongoing, expected completion in 2017

Utah Water Quality Standards Work Plan Future Topics

Rule R317-2-	Standards Issues	DWQ LOE	Priority	Date	By	When	Notes
1C Triennial Review							
2 Scope							
3 Antidegradation Policy							
	Antidegradation Policy: Implementation Guidance: Complete Category Section Complete 401, 402, and General Permits Program	Medium	Medium	2011	Nicholas Von Stackelberg, DWQ		No additional revisions anticipated for 2016
4 Colorado River Salinity Standards							
5 Mixing Zones							
	Develop a mixing zone policy specifically for effluent dependent dry washes	High	High	2011	Nicholas Von Stackelberg, DWQ		Other States (e.g., WY, AZ) have use classes for effluent dependent waters but no specific waters have been classified as effluent-dependent. This suggests that these approaches may not be regulatorily viable.
	Evaluate applicability of current mixing policy for effluent dependent/dominated Great Salt Lake wetlands	High	High	2013	Leland Myers, CDSD		Current EPA Region 8 policy is no mixing zones for wetlands. Implementation of any numeric criteria for Great Salt Lake will require that implementation methods be developed. This topic will be considered at that time.
6 Use Designations							
	GSL wetlands - beneficial uses for different wetland types	High/Med	High	2011	Toby Hooker, DWQ		Wetlands work is ongoing. This task is archived until a potential change to standards is identified.
	Implement identification numbers to provide consistency between standards, assessment, and TMDLs (e.g., NHD)	Medium	Low	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Need to decide on best identifier. Small LOE from WQS Workgroup, large effort DWQ to implement
	Develop tiered aquatic life beneficial uses	High	Low		Jeff Ostermiller, DWQ		In the interim, site-specific standards can be applied.
	Review Beneficial Use Class 3C	Medium	Low				Review the distinction between game and nongame fish
	Assign Beneficial Uses to Lee Creek	Medium	Low		Nicholas Von Stackelberg, DWQ		Lee Creek is currently asigned the default uses of Class 2B, and 3D
7 Water Quality Standards							
	GSL wetlands - validation of assessment methodology	High/Med	High	2011	Toby Hooker, DWQ		Wetlands work proceeding to determine beneficial uses
	Revise standards to indicate that the criterion is the greater of ambient or use-based criterion.	Low	High	2013	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Utah Standards already allow for setting site-specific standards. However, without the proposed change, Utah is obligated to list assessment units as impaired until a site-specific standard is promulgated even if the USEPA approved TMDL concludes that the source of the impairment is not anthropogenic. A rule change would allow the State to avoid listings these sites as impaired. From USEPA's 2014 Integrated Report memorandum: "States may have natural background provisions in EPA approved water quality standards that specify the applicable aquatic life water quality criterion will be equal to the natural background level of a pollutant if it is determined that the natural background level is less stringent than the otherwise applicable criteria. In the absence of a natural background provision in an EPA approved water quality standard or a site-specific criterion based on natural background, the otherwise applicable criterion is the basis for determining whether a waterbody is impaired." In 2016, this change was proposed and during the rule comment period, EPA indicated that it would not be approvable. In EPA's comments, they indicated that one key deficiency was the lack of a definition of "natural." Montana is currently working on definitions in response to State legislation. Utah will wait the outcome of Montana's rulemaking.
8 Protection of Downstream Uses							
9 Intermittent Waters							
10 Laboratory and Field Analyses							
11 Public Participation							
12 Category 1 and Category 2 Waters							
13 Classification of Waters of the State							
14 Numeric Criteria							

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	Delete pH and DO standards for all wetlands. Replace with a multi-metric index type approach.	Med/High	Low	2011	Jeff Ostermiller, DWQ		Pending validation and applicability of MMI
	Develop an action planning process when an MMI Analysis does not show a wetland meets an acceptable quality level as compared to the reference wetland. This would include the an analysis of beneficial use protection and would be in conformance with recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences TMDL Report (see page 49).	Medium	Low	2011	Leland Myers, CDSD		Pending validation and applicability of MMI
	Develop numeric criteria for Gilbert Bay, Great Salt Lake	High	High	2012	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Bioassays ongoing
	Develop numeric criteria for Farmington Bay, Great Salt Lake	High	High	2012	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Develop resident species lists. Aquatic Life Use workshop held in 2015 and report issued that identifies key data gaps.
	Develop numeric criteria for Bear River Bay, Great Salt Lake	High	Medium	2012	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Develop resident species lists and determine if USEPA species deletion procedure can be applied. Aquatic Life Use workshop held in 2015 and report issued that identifies key data gaps.
	Revised temperature criteria and assessment methodology	High	Medium	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ		New temperature listings could have a low priority (unless waterbody is receiving a thermal discharge), and potentially be delisted once standards are revised. May be able to build on approaches used by other states. Should include an allowance for excursions due to unusual weather. Can work with TMDL group to develop rationale for site-specific standards proposals until a state-wide approach can be developed
	TDS - explore dividing the agricultural use into livestock and irrigation and the necessary criteria to adopt those uses (e.g. adoption of EC/SAR criteria for irrigation, criteria for livestock)	High	Medium	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Can work with TMDL group to develop rationale for site-specific standards proposals until a state-wide approach can be developed; Montana rules being challenged in court 2010.
	Update Human Health Criteria Table	Low	Medium		Chris Bittner, DWQ	2015	Pending finalization of updated criteria by EPA. Several of the criteria are inconsistent with USEPA. Footnote A should likely refer to Class 1C criteria and nothing in organism only column that is applicable to aquatic life.
	Averaging periods and assessment methods for high frequency temperature measurements	Medium	Low				
	Sevier River site-specific TDS standard	Low	Low	2015	Mark Stanger, DWQ		The standard from Gunnison Bend Reservoir to Clear Lake is incorrect because Sevier River doesn't flow into/out of Clear Lake. Craft Lake? Or take it to Sevier Lake?
	Evaluate existing DO standards and assessment methods for lakes and reservoirs	Medium	Medium	2012	Lareina Guenzel, EPA8	2016	Ensure that assessment methodology is consistent with dissolved oxygen standard for issues such as TMDL targets of 50% of the water column having sufficient DO or limiting the application of the standard to the epilimnion of stratified lakes.
	Update Cd Aquatic Life Criteria to be consistent with USEPA 2016	Low	Low	2016	Chris Bittner, DWQ	2017	Acute more stringent (2.0 to 1.8 ug/l) and chronic less stringent (0.25 to 0.72 ug/l). Cd does not have reasonable potential for any UPDES permit.

Utah Water Quality Standards Work Plan Resolved Topics

Rule R317-2-	Standards Issues	DWQ LOE	Priority	Date Rqst	By	When	Notes
1C Triennial Review							
2 Scope							
3 Antidegradation Policy							
	Revise requirement to do a level II ADR for Class 1C waters	Low	High	2014	Reed Obendorfer, CUP	Anticipated 2017	This requirement was added when Utah had several off ramps and Level II ADRs were not required. Under Utah's current approach, level II ADRs are required for all new or expanding discharges which meets the intent of the Class 1C requirement to do a level II ADR.
	Antidegradation Policy: Implementation Guidance: Complete Category Section Complete 401, 402, and General Permits Program	Medium	Medium	2011	Nicholas Von Stackelberg, DWQ	2013	The implementation guidance was originally part of the rule revision package. Changes to the guidance is not a standards change. DWQ's intent is to continue to use the WQS workgroup to review changes to implementation guidance.
	Change Categories 1, 2, and 3 to Tier 1, 2, and 3 to be consistent with Federal program and other States	Low	Low	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Eliminate confusion regarding the nexus of Federal and State Rules. Utah's Categories don't match up with USEPA Tiers and DWQ decided not to pursue this change because the terminology between State and USEPA could not be reconciled without reworking the rule.
4 Colorado River Salinity Standards							
5 Mixing Zones							
6 Use Designations							
7 Water Quality Standards							
	Modify standards to allow the use of the biotic-ligand model or water effects ratio for site-specific standards	Low	Low			Completed 2012	R317-2-7 was concluded to already allow for site-specific standards for a several reasons including the biotic-ligand model or water effects ratio.
	Revise "a less stringent criterion is appropriate because of natural or un-alterable conditions" to apply to any parameter, not just TDS and temperature	Low	Medium			Completed 2012	R317-2-7 was revised to allow for site-specific standards for a general reasons that wouild include the biotic-ligand model or water effects ratio.
	Assess Biotic ligand model for inclusion into zinc aquatic life standards	Medium	Low			Completed 2012	R317-2-7 allows for site-specific standards for a several reasons including the biotic-ligand model or water effects ratio. Currently, USEPA has not accepted a biotic-ligand model for pollutants other than copper.
	Revisions to narrative standard - expand to address biological condition	Med/Low	High			Completed 2013	Revisions will better align standards with assessments based on biology
8 Protection of Downstream Uses							
9 Intermittent Waters							
10 Laboratory and Field Analyses							
11 Public Participation							
12 Category 1 and Category 2 Waters							
	Revise Category 1 descriptions for Oakley and Coalville WWTPs	Low	Medium			Completed 2012	Category 1 boundary is defined as US 189 which subsequently was moved with road construction. US189 is no longer a valid geographical residence. Reestablish Category 1 boundary in the same location with a new reference.

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	In R317-2-12.2 Revise Category 2 Fountain Green To Uintah, should be Category 3	Low	Medium			Completed 2012	This exception was inadvertently moved from R317-2-12.1 during the last rulemaking resulting in this reach being changed to Category 2 as opposed to being excluded from Category 1 (and by default, Category 3)
13 Classification of Waters of the State							
	Blue Creek Site-specific TDS Standard	Medium	High	2008	ATK	2014	Site-specific TDS standard adopted 2014
	Revise upstream boundary for Spring Creek (Bear River WMU) site-specific TDS standard	High	Low	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ		Existing boundary is US 89 which is downstream of the facility that instigated the investigation for a site-specific standard. 05/10/2011, no change necessary, boundary is the beginning of Spring Creek.
	Assign beneficial uses	Low	High			Completed 2012	Sand Hollow Reservoir; Big East Reservoir; Emigration Creek Red Butte Creek
	Change Recreation Beneficial Use	Low	Medium			Completed 2012	Restored Ogden River from 2B to 2A; Fremont River Capitol Reef from 2B to 2A; Hyrum Reservoir from 2B to 2A (already 2A, 05102011) Delete 2B wherever more stringent 2A assigned
	Remove or define astericks in lake beneficial uses	Low	Low			Completed 2012	
	Change Burriston creek to Currant Cree	Low	Low			Completed 2013	The WQ standards list the inlet stream for Mona Reservoir as Burriston Creek (see R317-2-13.5-c) However, the USGS maps and DWQ publications like "Utah's Priority Lakes and Reservoirs" describe the inlet and outlet stream as Currant Creek. There is a small group of ponds called "Burriston Ponds" located about 1.5 miles upstream from the inlet of Mona Reservoir near Currant Creek. I assume the use of Burriston Creek may be a local name, but I think Currant Creek is more official. In addition, the outlet stream of Mona Reservoir is known in the WQ standards as Currant Creek. In the beneficial use designation section (R317-2-13.5-c):Burriston Creek from Mona Reservoir to headwaters....2B 3A, 4 should read:Currant Creek from Mona Reservoir to headwaters....2B 3A, 4
	Add the Class 1C use to Weber River-3	Low	Low	2014	Erica Gaddis, DWQ	2016	Weber River-3 has drinking water intake for WCD Central. Weber Basin Water Conservancy District was consulted and reported that they do not have drinking water intakes in this reach. No change is necessary.
	Add the Class 1C use to Scout Lake	Low	Low	2014	Erica Gaddis, DWQ	2016	Scout Lake was supported to be a public drinking water source (Camp Steiner) but after further investigation with the Division of Drinking Water, the water source is a spring. No change is necessary.
14 Numeric Criteria							
	Delete temperature from fluoride criteria	Low	High	2015	Chris Bittner, DWQ	2016	Temperature correction was based on a presumed increased water ingestion rate at higher temperatures that is no longer supported by EPA.
	Delete acute criteria for mercury	Low	Medium			Completed 2012	Acute standard no longer supported by USEPA because standard not protective of bioaccumulation
	Adopt updated human health water quality criteria for phenol, acrolein, and tributyl tin	Low	Medium			Completed 2012	USEPA updated AWQC

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	Adopt updated aquatic life water quality criteria for acrolein, chlorpyrifos, and tributyl tin	Low	Medium			Completed 2012	USEPA updated AWQC
	Site-specific TDS Standards	Medium	High			Completed 2012	Price River between Soldier and Coal Creeks;
	Fix formula for calculating H2S	Low	Medium	2012		2015	Formula deleted. Standard methods provide appropriate formulas
	Housekeeping: Fix footnote reference for pollution indicators in Aquatic Life table		Low	2014	Chris Bittner, DWQ	2015	Pollution indicator should be footnote 10 instead of 11.
	Hardness Correction formulas for Ni, Ag, and Zn missing parantheses	Low	Low	2013	Leland Myers, CDSD	2015	
	Investigate if Gross Alpha should be indicator	Medium	Medium	2015	Chris Bittner, DWQ	2015	EPA does not have criteria for gross alpha, like gross beta, which is an indicator, gross alpha is a non-specific measurement
	Identify Table 13.2 in the standards	Low	Low	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ		No reference in standards for table. 05/10/2011, No change necessary because none of the tables in R317-2 have references.
	Update the zinc criteria	Low	Low	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ		C.Bittner reviewed the 2002 EPA criteria for zinc and Utah's is current
	GSL indicator values/criteria	High	High	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ	2014	Development of indicator values/criteria will streamline permitting inefficiencies and assist assessment of the GSL. The UPDES permitting program has adopted an approach for permitting negating the need for indicators.

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	Recategorize the following waters from Category 3 to Category 2: Provo from Jordanelle to Olmsted Diversion excluding Deer Creek Reservoir	Medium	Low	2011	Paul Dremman, TU		Trout Unlimited request: review existing 208 restrictions on discharges. Waiting for TU to compile supporting rationale and documentation 9/12/2011.
13 Classification of Waters of the State							
14 Numeric Criteria							
	Translator for GSL selenium standard (egg to water translator)	High/Med	High	2011	Chris Bittner, DWQ		A translator is not feasible at existing Great Salt Lake selenium concentrations (<1 ug/l) as documented in the 2014 Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Southwest Groundwater Treatment Plant UDPES permit FSSOB.
	Sediment quantity criteria for GSL	High	Low	2011			Technically challenging for arid systems with highly variable sediment loading
	Sediment Quantity Criteria	High	Low	2011			Technically challenging for arid systems with highly variable sediment loading