UTAH DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER QUALITY

Water Quality Standards Proposed Revisions Summary
Proposed Amendments to R317-2-4, R317-2-13, and R317-2-14, Standards of Quality for Waters of the State published in the September 15, 2020 issue of the Utah Bulletin

Note: This document is intended as a companion document to the information published in the April 1, 2019 Utah Bulletin. This document provides supplemental information for the proposed amendments to R317-2 described in the September 15, 2020 Utah Bulletin. The information in the Utah Bulletin prevails should any unintentional discrepancies occur between these documents and the Utah Bulletin

Comments will be accepted until 6:00 p.m., October 30, 2020. Comments should be mailed to Christopher Bittner, Utah Division of Water Quality, PO Box 144870, SLC, Utah 84114-4870, faxed to (801) 536-4301 or emailed to cbittner@utah.gov. Comments will also be accepted at the public hearing. In accordance with federal and state directives regarding COVID-19, the public hearing will be virtual and will be a minimum of one hour:

PUBLIC HEARING DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday, October 21, 2020	6:00 PM	https://utdeq.adobeconnect.com/publichearing/

Proposed Standards Revisions

Rule	Description	Change No.
R317-2-4	Addition of the 2014, 2017, and 2020 reviews to the Colorado River Salinity Standards.	1
R317-2-13.5	Change the aquatic life use for a segment of the Jordan River, Salt Lake and Utah Counties, from Class 3A (cold water aquatic life) to Class 3B (warm water aquatic life).	2
R317-2-13.2.b. and Table 2.14.2	Revise the 1,200 mg/L statewide criterion for protecting agricultural uses of the water (Class 4) for total dissolved solids (TDS) for segments of Kanab Creek near Alton, Utah.	3

1. **Colorado River Salinity Standards.** The 2014, 2017, and 2020 reviews by the Colorado Salinity Forum were added to the existing citations.

   Directly affected persons. These 2014, 2017, or 2020 reviews did not result in any changes to existing requirements and there are no persons are directly affected.

   Rule language: The proposed changes to R317-2-4 are shown in the following:

In addition to quality protection afforded by these rules to waters of the Colorado River and its tributaries, such waters shall be protected also by requirements of "Proposed Water Quality Standards for Salinity including Numeric Criteria and Plan of Implementation for Salinity Control, Colorado River System, June 1975" and a supplement dated August 26, 1975, entitled "Supplement, including Modifications to Proposed Water Quality Standards for Salinity including Numeric Criteria and Plan of Implementation for Salinity Control, Colorado River System, June 1975", as approved by the seven Colorado River Basin States and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as updated by the 1978 Revision and the 1981, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, [~~and~~] 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2020 reviews of the above documents.

2. **Jordan River.** For the segment of the Jordan River from the confluence with Little Cottonwood Creek to the Narrows Diversion, proposed change is from Class 3A (cold water aquatic life) to Class 3B (warm water aquatic life) because natural conditions, as affected by the dams and diversions, prevent attainment of the Class 3A use. This change in use changes the maximum allowable water temperature from 20° C to 27° C. The upstream segment and source of water for the affected segment is already appropriately classified as Class 3B. Water temperatures in the upstream as well as the affected segment commonly exceed 20° C in the July and August. The affected segment was originally misclassified and this change corrects that mistake.

   More detailed information is available in *Cold Water Aquatic Life Use Attainability Analysis for the Jordan River from confluence with Little Cottonwood Creek to Narrows Diversion, Utah and Salt Lake Counties, Utah*, Version 1.0, March 20, 2020 (DWQ-2020-007517).

   Directly affected persons. The proposed change will directly affect the permits for two Utah Pollution Elimination Discharge System (UPDES) discharges. With the change, the South Valley Water Reclamation Facility and Jordan Basin Water Reclamation Facility avoid costly treatment that could be necessary to meet 20° C. These costs to the public would not be justified because the Jordan River does not, and cannot, meet the Class 3A water temperature requirements.

   Rule language. The change to the segment in the standards in R317-2-13.5 is as follows:

Jordan River, from Farmington Bay to North Temple Street, Salt Lake City	2B	3B*	3D	4
State Canal, from Farmington Bay to confluence with the Jordan River	2B	3B*	3D	4
Jordan River, from North Temple Street in Salt Lake City to confluence with Little Cottonwood Creek	2B	3B*		4

Surplus Canal from Great Salt Lake to the diversion from the Jordan River		2B	3B*	3D	4
Jordan River from confluence with Little Cottonwood Creek to Narrows Diversion		2B[~~3A~~]3B			4
Jordan River, from Narrows Diversion to Utah Lake	1C	2B	3B		4

3. **Kanab Creek Total Dissolved Solids.** Kanab Creek is located in Kane County and the affected segments are near Alton, Utah in upper half of Kanab Creek. Segments of Kanab Creek have perennial (or year-round) flow and other segments only have flow during runoff or after rain. In the affected segments of Kanab Creek, the total dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations exceed the statewide maximum of 1,200 mg/L. The primary reason for higher TDS concentrations is that the water contacts saline rock formations in the watershed.

   Near Alton, most of the water in Kanab Creek is diverted for crop irrigation and Kanab Creek downstream of Alton is dry for much of the year. The proposed higher TDS criteria will continue to protect the irrigation uses of the water. The criteria are based on current conditions and no impacts to irrigation uses are predicted. Downstream, closer to Kanab, Utah, flows are perennial and TDS concentrations markedly lower than in upper Kanab Creek. No changes are proposed for this segment. The uses of these waters will remain protected with the revised upstream criteria because a) lower Kanab Creek is supported by a different baseflow, b) water from upper Kanab Creek only flows all the way to lower Kanab Creek during runoff or after high precipitation, and c) during these times of higher flows, the TDS concentrations are low.

   More detailed information is available in the *Kanab Creek - Use and Value Assessment and Revised Criteria for Total Dissolved Solids*, version 1.4, June 18, 2020 (DWQ-2020-013798).

   Directly affected persons. The proposed changes will potentially directly affect one UPDES permit, Alton Coal. With the change, higher discharge concentrations of TDS could be allowed. Alton Coal will avoid treatment for TDS if the revised criteria are high enough to assimilate the TDS concentrations of the discharge and other requirements are met. Effluent limits, if necessary, are determined as part of the UPDES permitting process and beyond the scope of standards.

   Rule language. The following text is proposed to be added to Footnote 4, Table 2.14.1 in R317-2-14.

Kanab Creek and tributaries above Simpson Hollow Wash to irrigation diversion at confluence with Reservoir Canyon: April through November, daily maximum 1,400 mg/l. Assessments shall be based on TDS concentrations measured in Kanab Creek.

Kanab Creek and tributaries from immediately below the confluence with Sink Valley Wash to the confluence of Simpson Hollow Wash: April through November, daily maximum 1,900 mg/l; December through March, daily maximum 1,700 mg/l. Assessments shall be based on TDS concentrations measured in Kanab Creek.