UTAH DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER QUALITY

2023 Triennial Review

Water Quality Standards Priorities

Standards Issue	Background	Goals
EPA 2001 Methylmercury Criteria	The methymercury fish tissue criteria should be added to Table 2.14.6. in Utah Administrative Code (UAC) R317-2. The addition of the fish tissue criterion will primarily affect assessments and assessment methods need to be updated to address implementation. Waters with current fish consumption advisories will likely be identified as impaired.	Propose revised standards to the Water Quality Board, adopt and submit for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval.
EPA 2013 Ammonia Criteria	The 2013 EPA criteria are more stringent than Utah's current criteria if unionid mussels are present. Utah has 2 unionid species, but toxicity tests weren't available for these specific species when EPA updated the criteria. Testing was recently conducted for these 2 species in California. Recalculating the 2013 EPA criteria using the California toxicity data results in unionids-present criteria for Utah that are similar to Utah's existing criteria.	Update implementation guidance, request cost analysis from affected facilities, propose criteria to the Water Quality Board, adopt and submit for EPA approval.
EPA 2019 Cyanotoxins: microcystin & cylindrospermopsin	Recommended criteria should be adopted for recreational uses in table 2.14.1. in UAC R317-2. The recommended criteria are consistent with cyanotoxin concentrations used in recreational health advisories and Water Quality (WQ) assessment methods.	Develop guidance document, propose revised standards to the Water Quality Board, adopt and submit for EPA approval.
EPA 2016 Selenium Criteria	The 2016 EPA criteria is hierarchical with the fish tissue criteria superseding water column criteria. The water criteria are more stringent than Utah's current criteria and selenium is common in Utah surface and waste waters. More stringent selenium criteria will impact existing discharge permits that may require changes to treatment processes. Idaho recently applied the species deletion procedure to EPA's criteria resulting in less stringent criteria. This process may be appropriate to apply to Utah.	Prepare implementation guidance that compiles existing data, includes recommendations for developing site-specific translators, and a schedule for adoption.

2023 Colorado River Salinity Standards update	In UAC R317-2-4, Utah WQ standards reference the WQ standards—numeric criteria and implementation plans—across seven coordinating states to reduce salinity in the Colorado Basin.	The latest version of these criteria and plans were updated in 2023. Utah will update our standards to acknowledge the latest version.
Utah Lake Nutrient Criteria	Utah Lake Nutrient criteria are being developed as part of a multi-year effort with a steering committee and science panel.	Continue studies to support development of numeric nutrient criteria.
Great Salt Lake: Farmington and Bear River Bays	Additional biological surveys have been conducted in Farmington and Bear River Bays of Great Salt Lake (GSL), filling data gaps identified in the GSL Aquatic Life Use survey. Recently updated recommended criteria for aluminum, ammonia, selenium, and copper provide appropriate species toxicity information for a recalculation procedure. Combined, these factors provide a potential pathway for adopting recalculated criteria for Farmington and Bear River Bays.	Update the GSL Strategy. Pilot the species deletion procedure for 4 criteria.
Great Salt Lake: Gilbert Bay	Chronic and acute toxicity tests have been conducted for brine shrimp and brine flies for arsenic, copper, lead, and zinc.	Summarize toxicity test results and determine next steps. Update the GSL Strategy.
EPA 2021 Lakes & Reservoirs Nutrient Criteria	Pilot model application to selected lakes and reservoirs. Current candidates are Willard Bay Reservoir, Mantua Reservoir, and Deer Creek Reservoir. These would help evaluate existing endpoints, potential point sources, and potential criteria endpoints.	Perform pilot analyses.