Message

From: Hakowski, Denise [Hakowski.Denise@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/16/2016 2:04:30 PM
To: David Wolanski [David.Wolanski@state.de.us]; Shah Nawaz [shah.nawaz@dc.gov]; rebecca.diehl@dc.gov; John.Backus@maryland.gov; Tim Fox -MDE- [tim.fox@maryland.gov]; Barron, Alex (DEQ) [Alex.Barron@deq.virginia.gov]; Whitehurst, David (DEQ) [David.Whitehurst@deq.virginia.gov]; Kevin Coyne (Laura.K.Cooper@wv.gov) [Laura.K.Cooper@wv.gov]; James.A.Peterson@wv.gov; Chris.B.Smith@wv.gov; Tom Barron [tbarron@state.pa.us]; Bonita Moore [bmoore@state.pa.us]; Yagecic, John [John.Yagecic@drbc.nj.gov]
CC: MacKnight, Evelyn [MacKnight.Evelyn@epa.gov]; Bentley, Katherine [bentley.katherine@epa.gov]; Atkinson, Cheryl [Atkinson.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Barath, Mark [Barath.Mark@epa.gov]; Lai, Kuo-Liang [Lai.Kuo-Liang@epa.gov]
Subject: Water Quality Standards News

Hello Everyone!

Lots of news to pass along.

First, a bit of old news, but on April 4, 2016, EPA published its revised cadmium criteria recommendation for the protection of aquatic life. You can find the information here:

https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-04/pdf/2016-07647.pdf

Also, our next Bi-Monthly WQS/Nutrient Conference Call is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2016, from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. There has been a lot going on with the Cu BLM of late so I believe that will be our main topic. Please let me know if there are other topics/issues you would like addressed.

Finally, EPA has recently released Narrative Templates for Developing Wetland Water Quality Standards. See the message below, which includes a link to the templates online:

Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the release of EPA's new Narrative Templates for Developing Wetland Water Quality Standards, available online at http://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/templates-developing-wetland-water-quality-standards. EPA developed the templates in coordination with our state co-regulators, the Association of Clean Water Administrators, and the Association of State Wetland Managers via the Water Quality Standards Forum. We offer them as a voluntary tool to assist states and authorized tribes that wish to develop or strengthen their wetland water quality standards.

Most state and tribal water quality standards currently apply criteria for other water body types and designated use classes to wetlands. However, wetlands provide different functions and have different vulnerabilities than other surface waters, so can best be protected by water quality standards that recognize their unique attributes. EPA supports the development of wetland water quality standards as one of the four core elements of our Enhancing State and Tribal Wetland Programs Initiative in recognition of their ability to provide more robust wetland protection when implementing the Clean Water Act and other resource protection programs.

The templates are intended to be as comprehensive as possible in the options they provide, but are not exhaustive and can be further refined to suit a state or authorized tribe's unique circumstances. We look forward to continued collaboration with you and opportunities to modify and improve these templates over time, ultimately providing states and tribes with the most useful, flexible, and protective means for establishing narrative wetland water quality standards.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Brundage at 202-566-1265.

Best,

Sara Hisel-McCoy, Director
Standards and Health Protection Division, Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

and

John Goodin, Acting Director
Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency