

NOTICE OF THE 2022 SOUTH DAKOTA INTEGRATED REPORT FOR SURFACE WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND THE NATIONAL 303(D) PROGRAM VISION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) is announcing the availability of the draft 2022 South Dakota Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment (Integrated Report). The Integrated Report also includes the National 303(d) Program Vision. This notice provides the opportunity for public comment on the draft Integrated Report and the Vision.

The Integrated Report is required under the federal Clean Water Act. This report combines the 305(b) Water Quality Report to Congress and the 303(d) Impaired Waterbodies list into one document for the purpose of reporting on South Dakota's surface water quality. The Integrated Report also lists those waterbodies that require Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development. The final Integrated Report is due to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on or before April 1, 2022.

The 2022 Integrated Report contains the following information:

1. An assessment of the surface water quality of South Dakota's waters;
2. A description of South Dakota's water quality monitoring programs;
3. Pollutants causing violations of the applicable water quality standards;
4. Identification of waters targeted for TMDL development and;
5. A description of the process used by South Dakota to set priorities under the National 303(d) Program Vision.

A TMDL is the maximum amount of pollutant a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards assigned to that waterbody. In practice, the term "TMDL" is also used to describe the document that contains loading calculations and a host of supplemental information such as source assessments, reduction targets, allocations, and seasonality.

The National 303(d) Program Vision serves as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) planning tool for states to implement effective strategies to meet water quality goals. The Vision contains six elements considered important to the process. It defines prioritization for TMDL development with consideration for alternative or protection approaches. South Dakota's original Vision strategy was first available in the 2016 Integrated Report. South Dakota is on schedule to meet TMDL Vision priorities by the September 30, 2022 deadline. South Dakota will be working with EPA to develop new Vision priorities for the 2024 IR cycle.

The department is providing a public participation process in which the members of the general public, affected organizations, and other interested parties can review and comment on the draft 2022 Integrated Report and Vision. A copy of the draft 2022 Integrated Report is available on DANR's One-Stop Public Notice page at: <https://danr.sd.gov/public/default.aspx>. Those persons desiring to only review the Vision document can access the document separately at this same address. Copies of the draft Integrated report or the Vision may also be obtained by emailing Josh Strobel at

Joshua.Strobel@state.sd.us, writing to Josh Strobel at the address below, or by calling him at 1-605-773-6710. The department must receive public comments by March 6, 2022. Comments can be submitted online at DANR's One-Stop Public Notice page at <https://danr.sd.gov/public/default.aspx>, emailed to Josh Strobel at Joshua.Strobel@state.sd.us, or submitted in writing to the address below.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the department will prepare a written response to each comment received. The comments and responses will be incorporated into the final document in Appendix I.

The department will finalize the 2022 Integrated Report and Vision after consideration of the comments received during the public participation process prior to submittal to EPA for approval. Once EPA gives final approval, the Integrated Report will be made available on the department's website. The document will be sent to persons requesting a copy free of charge, published at the approximate cost of \$3.00.

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