

# Wisconsin's Triennial Standards Review

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## Triennial Standard Review Process

- Why develop a TSR Process?
- Benefits
- TSR Development Process
- Overview of the TSR Process
- Timelines

## Why develop a review process?

- Status Quo: "Continual Review"
- CWA requires Triennial Standards Review
- Environmental groups promoted TSR for more effective review process
- DNR Administration approved of a more formal process in response to public request

## TSR Process - Benefits

- Assist in keeping Wisconsin's waters swimmable, fishable, drinkable and suitable for uses
- Help focus DNR efforts to integrate latest science and technology and federal requirements
- Provides DNR with better rationales for decision-making and work planning

## TSR Development Process

- Internal workgroup met, brainstormed
- Reviewed other states' processes
  - Most states (including Region 5) have informal processes
  - MN & ID have structured public input components
  - Alaska has most highly developed process

## TSR Process Overview

Phase 1: Generate a prioritized list of standards for review

Phase 2: Revise each selected Water Quality Standard or Guidance

**Phase 1** Generate prioritized list of standards or guidance

Steps

1. Compile potential projects
2. Internal ranking
3. Public ranking
4. Finalize prioritized list

**Phase 1** Generate prioritized list of standards or guidance

Step 1. Compile potential projects

- Solicit topic nominations internally & externally (Basin Supervisors, PMTs, FH Board, DG Board, legal, SS, EPA, DHFS, public)
- Eligible projects include:
  - Water Quality Standards (WQS) that need revision or development
  - Guidance that delineates where WQS apply (i.e. stream classifications)
  - Guidance on implementing WQS

**Phase 1** Generate prioritized list of standards or guidance

Step 1. Compile potential projects, cont.

Classify projects into Groups A, B, C, D & E

- Group A: Currently in progress
- Group B: Committed to addressing in the upcoming cycle
- Group C: High priority; to be addressed in upcoming cycle
- Group D: Should be revised, but not in upcoming cycle
- Group E: Barriers to development

Not included in the ranking process: Group A, B, C

ranked: Group D, E

**Phase 1** Generate prioritized list of standards or guidance

Step 2. Internal Ranking

- Use prioritization criteria to rank **potential** topics
  - Critical Factors (Yes/No) → if yes, automatic high priority
  - Ecological Relevance (rank 3-0)
  - Feasibility of Revision (rank 3-0)
  - External Influences (rank 3-0)
  - Time frame (not ranked)

**Phase 1** Generate prioritized list of standards or guidance

Step 2. Internal Ranking, cont.

**Phase 1** Generate prioritized list of standards or guidance

Step 3. Public Ranking

- Internally prioritized topic list
- Public Participation Form
  - Indicate top three priorities & why (does not use criteria)

● ● ● **Phase 1** Generate prioritized list of standards or guidance

Step 4. Finalize prioritized list

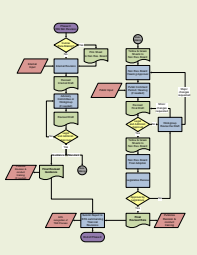
- Compare internal & public rankings
- Use best professional judgment to integrate the two rankings & determine cutoff threshold
- Determine follow-up actions for topics not included in upcoming cycle (gr. D & E)
- Publicize final prioritized list

● ● ● **TSR Process Overview**

Phase 1: Generate a prioritized list of standards for review

Phase 2: Revise each selected Water Quality Standard or Guidance

● ● ● **Phase 2** Revise each selected standard or guidance



Steps

1. Internal revision
2. Advisory Committee (if needed)
3. Legal & Admin. approval
4. For **guidance**, adopt revisions, OR  
For **standards**, continue to rule-making...

● ● ● **Phase 2** Revise each selected standard or guidance

Steps of rule-making (Standards)

1. Notify DNR's Natural Resources Board (NRB)
2. Public comment period / hearing (if needed)
3. Legal and administrative approval
4. Final adoption by NRB
5. Legislative review
6. Adopt revised rule

Completion of TSR Cycle

- Summarize TSR revisions for EPA

● ● ● **TSR Timeline**

Adopt process	April 2008
Phase 1: Internal prioritization Public input Finalize list	May July Sept.-Oct.
Phase 2: Revise standards or guidance	Jan. 2008 – ...* (group A) July 2008 – ...* (group B) July 2009 – ...* (group C)

\* the end date is project-specific

Group A: **Ongoing** projects  
Group B: **Committed** to addressing in the upcoming cycle  
Group C: Ranked **high priority**; address in upcoming cycle as resources allow