



## Region 7

Iowa  
Kansas  
Missouri  
Nebraska

## Fact Sheet

July 2003

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### **EPA's Decision on Iowa's 2002 Section 303(d) List** – Impaired Waters –

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#### **Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act**

Under Section 303(d) of the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA), states, territories, and authorized tribes are required to develop lists of impaired waters every two years, for which existing technology-based pollution controls are not stringent enough to attain or maintain state water quality standards.

The law requires that these jurisdictions establish priority rankings for waters on the lists and develop total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for these waters. A TMDL specifies the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards, and allocates pollutant loadings among point and nonpoint pollutant sources.

By law, EPA must approve or disapprove 303(d) lists and TMDLs established by states, territories, and authorized tribes. If a submission from a state, territory, or authorized tribe is inadequate, EPA must establish the list or the TMDLs. EPA issued regulations (i.e., TMDL provisions) in 1985 and 1992 that implement Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

#### **Background on Iowa's 2002 Section 303(d) List**

Iowa submitted its 2002 Section 303(d) List to EPA on December 19, 2002. EPA has determined that Iowa's list of impaired water bodies still requiring TMDLs *partially* meets the requirements of Section 303(d) of the CWA.

In turn, EPA is partially approving and

partially disapproving Iowa's 2002 Section 303(d) List. EPA's decision document and supporting documentation was provided to the state on July 11, 2003.

#### **Summary of EPA's Decision**

EPA is adding back 20 water bodies and associated pollutants of concern to Iowa's 2002 list of impaired waters.

Iowa removed 20 lakes from their impaired waters list, based on two years of collected data and interim water quality threshold values. Those 20 lakes are part of an ongoing lake study.

To account for year-to-year variability, EPA believes a minimum of three years of data is preferred to accurately assess lake water quality.

Due to the lack of three years of lake study data, Iowa identified relatively high interim threshold values for use in determining which lakes to include on their 303(d) list.

EPA believes it is appropriate for Iowa to review the third year of data and refine the threshold values prior to removing those lakes from the 303(d) list. Consequently, EPA has added those lakes back to Iowa's 2002 Section 303(d) List.

EPA is also approving Iowa's listing of 136 water bodies and delisting of 71 water bodies.

#### **Next Steps**

EPA is giving the public the opportunity to

review its decision to add waters back to Iowa's 2002 Section 303(d) List.

The list and supporting information will be available by July 16 on our Web site at: [www.epa.gov/region07/water/tmdl.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region07/water/tmdl.htm) or can be requested by mail or phone from Paul Schwaab, Water Resources Protection Branch, EPA Region 7, 901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, KS 66101, (913) 551-7581 or toll-free at (800) 223-0425.

A public notice will be published **July 16, 2003**, in newspapers serving the following cities and their surrounding areas: Sioux City, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Mason City, Cedar Rapids, and Burlington. The list and supporting information will also be available for public review starting July 16 at main libraries in those communities (see box at right).

The public comment period ends **August 18, 2003**, 30 days after the date of the public notice (since August 16 falls on a weekend). EPA will consider written public comments in reaching its final decision on the additional water bodies and pollutants identified for inclusion on Iowa's final list. Written comments must be submitted to Paul Schwaab (at the address above) **on or before August 18, 2003**.

***For more information, please contact:***

Martin Kessler  
EPA Region 7  
(913) 551-7003  
or toll-free at (800) 223-0425.

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**The list and supporting information is available for public review in INFORMATION REPOSITORIES at the following Iowa libraries:**

- Sioux City: Sioux City Public Library  
529 Pierce Street  
Sioux City, IA 51101-1203  
(712) 255-2933
- Council Bluffs: Council Bluffs Public Library  
400 Willow Ave.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503  
(712) 323-7553
- Des Moines: State Library of Iowa  
East 12<sup>th</sup> and Grand  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
(515) 281-4102
- Mason City: Mason City Public Library  
225 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 421-3668
- Cedar Rapids: Cedar Rapids Public Library  
500 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
(319) 398-5123
- Burlington: Burlington Public Library  
501 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Burlington, IA 52601  
(319) 753-1647
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