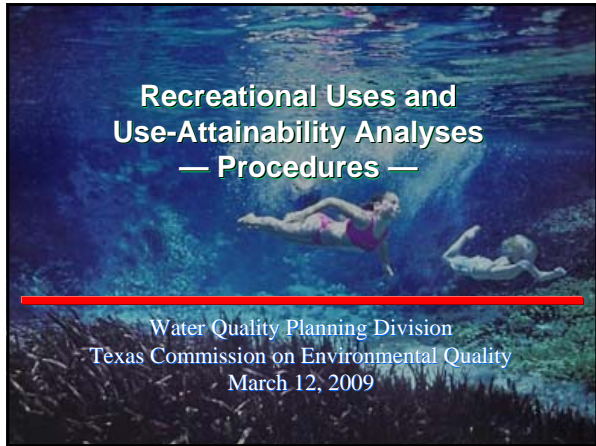





Recreational Uses and Use-Attainability Analyses — Procedures —


Water Quality Planning Division
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
March 12, 2009



Proposed Changes to Water Recreation Standard


- Broaden recreation categories
 - Primary contact recreation (PCR)
 - Secondary contact recreation (SCR) 1 and 2
 - Noncontact Recreation (NCR)
- Revise numerical criteria



Draft Criteria


Uses	Geometric Mean Criteria (colonies/100 ml)			
	<i>E. coli</i> (FW)	Enterococci (Salty inland FW)	Enterococci (SW)	Fecal coliform* (FW and SW)
Existing Standards				
Contact recreation	126	--	35	200
Noncontact recreation	605	--	168	2000
Draft Standards				
Primary contact	206	54	35	200
Secondary contact 1	630	165	175	1000
Secondary contact 2	1030	270	--	1000
Noncontact recreation	2060	540	350	2000


* Retained for transitional purposes.



Classified Segments (Appendix A)


- Most are primary contact; eight are noncontact Houston Ship Channel — no recreation? (NCR)
- Change of use or criterion requires:
 - Comprehensive Recreational UAA
 - Intensive study and data collection
 - Report and documentation
 - TCEQ and EPA review and approval
 - Standards Rule revision
 - EPA review and approval of rule change






Assigning Uses to Unclassified Waters

- Primary contact recreation applies to all:
 - Lakes, reservoirs, and tidal waters
 - Intermittent streams with and without perennial pools
 - Non-Tidal wetlands
 - Perennial freshwater streams




Except where:
Site-specific information (RUAA Survey) indicates no significant risk of ingestion



Secondary Contact Recreation 1

- Secondary contact recreation 1 — Recreation can occur, but no significant risk of ingestion
 - Intermittent and perennial freshwaters with all below:
 - Average depth at thalweg is less than 0.5 m
 - No substantial pools ≥ 1 m at base flow conditions
 - No existing activities with significant risk of ingestion (no primary contact recreation)
 - Assigning **Presumed** SCR1
 - For regulatory purposes, without listing in 307.10
 - Note in public notices that less stringent than PCR
 - List in 307.10 when Standards are revised



Secondary Contact Recreation 2

- Secondary Contact Recreation 2
 - ☑ No water bodies are presumed to have SCR 2
 - ☑ Applies where no significant risk of water ingestion and
 - ☑ Activities are less frequent than for SCR 1 due to:
 - Physical characteristics of the water body
 - Limited public access
 - ☑ Requires a Recreational UAA and a site-specific revision to the Standards rule to classify as SCR2



Assigning Uses to Unclassified Waters

- Noncontact Recreation
 - ☑ No water bodies are presumed NCR
 - ☑ Applies where:
 - No significant risk of water ingestion from recreational activities
 - Conditions are unsafe for contact recreation
 - ☑ Requires Recreational UAA and site-specific revision to the Standards rule



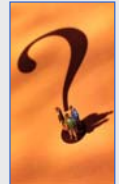
Use Attainability Analysis

- Assesses physical, chemical, biological, and economic factors
- Evaluates and determines the attainable use
- Supports adding or removing a use



When is a UAA appropriate?

- Preliminary assessment indicates that attainable use might be lower than presumed or designated use
- To support the addition of a use
- To evaluate waters on 303(d) list for bacteria
 - ☑ Category 5b
 - ☑ Verification



Before Conducting a UAA

- Coordinate with TCEQ project manager if under a TMDL or NPS project
- Contact local governments (e.g. TCEQ region office, river authority, county)
- Contact the Standards Group to discuss:
 - ☑ Whether a RUAA is appropriate
 - ☑ Approved procedures
 - ☑ Representative and reference sites
 - ☑ Whether a UAA is already scheduled



Conducting a Recreational UAA

- Learn Required Procedures
 - ☑ Reference SWQM Procedures (e.g. flow)
- Develop quality assurance project plan (QAPP)
- Do Site Reconnaissance
- Identify Sampling Stations



- Conduct study
- May be done for both classified and unclassified streams





Recreational UAA Procedures

For Unclassified Streams and Rivers

- First conduct a basic RUAA Survey
 - ☑ Can often be accomplished on a single sample date
 - ☑ Assess water recreation activities, stream physical characteristics, depth, public access, and so on
 - Provide photographs and maps
 - Summary packet
- Conduct Comprehensive Recreational UAA if basic survey indicates need



Recreational UAA Procedures

For Classified Streams and Rivers

- Conduct Comprehensive Recreational UAA
 - ☑ Requires two or more trips at different seasons
 - ☑ Basic RUAA Survey
 - ☑ Interviews with area residents and officials
 - ☑ Historical information review
 - ☑ Intensive data collection and analysis
 - ☑ RUAA Report and supporting documentation



Buffalo Bayou and White Oak Bayou UAA

- Conducted summer 2008
- Classified segments 1014 and 1017 and 13 unclassified tributaries



- Data collection included:
 - ☑ Historical review
 - ☑ Photographs
 - ☑ Data (flow, depth, etc.)
 - ☑ Recreational use observations



Recommendation of Bayou UAA

- Possible incorporation of results from UAA into current revisions to Standards
- Requires:
 - ☑ 45-day public comment on UAA (separate from comments on revisions to Standards)
 - ☑ EPA review and approval
- Report available at:
 - <www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg_handouts.html>



Photo Credits

- Photos courtesy of:
 - ☑ O'Henry's Hideaway
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