

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU**

Surface Water Quality Bureau Seeks Water Quality Data and Comment on the Assessment Protocol Used to Determine Impairment Status for Development of the 2014-2016 State of New Mexico CWA §303(d)/ §305(b) Integrated Report

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) is soliciting surface water quality data and input on assessment methodologies to develop the *2014-2016 State of New Mexico CWA §303(d)/ §305(b) Integrated Report* (Assessment Protocols). Specifically, the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states, territories, and authorized tribes to develop a list of waterbodies where water quality does not currently meet applicable surface water quality standards. Category 5 waters in the Integrated List constitute the *List of Impaired Waterbodies* (also known as the “303(d) List”). This list is used to establish priorities for water quality improvements, including development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) water quality planning documents that establish goals for impaired waters.

SWQB is specifically soliciting chemical, physical, biological, bacteriological, and toxicological data for all surface waters of the state that can be compared to water quality standards published in 20.6.4 NMAC. All data submitted must be accompanied by the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) protocols under which the data were collected and validated. All submissions will be reviewed by the SWQB QA Officer to determine data eligibility for assessment. Additional details and data templates are available at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/DataSubmittals/index.html>.

SWQB is also soliciting comment on the draft Assessment Protocols. This document explains how the SWQB evaluates surface water quality data and other information to determine whether or not surface water quality standards are attained.

Copies of the draft Assessment Protocols, SOPs, and QA/QC procedures can be downloaded from the SWQB’s website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWQB/> (see Topics on left sidebar). If you experience trouble downloading or require a CD or hardcopy, please contact gary.king@state.nm.us or lynette.guevara@state.nm.us at (505) 827-0187.

Data packages and comments on the draft Assessment Protocols will be accepted from March 20, 2013, until the close of business on April 18, 2013. Data packages and comments should be emailed (preferred) to lynette.guevara@state.nm.us, or mailed to: NMED SWQB, P.O. BOX 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico USA 87502, ATTN: Lynette Guevara. For additional questions regarding this public notice, contact Ms. Guevara at (505) 827-2904 or the above email address.