

## NOTE ON EXCERPT OF OFFICIAL 2011 IDAHO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Attached is an excerpt from the 2011 Idaho Administrative Code, Chapter 58.01.02, *Water Quality Standards* (WQS).

Only whole pages with sections that were affected by rule docket 58-0102-1001, House Concurrent Resolution 16 (HCR 16), and House Bill 153 (HB 153) are shown here. The remainder of the WQS is not shown and not all the language shown on these pages has been revised.

Parts of sections 10 Definitions, 051 Antidegradation Policy, and 052 Implementation were revised by rule docket 58-0102-1001 and HCR 16. Changed language is highlighted in yellow.

As this document reflects the official rules in the Idaho Administrative Code, sections that were stricken from the rule by HCR 16 and replaced with statutory language by HB 153 are absent. To see how the rule language regarding antidegradation would look with the statutory language added in, please refer to the document: *58\_0102\_1001\_pending\_rule\_hb153\_changes.pdf*, which DEQ has created for your convenience in review.

Please note that the language regarding Outstanding Resources Waters in previous section 055 was largely unchanged, but was moved and is now incorporated into section 052 as subsection 07. There is a substantive change at paragraph g, new language regarding point sources, which is highlighted in yellow.

Only the highlighted revised rule language and companion statutory language is being submitted for EPA review.

treatment by the Department as provided in Section 9-342A, Idaho Code, and the Rules of the Department of Environmental Quality, IDAPA 58.01.21, "Use and Disclosure of Records in the Possession of the Department of Environmental Quality." (4-5-00)

**007. -- 009. (RESERVED).**

**010. DEFINITIONS.**

For the purpose of the rules contained in IDAPA 58.01.02, "Water Quality Standards," the following definitions apply: (4-11-06)

**01. Activity.** For purposes of antidegradation review, an activity that causes a discharge to a water subject to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. (3-18-11)

**02. Acute.** A stimulus severe enough to induce a rapid response. In aquatic toxicity tests, acute refers to a single or short-term (i.e., ninety-six (96) hours or less) exposure to a concentration of a toxic substance or effluent which results in death to fifty percent (50%) of the test organisms. When referring to human health, an acute effect is not always measured in terms of lethality. (3-30-07)

**03. Acute Criteria.** Unless otherwise specified in these rules, the maximum instantaneous or one (1) hour average concentration of a toxic substance or effluent which ensures adequate protection of sensitive species of aquatic organisms from acute toxicity due to exposure to the toxic substance or effluent. Acute criteria are expected to adequately protect the designated aquatic life use if not exceeded more than once every three (3) years. This is also known as the Criterion Maximum Concentration (CMC). There are no specific acute criteria for human health; however, the human health criteria are based on chronic health effects and are expected to adequately protect against acute effects. (3-30-07)

**04. Aquatic Species.** Any plant or animal that lives at least part of its life in the water column or benthic portion of waters of the state. (8-24-94)

**05. Assigned Criteria.** Criteria associated with beneficial uses from Section 100 of these rules. (3-18-11)

**06. Background.** The biological, chemical or physical condition of waters measured at a point immediately upstream (up-gradient) of the influence of an individual point or nonpoint source discharge. If several discharges to the water exist or if an adequate upstream point of measurement is absent, the Department will determine where background conditions should be measured. (8-24-94)

**07. Basin Advisory Group.** No less than one (1) advisory group named by the Director, in consultation with the designated agencies, for each of the state's six (6) major river basins which shall generally advise the Director on water quality objectives for each basin, work in a cooperative manner with the Director to achieve these objectives, and provide general coordination of the water quality programs of all public agencies pertinent to each basin. Each basin advisory group named by the Director shall reflect a balanced representation of the interests in the basin and shall, where appropriate, include representatives from each of the following: agriculture, mining, nonmunicipal point source discharge permittees, forest products, local government, livestock, Indian tribes (for areas within reservation boundaries), water-based recreation, and environmental interests. (3-20-97)

**08. Beneficial Use.** Any of the various uses which may be made of the water of Idaho, including, but not limited to, domestic water supplies, industrial water supplies, agricultural water supplies, navigation, recreation in and on the water, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. The beneficial use is dependent upon actual use, the ability of the water to support a non-existing use either now or in the future, and its likelihood of being used in a given manner. The use of water for the purpose of wastewater dilution or as a receiving water for a waste treatment facility effluent is not a beneficial use. (8-24-94)

**09. Best Management Practice.** A practice or combination of practices, techniques or measures developed, or identified, by the designated agency and identified in the state water quality management plan which are determined to be the cost-effective and practicable means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals. (3-20-97)

- 10. Bioaccumulation.** The process by which a compound is taken up by, and accumulated in the tissues of an aquatic organism from the environment, both from water and through food. (8-24-94)
- 11. Biological Monitoring or Biomonitoring.** The use of a biological entity as a detector and its response as a measure to determine environmental conditions. Toxicity tests and biological surveys, including habitat monitoring, are common biomonitoring methods. (8-24-94)
- 12. Board.** The Idaho Board of Environmental Quality. (7-1-93)
- 13. Chronic.** A stimulus that persists or continues for a long period of time relative to the life span of an organism. In aquatic toxicity tests, chronic refers to continuous exposure to a concentration of a toxic substance or effluent which results in mortality, injury, reduced growth, impaired reproduction, or other adverse effect to aquatic organisms. The test duration is long enough that sub-lethal effects can be reliably measured. When referring to human health, a chronic effect is usually measured in terms of estimated changes in rates (# of cases/ 1000 persons) of illness over a lifetime of exposure. (3-30-07)
- 14. Chronic Criteria.** Unless otherwise specified in these rules, the four (4) day average concentration of a toxic substance or effluent which ensures adequate protection of sensitive species of aquatic organisms from chronic toxicity due to exposure to the toxic substance or effluent. Chronic criteria are expected to adequately protect the designated aquatic life use if not exceeded more than once every three (3) years. This is also known as the Criterion Continuous Concentration (CCC). Human health chronic criteria are based on lifetime exposure. (3-30-07)
- 15. Compliance Schedule or Schedule Of Compliance.** A schedule of remedial measures including an enforceable sequence of actions or operations leading to compliance with an effluent limitation, other limitation, prohibition, or standard. (8-24-94)
- 16. Cost-Effective and Reasonable Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Nonpoint Sources.** All approved BMPs specified in Subsections 350.03 and 055.07 of these rules. BMPs for activities not specified are, in accordance with Section 350, determined on a case-by-case basis. (3-18-11)
- 17. Daily Maximum (Minimum).** The highest (lowest) value measured during one (1) calendar day or a twenty-four (24) hour period, as appropriate. For ambient monitoring of dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature, multiple measurements should be obtained at intervals short enough that the difference between consecutive measurements around the daily maximum (minimum) is less than zero point two (0.2) ppm for dissolved oxygen, zero point one (0.1) SU for pH, or zero point five (0.5) degree C for temperature. (3-30-07)
- 18. Daily Mean.** The average of at least two (2) appropriately spaced measurements, acceptable to the Department, calculated over a period of one (1) day: (3-20-97)
- a.** Confidence bounds around the point estimate of the mean may be required to determine the sample size necessary to calculate a daily mean; (8-24-94)
  - b.** If any measurement is greater or less than five-tenths (0.5) times the average, additional measurements over the one-day period may be needed to obtain a more representative average; (3-20-97)
  - c.** In calculating the daily mean for dissolved oxygen, values used in the calculation shall not exceed the dissolved oxygen saturation value. If a measured value exceeds the dissolved oxygen saturation value, then the dissolved oxygen saturation value will be used in calculating the daily mean. (8-24-94)
  - d.** For ambient monitoring of temperature, the daily mean should be calculated from equally spaced measurements, at intervals such that the difference between any two (2) consecutive measurements does not exceed one point zero (1.0) degree C. (3-30-07)
- 19. Deleterious Material.** Any nontoxic substance which may cause the tainting of edible species of fish, taste and odors in drinking water supplies, or the reduction of the usability of water without causing physical injury to water users or aquatic and terrestrial organisms. (8-24-94)

20. **Department.** The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. (7-1-93)
21. **Design Flow.** The critical flow used for steady-state wasteload allocation modeling. (8-24-94)
22. **Designated Agency.** The department of lands for timber harvest activities, oil and gas exploration and development, and mining activities; the soil conservation commission for grazing and agricultural activities; the transportation department for public road construction; the department of agriculture for aquaculture; and the Department's division of environmental quality for all other activities. (3-20-97)
23. **Designated Beneficial Use or Designated Use.** Those beneficial uses assigned to identified waters in Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Rules, IDAPA 58.01.02, "Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements," Sections 110 through 160, whether or not the uses are being attained. (4-5-00)
24. **Desirable Species.** Species indigenous to the area or those introduced species identified as desirable by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. (3-15-02)
25. **Director.** The Director of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality or his authorized agent. (7-1-93)
26. **Discharge.** When used without qualification, any spilling, leaking, emitting, escaping, leaching, or disposing of a pollutant into the waters of the state. For purposes of antidegradation review, means "discharge" as used in Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. (3-18-11)
27. **Dissolved Oxygen (DO).** The measure of the amount of oxygen dissolved in the water, usually expressed in mg/l. (7-1-93)
28. **Dissolved Product.** Petroleum product constituents found in solution with water. (8-24-94)
29. **Dynamic Model.** A computer simulation model that uses real or derived time series data to predict a time series of observed or derived receiving water concentrations. Dynamic modeling methods include continuous simulation, Monte Carlo simulations, lognormal probability modeling, or other similar statistical or deterministic techniques. (8-24-94)
30. **E. coli (Escherichia coli).** A common fecal and intestinal organism of the coliform group of bacteria found in warm-blooded animals. (4-5-00)
31. **Effluent.** Any wastewater discharged from a treatment facility. (7-1-93)
32. **Effluent Biomonitoring.** The measurement of the biological effects of effluents (e.g., toxicity, biostimulation, bioaccumulation, etc.). (8-24-94)
33. **EPA.** The United States Environmental Protection Agency. (7-1-93)
34. **Ephemeral Waters.** A stream, reach, or water body that flows naturally only in direct response to precipitation in the immediate watershed and whose channel is at all times above the water table. (4-11-06)
35. **Existing Activity or Discharge.** An activity or discharge that has been previously authorized or did not previously require authorization. (3-18-11)
36. **Existing Beneficial Use Or Existing Use.** Those beneficial uses actually attained in waters on or after November 28, 1975, whether or not they are designated for those waters in Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Rules, IDAPA 58.01.02, "Water Quality Standards." (4-11-06)
37. **Facility.** As used in Section 850 only, any building, structure, installation, equipment, pipe or pipeline, well pit, pond, lagoon, impoundment, ditch, landfill, storage container, motor vehicle, rolling stock or aircraft, area, place or property from which an unauthorized release of hazardous materials has occurred. (8-24-94)

**38. Four Day Average.** The average of all measurements within a period of ninety-six (96) consecutive hours. While a minimum of one (1) measurement per each twenty-four (24) hours is preferred, for toxic chemicals in Section 210, any number of data points is acceptable. (3-30-07)

**39. Free Product.** A petroleum product that is present as a nonaqueous phase liquid. Free product includes the presence of petroleum greater than one-tenth (0.1) inch as measured on the water surface for surface water or the water table for ground water. (7-1-93)

**40. Full Protection, Full Support, or Full Maintenance of Designated Beneficial Uses of Water.** Compliance with those levels of water quality criteria listed in Sections 200, 210, 250, 251, 252, 253, and 275 (if applicable) or where no major biological group such as fish, macroinvertebrates, or algae has been modified by human activities significantly beyond the natural range of the reference streams or conditions approved by the Director in consultation with the appropriate basin advisory group. (3-15-02)

**41. Geometric Mean.** The geometric mean of “n” quantities is the “nth” root of the product of the quantities. (7-1-93)

**42. Ground Water.** Any water of the state which occurs beneath the surface of the earth in a saturated geological formation of rock or soil. (3-30-07)

**43. Harmonic Mean Flow.** The number of daily flow measurements divided by the sum of the reciprocals of the flows (i.e., the reciprocal of the mean of reciprocals). (8-24-94)

**44. Hazardous Material.** A material or combination of materials which, when discharged in any quantity into state waters, presents a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, the public health, or the environment. Unless otherwise specified, published guides such as Quality Criteria for Water (1976) by EPA, Water Quality Criteria (Second Edition, 1963) by the state of California Water Quality Control Board, their subsequent revisions, and more recent research papers, regulations and guidelines will be used in identifying individual and specific materials and in evaluating the tolerances of the identified materials for the beneficial uses indicated. (7-1-93)

**45. Highest Statutory and Regulatory Requirements for Point Sources.** All applicable effluent limits required by the Clean Water Act and other permit conditions. It also includes any compliance schedules or consent orders requiring measures to achieve applicable effluent limits and other permit conditions required by the Clean Water Act. (3-18-11)

**46. Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC).** A unique eight (8) digit number identifying a subbasin. A subbasin is a United States Geological Survey cataloging unit comprised of water body units. (4-5-00)

**47. Hydrologically-Based Design Flow.** A statistically derived receiving water design flow based on the selection and identification of an extreme value (e.g., 1Q10, 7Q10). The underlying assumption is that the design flow will occur X number of times in Y years, and limits the number of years in which one (1) or more excursions below the design flow can occur. (8-24-94)

**48. Hypolimnion.** The bottom layer in a thermally-stratified body of water. It is fairly uniform in temperature and lays beneath a zone of water which exhibits a rapid temperature drop with depth such that mixing with overlying water is inhibited. (3-30-07)

**49. Integrated Report.** Refers to the consolidated listing and reporting of the state’s water quality status pursuant to Sections 303(d), 305(b), and 314 of the Clean Water Act. (3-18-11)

**50. Inter-Departmental Coordination.** Consultation with those agencies responsible for enforcing or administering the practices listed as approved best management practices in Subsection 350.03. (7-1-93)

**51. Intermittent Waters.** A stream, reach, or water body which naturally has a period of zero (0) flow for at least one (1) week during most years. Where flow records are available, a stream with a 7Q2 hydrologically-

based unregulated flow of less than one-tenth (0.1) cubic feet per second (cfs) is considered intermittent. Streams with natural perennial pools containing significant aquatic life uses are not intermittent. (4-11-06)

**52. LC-50.** The toxicant concentration killing fifty percent (50%) of exposed organisms at a specific time of observation (e.g., ninety-six (96) hours). (3-20-97)

**53. Load Allocation (LA).** The portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is attributed either to one (1) of its existing or future nonpoint sources of pollution or to natural background sources. (8-24-94)

**54. Loading Capacity.** The greatest amount of pollutant loading that a water can receive without violating water quality standards. (8-24-94)

**55. Lowest Observed Effect Concentration (LOEC).** The lowest concentration of a toxic substance or an effluent that results in observable adverse effects in the aquatic test population. (3-30-07)

**56. Man-Made Waterways.** Canals, flumes, ditches, wasteways, drains, laterals, and/or associated features, constructed for the purpose of water conveyance. This may include channels modified for such purposes prior to November 28, 1975. These waterways may have uniform and rectangular cross-sections, straight channels, follow rather than cross topographic contours, be lined to reduce water loss, and be operated or maintained to promote water conveyance. (3-30-07)

**57. Maximum Weekly Maximum Temperature (MWMT).** The weekly maximum temperature (WMT) is the mean of daily maximum temperatures measured over a consecutive seven (7) day period ending on the day of calculation. When used seasonally, e.g., spawning periods, the first applicable WMT occurs on the seventh day into the time period. The MWMT is the single highest WMT that occurs during a given year or other period of interest, e.g., a spawning period. (3-30-07)

**58. Milligrams Per Liter (mg/l).** Milligrams of solute per liter of solution, equivalent to parts per million, assuming unit density. (7-1-93)

**59. Mixing Zone.** A defined area or volume of the receiving water surrounding or adjacent to a wastewater discharge where the receiving water, as a result of the discharge, may not meet all applicable water quality criteria or standards. It is considered a place where wastewater mixes with receiving water and not as a place where effluents are treated. (7-1-93)

**60. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).** Point source permitting program established pursuant to Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act. (8-24-94)

**61. Natural Background Conditions.** The physical, chemical, biological, or radiological conditions existing in a water body without human sources of pollution within the watershed. Natural disturbances including, but not limited to, wildfire, geologic disturbance, diseased vegetation, or flow extremes that affect the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the water are part of natural background conditions. Natural background conditions should be described and evaluated taking into account this inherent variability with time and place. (3-30-07)

**62. Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU).** A measure of turbidity based on a comparison of the intensity of the light scattered by the sample under defined conditions with the intensity of the light scattered by a standard reference suspension under the same conditions. (8-24-94)

**63. New Activity or Discharge.** An activity or discharge that has not been previously authorized. Existing activities or discharges not currently permitted or licensed will be presumed to be new unless the Director determines to the contrary based on review of available evidence. An activity or discharge that has previously taken place without need for a license or permit is not a new activity or discharge when first licensed or permitted. (3-18-11)

**64. Nonpoint Source Activities.** Activities on a geographical area on which pollutants are deposited or dissolved or suspended in water applied to or incident on that area, the resultant mixture being discharged into the waters of the state. Nonpoint source activities on ORWs do not include issuance of water rights permits or licenses,

allocation of water rights, operation of diversions, or impoundments. Nonpoint sources activities include, but are not limited to: (3-20-97)

- a.** Irrigated and nonirrigated lands used for: (7-1-93)
  - i.** Grazing; (7-1-93)
  - ii.** Crop production; (7-1-93)
  - iii.** Silviculture; (7-1-93)
- b.** Log storage or rafting; (7-1-93)
- c.** Construction sites; (7-1-93)
- d.** Recreation sites; (3-20-97)
- e.** Septic tank disposal fields. (8-24-94)
- f.** Mining; (3-20-97)
- g.** Runoff from storms or other weather related events; and (3-20-97)
- h.** Other activities not subject to regulation under the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system. (3-20-97)

**65. Nuisance.** Anything which is injurious to the public health or an obstruction to the free use, in the customary manner, of any waters of the state. (7-1-93)

**66. Nutrients.** The major substances necessary for the growth and reproduction of aquatic plant life, consisting of nitrogen, phosphorus, and carbon compounds. (7-1-93)

**67. One Day Minimum.** The lowest daily instantaneous value measured. (3-20-97)

**68. One Hour Average.** The mean of at least two (2) appropriately spaced measurements, as determined by the Department, calculated over a period of one (1) hour. When three (3) or more measurements have been taken, and if any measurement is greater or less than five-tenths (0.5) times the mean, additional measurements over the one-hour period may be needed to obtain a more representative mean. (3-20-97)

**69. Operator.** For purposes of Sections 851 and 852, any person presently or who was at any time during a release in control of, or having responsibility for, the daily operation of the petroleum storage tank (PST) system. (4-2-03)

**70. Outstanding Resource Water (ORW).** A high quality water, such as water of national and state parks and wildlife refuges and water of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, which has been designated by the legislature and subsequently listed in this chapter. ORW constitutes an outstanding national or state resource that requires protection from point and nonpoint source activities that may lower water quality. (3-20-97)

**71. Outstanding Resource Water Mixing Zone.** An area or volume of an ORW where pollutants are allowed to mix with the ORW receiving water at a location distinct from the sampling point where compliance with ORW quality standards is measured. An ORW mixing zone will be downstream from the discharge of a tributary or a segment immediately upstream which contains man caused pollutants as a result of nonpoint source activities occurring on that tributary or segment. As a result of the discharge, the mixing zone may not meet all water quality standards applicable to the ORW, but shall still be protected for existing beneficial uses. The Department, after consideration of input from interested parties, will determine the size, configuration and location of mixing zones which are necessary to meet the requirements of this chapter. (7-1-93)

**72. Owner.** For purposes of Sections 851 and 852, any person who owns or owned a petroleum storage tank (PST) system any time during a release and the current owner of the property where the PST system is or was located. (4-2-03)

**73. Permit or License.** A permit or license for an activity that is subject to certification by the state under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, including, for example, NPDES permits, dredge and fill permits, and FERC licenses. (3-18-11)

**74. Person.** An individual, public or private corporation, partnership, association, firm, joint stock company, joint venture, trust, estate, state, municipality, commission, political subdivision of the state, state or federal agency, department or instrumentality, special district, interstate body or any legal entity, which is recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties. (3-20-97)

**75. Petroleum Products.** Products derived from petroleum through various refining processes. (7-1-93)

**76. Petroleum Storage Tank (PST) System.** Any one (1) or combination of storage tanks or other containers, including pipes connected thereto, dispensing equipment, and other connected ancillary equipment, and stationary or mobile equipment, that contains petroleum or a mixture of petroleum with de minimis quantities of other regulated substances. (7-1-93)

**77. Point Source.** Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are, or may be, discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture, discharges from dams and hydroelectric generating facilities or any source or activity considered a nonpoint source by definition. (7-1-93)

**78. Pollutant.** Dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical waste, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, silt, cellar dirt; and industrial, municipal and agricultural waste, gases entrained in water; or other materials which, when discharged to water in excessive quantities, cause or contribute to water pollution. Provided however, biological materials shall not include live or occasional dead fish that may accidentally escape into the waters of the state from aquaculture facilities. (3-20-97)

**79. Project Plans.** Documents which describe actions to be taken under a proposed activity. These documents include environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, and other land use or resource management plans. (7-1-93)

**80. Public Swimming Beaches.** Areas indicated by features such as signs, swimming docks, diving boards, slides, or the like, boater exclusion zones, map legends, collection of a fee for beach use, or any other unambiguous invitation to public swimming. Privately owned swimming docks or the like which are not open to the general public are not included in this definition. (4-11-06)

**81. Receiving Waters.** Those waters which receive pollutants from point or nonpoint sources. (7-1-93)

**82. Reference Stream or Condition.** A water body which represents the minimum conditions necessary to fully support the applicable designated beneficial uses as further specified in these rules, or natural conditions with few impacts from human activities and which are representative of the highest level of support attainable in the basin. In highly mineralized areas or in the absence of such reference streams or water bodies, the Director, in consultation with the basin advisory group and the technical advisors to it, may define appropriate hypothetical reference conditions or may use monitoring data specific to the site in question to determine conditions in which the beneficial uses are fully supported. (3-20-97)

**83. Release.** Any unauthorized spilling, leaking, emitting, discharging, escaping, leaching, or disposing into soil, ground water, or surface water. (8-24-94)

**84. Resident Species.** Those species that commonly occur in a site including those that occur only

- seasonally or intermittently. This includes the species, genera, families, orders, classes, and phyla that: (8-24-94)
- a. Are usually present at the site; (8-24-94)
  - b. Are present only seasonally due to migration; (8-24-94)
  - c. Are present intermittently because they periodically return or extend their ranges into the site; (8-24-94)
  - d. Were present at the site in the past but are not currently due to degraded conditions, and are expected to be present at the site when conditions improve; and (8-24-94)
  - e. Are present in nearby bodies of water but are not currently present at the site due to degraded conditions, and are expected to be present at the site when conditions improve. (8-24-94)
- 85. Responsible Persons in Charge.** Any person who: (8-24-94)
- a. By any acts or omissions, caused, contributed to or exacerbated an unauthorized release of hazardous materials; (8-24-94)
  - b. Owns or owned the facility from which the unauthorized release occurred and the current owner of the property where the facility is or was located; or (8-24-94)
  - c. Presently or who was at any time during an unauthorized release in control of, or had responsibility for, the daily operation of the facility from which an unauthorized release occurred. (8-24-94)
- 86. Sediment.** Undissolved inorganic matter. (3-30-07)
- 87. Seven Day Mean.** The average of the daily mean values calculated over a period of seven (7) consecutive days. (3-20-97)
- 88. Sewage.** The water-carried human or animal waste from residences, buildings, industrial establishments or other places, together with such ground water infiltration and surface water as may be present. (8-24-94)
- 89. Short-Term or Temporary Activity.** An activity which is as short as possible but lasts for no more than one (1) year, is limited in scope and is expected to have only minimal impact on water quality as determined by the Director. Short-term or temporary activities include, but are not limited to, those activities described in Subsection 080.02. (3-30-07)
- 90. Silviculture.** Those activities associated with the regeneration, growing and harvesting of trees and timber including, but not limited to, disposal of logging slash, preparing sites for new stands of trees to be either planted or allowed to regenerate through natural means, road construction and road maintenance, drainage of surface water which inhibits tree growth or logging operations, fertilization, application of herbicides or pesticides, all logging operations, and all forest management techniques employed to enhance the growth of stands of trees or timber. (3-20-97)
- 91. Sludge.** The semi-liquid mass produced by partial dewatering of potable or spent process waters or wastewater. (7-1-93)
- 92. Special Resource Water.** Those specific segments or bodies of water which are recognized as needing intensive protection: (7-1-93)
- a. To preserve outstanding or unique characteristics; or (7-1-93)
  - b. To maintain current beneficial use. (7-1-93)

- 93. Specialized Best Management Practices.** Those practices designed with consideration of geology, land type, soil type, erosion hazard, climate and cumulative effects in order to fully protect the beneficial uses of water, and to prevent or reduce the pollution generated by nonpoint sources. (3-3-87)
- 94. State.** The state of Idaho. (7-1-93)
- 95. State Water Quality Management Plan.** The state management plan developed and updated by the Department in accordance with Sections 205, 208, and 303 of the Clean Water Act. (3-20-97)
- 96. Suspended Sediment.** The undissolved inorganic fraction of matter suspended in surface water. (3-30-07)
- 97. Suspended Solids.** The undissolved organic and inorganic matter suspended in surface water. (3-30-07)
- 98. Technology-Based Effluent Limitation.** Treatment requirements under Section 301(b) of the Clean Water Act that represent the minimum level of control that must be imposed in a permit issued under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. (8-24-94)
- 99. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).** The sum of the individual wasteload allocations (WLAs) for point sources, load allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources, and natural background. Such load shall be established at a level necessary to implement the applicable water quality standards with seasonal variations and a margin of safety which takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality. (8-24-94)
- 100. Toxicity Test.** A procedure used to determine the toxicity of a chemical or an effluent using living organisms. A toxicity test measures the degree of response of an exposed test organism to a specific chemical or effluent. (8-24-94)
- 101. Toxic Substance.** Any substance, material or disease-causing agent, or a combination thereof, which after discharge to waters of the State and upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation or assimilation into any organism (including humans), either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through food chains, will cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, malignancy, genetic mutation, physiological abnormalities (including malfunctions in reproduction) or physical deformations in affected organisms or their offspring. Toxic substances include, but are not limited to, the one hundred twenty-six (126) priority pollutants identified by EPA pursuant to Section 307(a) of the federal Clean Water Act. (8-24-94)
- 102. Treatment.** A process or activity conducted for the purpose of removing pollutants from wastewater. (7-1-93)
- 103. Treatment System.** Any physical facility or land area for the purpose of collecting, treating, neutralizing or stabilizing pollutants including treatment by disposal plants, the necessary intercepting, outfall and outlet sewers, pumping stations integral to such plants or sewers, equipment and furnishing thereof and their appurtenances. A treatment system may also be known as a treatment facility. (4-11-06)
- 104. Twenty-Four Hour Average.** The mean of at least two (2) appropriately spaced measurements, as determined by the Department, calculated over a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive hours. When three (3) or more measurements have been taken, and if any measurement is greater or less than five-tenths (0.5) times the mean, additional measurements over the twenty-four (24)-hour period may be needed to obtain a more representative mean. (3-20-97)
- 105. Unique Ecological Significance.** The attribute of any stream or water body which is inhabited or supports an endangered or threatened species of plant or animal or a species of special concern identified by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, which provides anadromous fish passage, or which provides spawning or rearing habitat for anadromous or desirable species of lake dwelling fishes. (8-24-94)
- 106. Wasteload Allocation (WLA).** The portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated

to one of its existing or future point sources of pollution. (8-24-94)

**107. Wastewater.** Unless otherwise specified, sewage, industrial waste, agricultural waste, and associated solids or combinations of these, whether treated or untreated, together with such water as is present. (7-1-93)

**108. Water Body Unit.** Includes all named and unnamed tributaries within a drainage and is considered a single unit unless designated otherwise. (4-5-00)

**109. Water Pollution.** Any alteration of the physical, thermal, chemical, biological, or radioactive properties of any waters of the state, or the discharge of any pollutant into the waters of the state, which will or is likely to create a nuisance or to render such waters harmful, detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, or to fish and wildlife, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, recreational, aesthetic, or other beneficial uses. (8-24-94)

**110. Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitation.** An effluent limitation that refers to specific levels of water quality that are expected to render a body of water suitable for its designated or existing beneficial uses. (8-24-94)

**111. Water Quality Limited Water Body.** After monitoring, evaluation of required pollution controls, and consultation with the appropriate basin and watershed advisory groups, a water body identified by the Department, which does not meet applicable water quality standards, and/or is not expected to meet applicable water quality standards after the application of required pollution controls. A water body identified as water quality limited shall require the development of a TMDL or other equivalent process in accordance with Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and Sections 39-3601 et seq., Idaho Code. (3-20-97)

**112. Waters and Waters Of The State.** All the accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural and artificial, public and private, or parts thereof which are wholly or partially within, which flow through or border upon the state. (7-1-93)

**113. Watershed.** The land area from which water flows into a stream or other body of water which drains the area. (3-20-97)

**114. Watershed Advisory Group.** An advisory group appointed by the Director, with the advice of the appropriate Basin Advisory Group, which will recommend to the Department those specific actions needed to control point and nonpoint sources of pollution affecting water quality limited water bodies within the watershed. Members of each watershed advisory group shall be representative of the industries and interests affected by the management of that watershed, along with representatives of local government and the land managing or regulatory agencies with an interest in the management of that watershed and the quality of the water bodies within it. (3-20-97)

**115. Whole-Effluent Toxicity.** The aggregate toxic effect of an effluent measured directly with a toxicity test. (8-24-94)

**116. Zone of Initial Dilution (ZID).** An area within a Department authorized mixing zone where acute criteria may be exceeded. This area should be as small as practicable and assure that drifting organisms are not exposed to acute concentrations for more than one (1) hour more than once in three (3) years. The actual size of the ZID will be determined by the Department for a discharge on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration mixing zone modeling and associated size recommendations and any other pertinent chemical, physical, and biological data available. (4-11-06)

**011. -- 049. (RESERVED).**

**050. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY.**

**01. Apportionment of Water.** The adoption of water quality standards and the enforcement of such standards is not intended to conflict with the apportionment of water to the state through any of the interstate compacts or court decrees, or to interfere with the rights of Idaho appropriators, either now or in the future, in the

utilization of the water appropriations which have been granted to them under the statutory procedure, or to interfere with water quality criteria established by mutual agreement of the participants in interstate water pollution control enforcement procedures. (7-1-93)

**02. Protection of Waters of the State.** (7-1-93)

**a.** Wherever attainable, surface waters of the state shall be protected for beneficial uses which for surface waters includes all recreational use in and on the water surface and the preservation and propagation of desirable species of aquatic life; (4-5-00)

**b.** In all cases, existing beneficial uses of the waters of the state will be protected. (7-1-93)

**03. Annual Program.** To fully achieve and maintain water quality in the state, it is the intent of the Department to develop and implement a Continuing Planning Process that describes the on-going planning requirements of the State's Water Quality Management Plan. The Department's planned programs for water pollution control comprise the State's Water Quality Management Plan. (4-5-00)

**04. Program Integration.** Whenever an activity or class of activities is subject to provisions of these rules, as well as other regulations or standards of either this Department or other Governmental agency, the Department will seek and employ those methods necessary and practicable to integrate the implementation, administration and enforcement of all applicable regulations through a single program. Integration will not, however, be affected to the extent that applicable provisions of these rules would fail to be achieved or maintained unless the Department's role in these cases is limited by state statute or federal law. (7-1-93)

**05. Revisions.** These rules are subject to amendment as technical data, surveillance programs, and technological advances require. Any revisions made to these rules shall be in accordance with Sections 39-101, et seq., and 67-5201, et seq., Idaho Code. (8-24-94)

**051. ANTIDegradation Policy.**

**01. Maintenance of Existing Uses for All Waters (Tier I Protection).** The existing in stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected. (3-18-11)

**02. High Quality Waters (Tier II Protection).** Where the quality of the waters exceeds levels necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and recreation in and on the water, that quality shall be maintained and protected unless the Department finds, after full satisfaction of the intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions of the Department's continuing planning process, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located. In allowing such degradation or lower water quality, the Department shall assure water quality adequate to protect existing uses fully. Further, the Department shall assure that there shall be achieved the highest statutory and regulatory requirements for all new and existing point sources and cost-effective and reasonable best management practices for nonpoint source control. In providing such assurance, the Department may enter together into an agreement with other state of Idaho or federal agencies in accordance with Sections 67-2326 through 67-2333, Idaho Code. (3-18-11)

**03. Outstanding Resource Waters (Tier III Protection).** Where high quality waters designated by the legislature constitute an outstanding national resource, such as waters of national and state parks and wildlife refuges and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, that water quality shall be maintained and protected from the impacts of point and nonpoint source activities. (3-18-11)

**04. Thermal Discharges.** In those cases where potential water quality impairment associated with a thermal discharge is involved, antidegradation shall be implemented consistent with Section 316 of the Clean Water Act. (3-18-11)

**05. Waters Subject to the Antidegradation Policy.** Idaho's antidegradation policy only applies to waters subject to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. (3-18-11)

**052. IMPLEMENTATION.**

The antidegradation policy shall be implemented as follows: (3-18-11)

**01. Waters Protected.** All waters receive Tier I protection. Waters receiving Tier II protection will be identified using a water body by water body approach during the antidegradation review. Waters given Tier III protection are designated in law. (3-18-11)

**02. Restoration Projects.** Changes in water quality may be allowed by the Department without an antidegradation review where determined necessary to secure long-term water quality improvement through restoration projects designed to trend toward natural characteristics and associated uses to a water body where those characteristics and uses have been lost or diminished. Restoration projects shall implement best management practices. (3-18-11)

**03. Initiation of Antidegradation Review.** Review of degradation potential and application of the appropriate level of protection from degradation will be triggered by an application for a new or reissued permit or license. (3-18-11)

**04. Evaluation of Effect of an Activity or Discharge on Water Quality.** The Department will evaluate the effect on water quality for each pollutant. The Department will determine whether an activity or discharge results in an improvement, no change, or degradation of water quality. (3-18-11)

**a.** Effect on water quality will be based on the calculated change in concentration in the receiving water as a result of a new or reissued permit or license. With respect to a discharge, this calculation will take into account dilution using appropriate mixing of the receiving water under critical conditions coupled with the design flow of the discharge. For a reissued permit or license, the calculated change will be the difference in water quality that would result from the activity or discharge as authorized in the current permit or license and the water quality that would result from the activity or discharge as proposed in the reissued permit or license. For a new permit or license, the calculated change will be the difference between the existing receiving water quality and water quality that would result from the activity or discharge as proposed in the new permit or license. (3-18-11)

**i.** Current Discharge Quality. For pollutants that are currently limited, current discharge quality shall be based on limits in the current permit or license. For pollutants not currently limited, current discharge quality shall be based on available discharge quality data collected within five years of the application for a permit or license or other relevant information. (3-18-11)

**ii.** Proposed Quality for an Existing Discharge. Future discharge quality shall be based on proposed permit limits. For pollutants not limited in the proposed permit or license, future discharge quality will be estimated from available discharge quality data since the last permit or license was issued accounting for any changes in production, treatment or operation. For the proposed discharge of a new pollutant or a proposed increased discharge of a pollutant, future discharge quality will be estimated based on information provided by the applicant or other relevant information. (3-18-11)

**iii.** New Permit Limits for an Existing Discharge. When new permit limits are proposed for the first time for a pollutant in an existing discharge, then for purposes of calculating the change in water quality, any statistical procedures used to derive the proposed new limits will be applied to past discharge quality as well, where appropriate. (3-18-11)

**iv.** Proposed Quality for a New Discharge. Future discharge quality shall be based on proposed permit limits. For pollutants not limited in the proposed permit or license, future discharge quality will be based on information provided by the applicant or other relevant information. (3-18-11)

**b.** Receiving water quality will be the quality measured, or modeled as appropriate, immediately above the discharge for flowing waters and outside any Department authorized mixing zone for lakes and reservoirs. (3-18-11)

**c.** Offsets. In determining the effect of an activity or discharge on water quality of Tier II or Tier III waters, the Department may take into account reductions in pollution from other sources that are tied to the proposed

activity or discharge. These offsets in pollution must be upstream of the degradation in water quality due to the proposed activity or discharge and occur before the activity or discharge is allowed to begin. The applicant seeking a permit or license for an activity or discharge based on offsets will be held responsible for assuring offsets are achieved and maintained as a condition of their permit or license. (3-18-11)

**05. Tier I Review.** Tier I review will be performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses. Existing uses and the water quality necessary to protect the existing uses must always be maintained and protected. No degradation or lowering of water quality may be allowed that would cause or contribute to violation of water quality criteria as calculated after authorized mixing of the discharge with the receiving water. Identification of existing uses and the water quality necessary for their protection will be based on all available information, including any water quality related data and information submitted during the public comment period for the permit or license. (3-18-11)

**06. Tier II Analysis.** A Tier II analysis will only be conducted for activities or discharges, subject to a permit or a license, that cause degradation. The Department may allow significant degradation of surface water quality that is better than assigned criteria only if it is determined to be necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located. The process and standard for this determination are set forth below. (3-18-11)

**a. Other Source Controls.** In allowing any degradation of high water quality, the Department must assure that there shall be achieved in the watershed the highest statutory and regulatory requirements for all new and existing point sources and cost-effective and reasonable best management practices for all nonpoint source controls. In providing such assurance, the Department may enter together into an agreement with other State of Idaho or federal agencies in accordance with Sections 67-2326 through 67-2333, Idaho Code. (3-18-11)

**b. Alternatives Analysis.** Degradation will be deemed necessary only if there are no reasonable alternatives to discharging at the levels proposed. The applicant seeking authorization to degrade high water quality must provide an analysis of alternatives aimed at selecting the best combination of site, structural, managerial and treatment approaches that can be reasonably implemented to avoid or minimize the degradation of water quality. To identify the least degrading alternative that is reasonable, the following principles shall be followed: (3-18-11)

**i.** Controls to avoid or minimize degradation should be considered at the earliest possible stage of project design. (3-18-11)

**ii.** Alternatives that must be evaluated as appropriate, are: (3-18-11)

(1) Relocation or configuration of outfall or diffuser; (3-18-11)

(2) Process changes/improved efficiency that reduces pollutant discharge; (3-18-11)

(3) Seasonal discharge to avoid critical time periods for water quality; (3-18-11)

(4) Non-discharge alternatives such as land application; and (3-18-11)

(5) Offsets to the activity or discharge's effect on water quality. (3-18-11)

**iii.** The Department retains the discretion to require the applicant to examine specific alternatives or provide additional information to conduct the analysis. (3-18-11)

**iv.** In selecting the preferred alternative the applicant shall: (3-18-11)

(1) Evaluate economic impacts (total cost effectiveness, incremental cost effectiveness) of all technologically feasible alternatives; (3-18-11)

(2) Rank all technologically feasible treatment alternatives by their cost effectiveness at pollutant reduction; (3-18-11)

(3) Consider the environmental costs and benefits across media and between pollutants; and (3-18-11)

(4) Select the least degrading option or show that a more degrading alternative is justified based on Subsections 052.08.b.iv.(1), 052.08.b.iv.(2), or 052.08.b.iv.(3) above. (3-18-11)

**c.** Socioeconomic Justification. Degradation of water quality deemed necessary must also be determined by the Department to accommodate important economic or social development. Therefore, the applicant seeking authorization to degrade water quality must at a minimum identify the important economic or social development for which lowering water quality is necessary and should use the following steps to demonstrate this: (3-18-11)

i. Identify the affected community; (3-18-11)

ii. Describe the important social or economic development associated with the activity which can include cleanup/restoration of a closed facility; (3-18-11)

iii. Identify the relevant social, economic and environmental health benefits and costs associated with the proposed degradation in water quality for the preferred alternative. Benefits and costs that must be analyzed include, but are not limited to: (3-18-11)

(1) Economic benefits to the community such as changes in employment, household incomes and tax base; (3-18-11)

(2) Provision of necessary services to the community; (3-18-11)

(3) Potential health impacts related to the proposed activity; (3-18-11)

(4) Impacts to direct and indirect uses associated with high quality water, e.g., fishing, recreation, and tourism; and (3-18-11)

(5) Retention of assimilative capacity for future activities or discharges. (3-18-11)

iv. Factors identified in the socioeconomic justification should be quantified whenever possible but for those factors that cannot be quantified a qualitative description of the impacts may be accepted; and (3-18-11)

v. If the Department determines that more information is required, then the Department may require the applicant to provide further information or seek additional sources of information. (3-18-11)

**d.** Process. (3-18-11)

i. Analysis. The Department in cooperation with State of Idaho designated management agencies and/or federal agencies will collect information regarding the other source controls specified in Subsection 052.08.a. The applicant for a new or reissued permit or license is responsible for providing information pertinent to determining significance/insignificance of proposed changes in water quality and completing an alternatives analysis and socioeconomic justification as appropriate and submitting them to the Department for review. (3-18-11)

ii. Departmental review. The Department shall review all pertinent information and, after intergovernmental coordination, public notice and input, make a determination as to whether there is assurance that the other source controls specified in Subsection 052.08.a. shall be achieved, and whether degradation of water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development. (3-18-11)

iii. Public Involvement. The Department will satisfy the public participation provisions of Idaho's continuing planning process. Public notice and review of antidegradation will be coordinated with existing 401 certification notices for public review. (3-18-11)

**07. Tier III - Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs).** ORWs are designated by the legislature. Subsection 052.07 describes the nomination, public notice and comment, public hearing, and board review process for directing the Department to develop legislation designating ORWs. Only the legislature may designate ORWs.

Once designated by the legislature, the ORWs are listed in these rules.

(3-18-11)

**a.** Nominations. Any person may request, in writing to the board, that a stream segment be considered for designation as an Outstanding Resource Water. To be considered for ORW designation, nominations must be received by the board by April 1 or ten (10) days after the adjournment sine die of that year's regular session of the legislature, whichever is later, for consideration during the next regular session of the legislature. All nominations shall be addressed to:

Idaho Board of Environmental Quality  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Outstanding Resource Water Nomination  
1410 N. Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

The nomination shall include the following information: (3-18-11)

- i. The name, description and location of the stream segment; (3-18-11)
- ii. The boundaries upstream and downstream of the stream segment; (3-18-11)
- iii. An explanation of what makes the segment a candidate for the designation; (3-18-11)
- iv. A description of the existing water quality and any technical data upon which the description is based as can be found in the most current basin status reports; (3-18-11)
- v. A discussion of the types of nonpoint source activities currently being conducted that may lower water quality, together with those activities that are anticipated during the next two (2) years, as described in the most current basin status reports; and (3-18-11)
- vi. Any additional evidence to substantiate such a designation. (3-18-11)

**b.** Public Notice and Public Comment. The board will give public notice that one (1) or more stream segments are being considered for recommendation to the legislature as outstanding resource waters. Public notice will also be given if a public hearing is being held. Public comments regarding possible designation will be accepted by the board for a period of at least forty-five (45) days. Public comments may include, but are not limited to, discussion of socioeconomic considerations; fish, wildlife or recreational values; and other beneficial uses. (3-18-11)

**c.** Public Hearing. A public hearing(s) may be held at the board's discretion on any stream segment nominated for ORW designation. Public notice will be given if a hearing is held. The decision to hold a hearing may be based on the following criteria: (3-18-11)

- i. One (1) or more requests contain supporting documentation and valid reasons for designation; (3-18-11)
- ii. A stream segment is generally recognized as constituting an outstanding national resource, such as waters of national and state parks, and wildlife refuges; (3-18-11)
- iii. A stream segment is generally recognized as waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance; (3-18-11)
- iv. The board shall give special consideration to holding a hearing and to recommending for designation by the legislature, waters which meet criteria found in Subsections 052.07.c.ii. and 052.07.c.iii.; (3-18-11)
- v. Requests for a hearing will be given due consideration by the board. Public hearings may be held at the board's discretion. (3-18-11)

**d.** Board Review. The board shall review the stream segments nominated for ORW designation and based on the hearing or other written record, determine the segments to recommend as ORWs to the legislature. The board shall submit a report for each stream segment it recommends for ORW designation. The report shall contain the information specified in Subsection 052.07.a. and information from the hearing record or other written record concerning the impacts the designation would have on socioeconomic conditions; fish, wildlife and recreational values; and other beneficial uses. The Department shall then prepare legislation for each segment that will be recommended to the legislature as an ORW. The legislation shall provide for the listing of designated segments in these rules without the need for formal rulemaking procedures, pursuant to Sections 67-5201, et seq., Idaho Code. (3-18-11)

**e.** Designated Waters. Those stream segments designated by the legislature as ORWs are listed in Sections 110 through 160. (3-18-11)

**f.** Restriction of Nonpoint Source Activities on ORWs. Nonpoint source activities on ORWs shall be restricted as follows: (3-18-11)

**i.** The water quality of ORWs shall be maintained and protected. After the legislature has designated a stream segment as an outstanding resource water, no person shall conduct a new or substantially modify an existing nonpoint source activity that can reasonably be expected to lower the water quality of that ORW, except for conducting short term or temporary nonpoint source activities which do not alter the essential character or special uses of a segment, allocation of water rights, or operation of water diversions or impoundments. Stream segments not designated as ORWs that discharge directly into an ORW shall not be subject to the same restrictions as an ORW, nor shall the ORW mixing zone be subject to the same restrictions as an ORW. A person may conduct a new or substantially modify an existing nonpoint source activity that can reasonably be expected to lower the water quality of a tributary or stream segment, which discharges directly into an ORW or an ORW mixing zone, provided that the water quality of that ORW below the mixing zone shall not be lowered. (3-18-11)

**ii.** After the legislature has designated a stream segment as an outstanding resource water as outlined in Subsection 052.07.e., existing nonpoint source activities may continue and shall be conducted in a manner that maintains and protects the current water quality of an ORW. The provisions of this section shall not affect short term or temporary activities that do not alter the essential character or special uses of a segment, allocation of water rights, or operations of water diversions or impoundments, provided that such activities shall be conducted in conformance with applicable laws and regulations. (3-18-11)

**g.** Restriction of Point Source Discharges to ORWs. The water quality of ORWs shall be maintained and protected. Point source discharges that may cause degradation to ORWs may be allowed only if they are offset by reductions in other discharges per Subsection 052.04.c. (3-18-11)

**053. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

In providing general coordination of water quality programs within each basin, in carrying out the duties of the Basin Advisory Groups as assigned, and in carrying out the provisions of Sections 39-3601, et seq., Idaho Code, the Director and the Basin Advisory Groups shall employ all means of public involvement deemed necessary, including the public involvement required under Section 67-2340 through Section 67-2347, Idaho Code, Section 051 of this rule or required in Chapter 52, Title 67, Idaho Code, and shall cooperate fully with the public involvement or planning processes of other appropriate public agencies. (3-20-97)

**054. BENEFICIAL USE SUPPORT STATUS.**

In determining whether a water body fully supports designated and existing beneficial uses, the Department shall determine whether all of the applicable water quality standards are being achieved, including any criteria developed pursuant to these rules, and whether a healthy, balanced biological community is present. The Department shall utilize biological and aquatic habitat parameters listed below and in the current version of the "Water Body Assessment Guidance," as published by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, as a guide to assist in the assessment of beneficial use status. Revisions to this guidance will be made after notice and an opportunity for public comment. These parameters are not to be considered or treated as individual water quality criteria or otherwise interpreted or applied as water quality standards. The Department shall employ a weight of evidence approach in evaluating a combination of water quality data types (including, but not limited to, aquatic habitat and biological parameters), when such a combination of data are available, in making its final use support determination. (3-30-07)