

# What is Antidegradation?

---

Negotiated Rule-making

April 22, 2010

# Antidegradation

---

- From the word “maintain” in the Clean Water Act.
- One of three major components of Water Quality Standards.
- A policy implemented to prevent the deterioration of existing levels of water quality.

# Antidegradation

---

- “Existing instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected.”

# Antidegradation

Numeric WQS

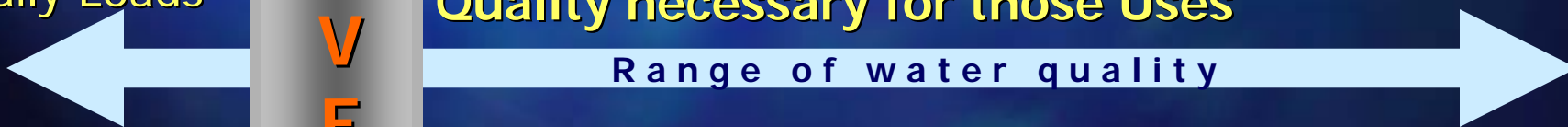
N  
A  
R  
R  
A  
T  
I  
V  
E

303 (d)/Total  
Maximum  
Daily Loads

TIER 1

Protect Existing Uses and Water  
Quality necessary for those Uses

Range of water quality



# Antidegradation

- "...maintained and protected unless the State finds...
- ...intergovernmental coordination and public participation...
- ...necessary to accommodate important economic or social development....
- ...highest statutory and regulatory requirements for all new and existing point sources and all cost-effective and reasonable best management practices for nonpoint source control."

# Antidegradation

Numeric WQS

N  
A  
R  
R  
A  
T  
I  
V  
E

## TIER 2

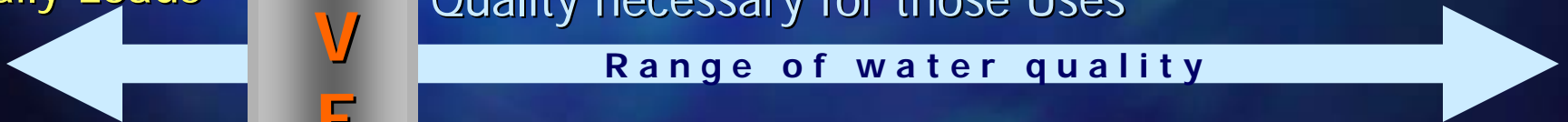
Some Degradation Allowed  
if Justified as necessary and  
important

## TIER 1

Protect Existing Uses and Water  
Quality necessary for those Uses

303 (d)/Total  
Maximum  
Daily Loads

Range of water quality



# Antidegradation

---

- “Where high quality waters 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.”

# Antidegradation

Numeric WQS

N  
A  
R  
R  
A  
T  
I  
V  
E

## TIER 3

Highest Water Quality  
No Measurable Degradation

## TIER 2

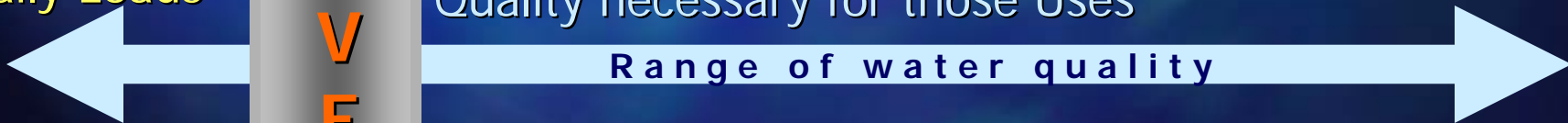
Some Degradation Allowed if  
Economically Justified

## TIER 1

Protect Existing Uses and Water  
Quality necessary for those Uses

303 (d)/Total  
Maximum  
Daily Loads

Range of water quality





# Antidegradation: Implementation

---

- Alternatives Analysis
- Socioeconomic Justification
- Public participation
- Point and Nonpoint source controls

# Antidegradation: Implementation

---

- Existing Uses
- Determining level of protection
- Determining what a review looks like
- *Significance Thresholds*
- *Cumulative cap*
- *Exemptions from antidegradation*

# Antidegradation: Summary

---

- When to apply antidegradation
- Tiers of Protection
- Requirements of antidegradation implementation