

REQUEST FOR COMMENT & NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Unnamed Tributary to the Georges Creek Watershed in Fayette County.

Uniontown District Office: Fayette County Health Center, 100 New Salem Road, Uniontown, PA 15401

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is holding a public meeting on January 23, 2008 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Uniontown District Office in Uniontown, PA to discuss and accept comments on a proposed TMDL. The proposed TMDL was established in accordance with the requirements of the 1996 Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. One stream segment in the unnamed tributary to Georges Creek Watershed has been identified as impaired on the 1996 Pennsylvania 303(d) list due to high concentrations of metals; additional segments were identified in 1998, 2002, 2004, and 2006. The listed segment and miles degraded are shown in the following table:

Stream Code	Stream Name	Miles Degraded
41381	Unnamed tributary to Georges Creek	1.1

The proposed plan provides calculations of the stream's total capacity to accept metals (aluminum, iron, and manganese) and pH, and maintain levels below water quality criteria. The applicable water quality criteria are as follows:

Parameter	Criterion value (mg/l)	Total Recoverable/ Dissolved
Aluminum	0.75	Total Recoverable
Iron	1.5	Total Recoverable
Manganese	1.00	Total Recoverable
PH	6.0-9.0	NA

The primary pollutant source for the watershed is abandoned mine workings. This watershed was heavily mined for coal in the 20th century. The effects of this are still present. The TMDL consists of load allocations (LA), which are made to nonpoint sources of pollution and waste load allocations (WLA), which are made to permitted point sources.

The TMDL was developed using Monte Carlo Simulation to determine long-term average concentrations that each stream segment could accept and still meet water quality criteria 99 percent of the time. Monte Carlo Simulation allows for the expansion of a dataset based on its statistical makeup. Since there was no critical flow condition where criteria were exceeded, the Department used the average flow to express the loading values in the TMDL.

The TMDL sets allowable loading rates for metals, sediment, and acidity at specified points in the watershed. The basis of information used in the establishment of this TMDL is field data collected throughout 2006.

The data and all supporting information used to develop the proposed TMDL are available from the Department. To request a copy of the proposed TMDL and an information sheet, contact Martin Picklo at (724)925-5517 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at Greensburg District Mining Office, 8205 Route 819, Greensburg, PA 15601. E-mail will be received at mpicklo@state.pa.us. Directions to the meeting place can also be obtained through this contact.

The TMDL can be viewed and printed by accessing the Department's web site at www.dep.state.pa.us (PA Keyword: TMDL).

Written comments will be accepted at the above address and must be postmarked by March 19, 2008. Persons who plan to make a presentation at the public meeting should notify the Department no later than 3:00 p.m. Friday, January 19th. The Department will consider all comments in developing the final TMDL, which will be submitted to the EPA for approval.