

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT

For the Proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
for the Chartiers Creek Watershed in Washington and Allegheny Counties

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL for the Chartiers Creek Watershed in Washington and Allegheny Counties. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2003, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Chartiers Valley High School, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. Individuals who plan to make a presentation at the public meeting should contact Lee McDonnell at 717-783-2938 or by e-mail at lmcdonnell@state.pa.us no later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 3, 2003. The Department will consider all comments in developing the final TMDL for this watershed, which will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

The proposed TMDL for the Chartiers Creek Watershed was established in accordance with the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Twenty-nine stream segments in the Chartiers Creek Watershed have been identified as impaired on the 1996 and 1998 Pennsylvania 303(d) list due to depressed pH and/or high concentrations of metals. The listed streams and miles degraded are shown in the following table:

Stream Code	Stream Name	Miles Degraded
37086	Allison Hollow	1.76
37039	Brush Run	2.09
36786	Cambells Run	2.0
36787	Unt. Cambells Run	0.8
36777	Chartiers Creek	9.61
37043	Chartiers Run	13.03
36858	Coal Run	0.8
36832	Dolphin Run	2.21
36833	Fishing Run	3.47
33001	Cross Creek	0.6
63300	Half Crown Run	1.1
36943	Little Chartiers Creek	12.54
36827	Millers Run	15.76
63294	North Branch Robinson Run	6.0
63295	North Branch Robinson Run Unt.	4.2
36823	Thoms Run	4.32

The proposed plan provides calculations of stream’s total capacity to accept metals (aluminum, iron, manganese, and acidity), 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 0.3	Total Recoverable Dissolved
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 late 19th to mid 20th centuries. The effects of this are still present. All of the allocations made in the TMDL are load allocations (LA), which are made to nonpoint sources of pollution.

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% of the time. Monte Carlo Simulation allows for the expansion of a data set 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 and acidity at specified points in the watershed. Field data collected over the past 10 years was the basis of information used in establishing the TMDL for the Chartiers Creek Watershed. The data and all supporting information used to develop the proposed TMDL are available from the Department.

In addition to the AMD listings, TMDLs were completed for Brush Run, an Unnamed Tributary to Brush Run, and Plum Run. The listing of these waterbodies was due to use impairments caused by excessive nutrients and suspended solids from urban runoff and storm sewers. Agricultural landuses have also been identified as a source of impairment in the Plum Run Watershed.

There are currently no state or federal instream numerical water quality criteria for nutrients and suspended solids. Therefore, the Department utilized a reference watershed approach to implement the applicable narrative criteria. These TMDLs set allowable loadings of sediment and phosphorous in the Brush Run, Unnamed Tributary to Brush Run, and Plum Run Watersheds. Phosphorous was chosen as the TMDL endpoint for nutrient impairments due to it being the limiting nutrient in these watersheds. The sediment and phosphorous loadings were allocated among all of the land use categories present in the watersheds. Data used in establishing these TMDLs was generated using a water quality analysis model (AVGWLF) designed by the Pennsylvania State University. The following table shows the listed segments and the miles degraded.

Stream Code	Stream Name	Miles Degraded
36873	Brush Run	37.11
36938	Unnamed Tributary to Brush Run	0.52
37044	Plum Run	6.32

The Department will accept written comments on the proposed TDML for the Chartiers Creek Watershed. Comments will not be accepted by facsimile or voice mail. All written comments, which will be considered by the Department in finalizing the TMDL, must be postmarked by February 12, 2003 and sent to:

Lee A. McDonnell, P.E., Chief
TMDL and Modeling Section
Division of Water Quality Assessment and Standards
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105
Phone: 717-783-2938, e-mail: lmcdonnel@state.pa.us

To request a copy of the proposed TMDL and associated information or to obtain directions to the Chartiers Valley High School meeting place, please contact Lee McDonnell at the phone number or e-mail address indicated above.

The proposed TMDL can be accessed through the Department's website (<http://www.dep.state.pa.us>) by typing "TMDL" in the direct link field and clicking GO. Persons with a disability who require accommodations to attend this meeting should contact the Department at 717-783-2938 or the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service (1-800-654-5984 (TDD users) or 1-800-654-5988 (voice users) to discuss how the Department may accommodate their needs.