

IOWA (REGION 7)

A Snapshot of Iowa's TMDL Program (May 2009)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/tmdl/index.html>

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Geological and Water Survey Bureau / Watershed Improvement Section

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters 439

Number of Causes of Impairment 581

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Indicator Bacteria
2. Biological–Cause Unknown
3. Fish Kills
4. Algae
5. Turbidity

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 10-12 waterbodies
(12-18 pollutants)

Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA) 115

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 36/19/14

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) 2008 list submitted
in December;
awaiting EPA
approval

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 7

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? Y (until Dec 09)

Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters?

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program \$1.1 million
Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding: federal 319 funds
(exclusively)

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required? N

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

Within the past two years, as we have approached the end of our consent decree, we have made a concerted effort to target small watersheds (less than 30,000 acres) for TMDL development and align our TMDL program with priority watersheds of the state and local stakeholder groups in order to increase the likelihood that a TMDL will translate into action to address the pollutant(s) of concern; we are also planning our TMDL development schedule 5 years in advance, so we can try to target our monitoring resources to improve upon the data that is available to support the TMDL modeling effort; this targeting and preplanning is also helping organize other programs, such as Lake Restoration and the Section 319 NPS Program around a coordinated effort to address water quality concerns at a scale that can result in measurable benefits in a reasonable period of time

Links to IA TMDLs:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/pubs.html>

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. lack of state funding support for the program
2. limited monitoring data and time constraints
3. lack of information access and transfer among agencies and programs

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. limited local landowner interest
2. lack of funds dedicated to comprehensive watershed planning
3. mostly NPS pollutant problems coupled with a lack of a regulatory framework for addressing them