

LOUISIANA (REGION 6)

A Snapshot of Louisiana's TMDL Program (October 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website(s)

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/130/Default.aspx>

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Water Quality Assessment Division

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters

396 subsegments for the integrated report; 271 subsegments on the 303(d) list

Number of Causes of Impairment

1149 waterbody/pollutant pairs for the integrated report; 508 waterbody/pollutant pairs on the 303(d) list; # actual causes +/- 40

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion
2. Pathogens
3. Mercury
4. Salinity/TDS/Sulfates/Chlorides
5. Nutrients

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually

60 (water body/pollutant pairs)

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

515 (water body / pollutant pairs)

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007

10/1/10 (# of modeling reports/TMDLs)

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date)

Draft sent to Public Notice on 8/19/2008

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues

5 modelers and 3 support staff in Engineering Group (this group also reviews TMDLs developed by EPA within the state; provides engineering/modeling support for permit limit development;

reviews permits for facilities that discharge in other states into water bodies that flow into LA to determine impact of the discharge in LA; and provides support for the Water Quality Certification group); 15 environmental scientists and 1 support staff in Survey Section (this group also handles ambient water data collection for ultra-clean metals; biological, chemical and physical data collection for UAAs and ecoregion evaluations; and specialized ambient water data collection for permit support)

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs?
Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)

Y
Watershed scale
whenever possible

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters?

Y (*e.g.*, other environmental programs such as those overseen by our Remediation Division)

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program

\$1.2 million

Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding

federal (106, 604b, 319); state funds

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required?

Y/N(Permit limits will be implemented during subsequent permit cycle; however, no requirement for implementation plan for NPS to be a part of the TMDL)

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed/
TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

--conduct a UAA to lay foundation for criteria revision and ultimate delisting of waterbody

--delisting of waterbodies based on additional continuous monitoring data for dissolved oxygen

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. inappropriate standards/criteria
2. resources
3. differentiating natural background loads from man-made loads

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. TMDL reductions for NPS are unrealistic to meet standard
2. having enough data to effectively target the source of the pollution
3. inaccuracies in data used in development of the TMDL, and resultant impact to permitted facility (leads to permit appeals that should have been dealt with during TMDL process)
4. growth/changes in watershed between the time the TMDL is developed and the implementation plan is drafted can make data used in TMDL obsolete