

NOTES ON TENNESSEE'S 5-alt APPROACH

- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) does not initiate or coordinate on-the-ground activities for 5-alt purposes:
 - TDEC participates in interagency collaborations that funds the work of stakeholders
 - TDEC builds upon the extensive work of stakeholders
- TDEC used GIS and Recovery Potential Screening Tool to screen HUC-12s for 5-alt candidates:
 - HUC-12s with nutrient impaired streams
 - HUC-12s with Source Water Protection Areas
 - HUC-12s with considerable stakeholder involvement and investment already in place
- Most HUC-12s have mixed sources of impairment:
 - For point sources, TDEC relies on its Nutrient Reduction Framework:
 - NPDES permitting authority
 - Plant Optimization
 - For nonpoint sources, Tennessee relies on:
 - BMPs funded by 319, UT-Extension, and NRCS programs
 - Work already done by stakeholders (monitoring, education, etc)
 - STEP-L to estimate N, P, and sediment reductions due to BMPs
- TDEC has narrative criteria for nutrients:
 - TDEC considers both instream nutrient concentrations and biological surveys
 - TDEC's approach is that biology must be depressed to be listed as impaired for nutrients and biology must show recovery to be delisted
 - TDEC uses effectiveness monitoring to track progress toward goal of meeting WQS
- Take Home Lessons:
 - Choose projects that are stakeholder-driven
 - Select projects that already have considerable work on the ground in place
 - Think about how you would implement a TMDL
 - Don't think about getting credit under WQ-27 or WQ-28; think about how to improve water quality
 - Communicate early and often with your EPA regional TMDL coordinator

For more information, and for links to the Tennessee Nutrient Framework, the Tennessee prioritization document under the Vision, a 5-alt submission, or other information please contact David Duhl at david.duhl@tn.gov.