

**This is an amendment to 20.6.4 NMAC Sections 7, 8 and 9, effective 01/14/2011.**

**20.6.4.7 DEFINITIONS:** Terms defined in the New Mexico Water Quality Act, but not defined in this part will have the meaning given in the Water Quality Act.

**A. Terms beginning with numerals or the letter “A,” and abbreviations for units.**

(1) **“4T3 temperature”** means the temperature not to be exceeded for four or more consecutive hours in a 24-hour period on more than three consecutive days.

(2) **“6T3 temperature”** means the temperature not to be exceeded for six or more consecutive hours in a 24-hour period on more than three consecutive days.

(3) **Abbreviations** used to indicate units are defined as follows:

(a) **“cfu/100 mL”** means colony-forming units per 100 milliliters;

(b) **“cfs”** means cubic feet per second;

(c) **“µg/L”** means micrograms per liter, equivalent to parts per billion when the specific gravity of the solution equals 1.0;

(d) **“µS/cm”** means microsiemens per centimeter; one µS/cm is equal to one µmho/cm;

(e) **“mg/kg”** means milligrams per kilogram, equivalent to parts per million;

(f) **“mg/L”** means milligrams per liter, equivalent to parts per million when the specific gravity of the solution equals 1.0;

(g) **“NTU”** means nephelometric turbidity unit;

(h) **“pCi/L”** means picocuries per liter.

(4) **“Acute toxicity”** means toxicity involving a stimulus severe enough to induce a response in 96 hours of exposure or less. Acute toxicity is not always measured in terms of lethality, but may include other toxic effects that occur within a short time period.

(5) **“Adjusted gross alpha”** means the total radioactivity due to alpha particle emission as inferred from measurements on a dry sample, including radium-226, but excluding radon-222 and uranium. Also excluded are source, special nuclear and by-product material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

(6) **“Aquatic life”** means any plant or animal life that uses surface water as primary habitat for at least a portion of its life cycle, but does not include avian or mammalian species.

(7) **“Attainable”** means achievable by the imposition of effluent limits required under sections 301(b) and 306 of the Clean Water Act and implementation of cost-effective and reasonable best management practices for nonpoint source control.

**B. Terms beginning with the letter “B”.**

(1) **“Best management practices” or “BMPs”:**

(a) for national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permitting purposes means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of “waters of the United States;” BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal or drainage from raw material storage; or

(b) for nonpoint source pollution control purposes means methods, measures or practices selected by an agency to meet its nonpoint source control needs; BMPs include but are not limited to structural and nonstructural controls and operation and maintenance procedures; BMPs can be applied before, during and after pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of pollutants into receiving waters; BMPs for nonpoint source pollution control purposes shall not be mandatory except as required by state or federal law.

(2) **“Bioaccumulation”** refers to the uptake and retention of a substance by an organism from its surrounding medium and food.

(3) **“Bioaccumulation factor”** is the ratio of a substance’s concentration in tissue versus its concentration in ambient water, in situations where the organism and the food chain are exposed.

(4) **“Biomonitoring”** means the use of living organisms to test the suitability of effluents for discharge into receiving waters or to test the quality of surface waters of the state.

**C. Terms beginning with the letter “C”.**

(1) **“CAS number”** means an assigned number by chemical abstract service (CAS) to identify a substance. CAS numbers index information published in chemical abstracts by the American chemical society.

(2) **“Chronic toxicity”** means toxicity involving a stimulus that lingers or continues for a relatively long period relative to the life span of an organism. Chronic effects include, but are not limited to, lethality, growth impairment, behavioral modifications, disease and reduced reproduction.

(3) **“Classified water of the state”** means a surface water of the state, or reach of a surface water of the state, for which the commission has adopted a segment description and has designated a use or uses and applicable water quality criteria in 20.6.4.101 through 20.6.4.899 NMAC.

(4) **“Coldwater”** in reference to an aquatic life use means a surface water of the state where the water temperature and other characteristics are suitable for the support or propagation or both of coldwater aquatic life.

(5) **“Coolwater”** in reference to an aquatic life use means the water temperature and other characteristics are suitable for the support or propagation of aquatic life whose physiological tolerances are intermediate between and may overlap those of warm and coldwater aquatic life.

(6) **“Commission”** means the New Mexico water quality control commission.

(7) **“Criteria”** are elements of state water quality standards, expressed as constituent concentrations, levels or narrative statements, representing a quality of water that supports a use. When criteria are met, water quality will protect the designated use.

**D. Terms beginning with the letter “D”.**

(1) **“DDT and derivatives”** means 4,4’-DDT (CAS number 50293), 4,4’-DDE (CAS number 72559) and 4,4’-DDD (CAS number 72548).

(2) **“Department”** means the New Mexico environment department.

(3) ~~“Designated management agency” means an agency as defined by 40 CFR Section 130.9(d).~~

~~(4)~~ **“Designated use”** means a use specified in 20.6.4.97 through 20.6.4.899 NMAC for a surface water of the state whether or not it is being attained.

~~(5)~~(4) **“Dissolved”** refers to the fraction of a constituent of a water sample that passes through a 0.45-micrometer pore-size filter. The “dissolved” fraction is also termed “filterable residue.”

~~(6)~~(5) **“Domestic water supply”** means a surface water of the state that could be used for drinking or culinary purposes after disinfection.

**E. Terms beginning with the letter “E”.**

(1) **“E. coli”** means the bacteria Escherichia coli.

(2) **“Ephemeral”** when used to describe a surface water of the state means the water body contains water briefly only in direct response to precipitation; its bed is always above the water table of the adjacent region.

(3) **“Existing use”** means a use actually attained in a surface water of the state on or after November 28, 1975, whether or not it is a designated use.

**F. Terms beginning with the letter “F”.**

(1) **“Fish culture”** means production of coldwater or warmwater fishes in a hatchery or rearing station.

(2) **“Fish early life stages”** means the egg and larval stages of development of fish ending when the fish has its full complement of fin rays and loses larval characteristics.

**G. Terms beginning with the letter “G”. [RESERVED]**

**H. Terms beginning with the letter “H”.**

(1) **“High quality coldwater”** in reference to an aquatic life use means a perennial surface water of the state in a minimally disturbed condition with considerable aesthetic value and superior coldwater aquatic life habitat. A surface water of the state to be so categorized must have water quality, stream bed characteristics and other attributes of habitat sufficient to protect and maintain a propagating coldwater aquatic life population.

(2) **“Human health-organism only”** means the health of humans who ingest fish or other aquatic organisms from waters that contain pollutants.

**I. Terms beginning with the letter “I”.**

(1) **“Industrial water supply”** means the use or storage of water by a facility for process operations unless the water is supplied by a public water system. Industrial water supply does not include irrigation or other agricultural uses.

(2) **“Intermittent”** when used to describe a surface water of the state means the water body contains water for extended periods only at certain times of the year, such as when it receives seasonal flow from springs or melting snow.

(3) **“Interstate waters”** means all surface waters of the state that cross or form a part of the border between states.

(4) **“Intrastate waters”** means all surface waters of the state that are not interstate waters.

(5) **“Irrigation”** means application of water to land areas to supply the water needs of beneficial plants.

**J. Terms beginning with the letter “J”. [RESERVED]**

**K. Terms beginning with the letter “K”. [RESERVED]**

**L. Terms beginning with the letter “L”.**

(1) **“LC-50”** means the concentration of a substance that is lethal to 50 percent of the test organisms within a defined time period. The length of the time period, which may vary from 24 hours to one week or more, depends on the test method selected to yield the information desired.

(2) **“Limited aquatic life”** as a designated use, means the surface water is capable of supporting only a limited community of aquatic life. This subcategory includes surface waters that support aquatic species selectively adapted to take advantage of naturally occurring rapid environmental changes, ephemeral or intermittent water, high turbidity, fluctuating temperature, low dissolved oxygen content or unique chemical characteristics.

(3) **“Livestock watering”** means the use of a surface water of the state as a supply of water for consumption by livestock.

**M. Terms beginning with the letter “M”.**

(1) **“Marginal coldwater”** in reference to an aquatic life use means that natural intermittent or low flows, or other natural habitat conditions severely limit maintenance of a coldwater aquatic life population or historical data indicate that the temperature in the surface water of the state may exceed 25°C (77°F).

(2) **“Marginal warmwater”** in reference to an aquatic life use means natural intermittent or low flow or other natural habitat conditions severely limit the ability of the surface water of the state to sustain a natural aquatic life population on a continuous annual basis; or historical data indicate that natural water temperature routinely exceeds 32.2°C (90°F).

(3) **“Maximum temperature”** means the instantaneous temperature not to be exceeded at any time.

(4) **“Minimum quantification level”** means the minimum quantification level for a constituent determined by official published documents of the United States environmental protection agency.

**N. Terms beginning with the letter “N”.**

(1) **“Natural background”** means that portion of a pollutant load in a surface water resulting only from non-anthropogenic sources. Natural background does not include impacts resulting from historic or existing human activities.

(2) **“Natural causes”** means those causal agents that would affect water quality and the effect is not caused by human activity but is due to naturally occurring conditions.

(3) **“Nonpoint source”** means any source of pollutants not regulated as a point source that degrades the quality or adversely affects the biological, chemical or physical integrity of surface waters of the state.

**O. Terms beginning with the letter “O”.**

(1) **“Organoleptic”** means the capability to produce a detectable sensory stimulus such as odor or taste.

(2) **“Oversight agency”** means a state or federal agency, such as the United States department of agriculture forest service, that is responsible for land use or water quality management decisions affecting nonpoint source discharges where an outstanding national resource water is located.

**P. Terms beginning with the letter “P”.**

(1) **“Playa”** means a shallow closed basin lake typically found in the high plains and deserts.

(2) **“Perennial”** when used to describe a surface water of the state means the water body typically contains water throughout the year and rarely experiences dry periods.

(3) **“Point source”** means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance from which pollutants are or may be discharged into a surface water of the state, but does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture.

(4) **“Practicable”** means that which may be done, practiced or accomplished; that which is performable, feasible, possible.

(5) **“Primary contact”** means any recreational or other water use in which there is prolonged and intimate human contact with the water, such as swimming and water skiing, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a significant health hazard. Primary contact also means any use of surface waters of the state for cultural, religious or ceremonial purposes in which there is intimate human contact with the water, including but not limited to ingestion or immersion, that could pose a significant health hazard.

(6) **“Public water supply”** means the use or storage of water to supply a public water system as defined by New Mexico’s Drinking Water Regulations, 20.7.10 NMAC. Water provided by a public water system may need to undergo treatment to achieve drinking water quality.

**Q. Terms beginning with the letter “Q”. [RESERVED]**

**R. Terms beginning with the letter “R”. [RESERVED]**

**S. Terms beginning with the letter “S”.**

(1) **“Secondary contact”** means any recreational or other water use in which human contact with the water may occur and in which the probability of ingesting appreciable quantities of water is minimal, such as fishing, wading, commercial and recreational boating and any limited seasonal contact.

(2) **“Segment”** means a classified water of the state described in 20.6.4.101 through 20.6.4.899 NMAC. The water within a segment should have the same uses, similar hydrologic characteristics or flow regimes, and natural physical, chemical and biological characteristics and exhibit similar reactions to external stresses, such as the discharge of pollutants.

(3) **“Specific conductance”** is a measure of the ability of a water solution to conduct an electrical current.

(4) **“State”** means the state of New Mexico.

(5) **“Surface water(s) of the state”** means all surface waters situated wholly or partly within or bordering upon the state, including lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, reservoirs or natural ponds. Surface waters of the state also means all tributaries of such waters, including adjacent wetlands, any manmade bodies of water that were originally created in surface waters of the state or resulted in the impoundment of surface waters of the state, and any “waters of the United States” as defined under the Clean Water Act that are not included in the preceding description. Surface waters of the state does not include private waters that do not combine with other surface or subsurface water or any water under tribal regulatory jurisdiction pursuant to Section 518 of the Clean Water Act. Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed and actively used to meet requirements of the Clean Water Act (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 CFR Part 423.11(m) that also meet the criteria of this definition), are not surface waters of the state, unless they were originally created in surface waters of the state or resulted in the impoundment of surface waters of the state.

**T. Terms beginning with the letter “T”.**

(1) **“TDS”** means total dissolved solids, also termed “total filterable residue.”

(2) **“Toxic pollutant”** means those pollutants, or combination of pollutants, including disease-causing agents, that after discharge and upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation or assimilation into any organism, either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through food chains, will cause death, shortened life spans, disease, adverse behavioral changes, reproductive or physiological impairment or physical deformations in such organisms or their offspring.

(3) **“Tributary”** means a perennial, intermittent or ephemeral waterbody that flows into a larger waterbody, and includes a tributary of a tributary.

(4) **“Turbidity”** is an expression of the optical property in water that causes incident light to be scattered or absorbed rather than transmitted in straight lines.

**U. Terms beginning with the letter “U”. [RESERVED]**

**V. Terms beginning with the letter “V”. [RESERVED]**

**W. Terms beginning with the letter “W”.**

(1) **“Warmwater”** with reference to an aquatic life use means that water temperature and other characteristics are suitable for the support or propagation or both of warmwater aquatic life.

(2) **“Water contaminant”** means any substance that could alter if discharged or spilled the physical, chemical, biological or radiological qualities of water. “Water contaminant” does not mean source, special nuclear or by-product material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, but may include all other radioactive materials, including but not limited to radium and accelerator-produced isotopes.

(3) **“Water pollutant”** means a water contaminant in such quantity and of such duration as may with reasonable probability injure human health, animal or plant life or property, or to unreasonably interfere with the public welfare or the use of property.

(4) **“Wetlands”** means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions in New Mexico. Wetlands that are constructed outside of a surface water of the state for the purpose of providing wastewater treatment and that do not impound a surface water of the state are not included in this definition.

(5) **“Wildlife habitat”** means a surface water of the state used by plants and animals not considered as pathogens, vectors for pathogens or intermediate hosts for pathogens for humans or domesticated livestock and plants.

**X. Terms beginning with the letters “X” through “Z”. [RESERVED]**

[20.6.4.7 NMAC - Rp 20 NMAC 6.1.1007, 10-12-00; A, 7-19-01; A, 05-23-05; A, 07-17-05; A, 08-01-07; A, 12-01-10; A, 01-14-11]

**20.6.4.8 ANTIDegradation Policy and Implementation Plan:**

**A. Antidegradation Policy:** This antidegradation policy applies to all surface waters of the state.

(1) Existing instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected in all surface waters of the state.

(2) Where the quality of a surface water of the state exceeds levels necessary to support the propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and recreation in and on the water, that quality shall be maintained and protected unless the commission finds, after full satisfaction of the intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions of the state's continuing planning process, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic and social development in the area in which the water is located. In allowing such degradation or lower water quality, the state shall assure water quality adequate to protect existing uses fully. Further, the state shall assure that there shall be achieved the highest statutory and regulatory requirements for all new and existing point sources and all cost-effective and reasonable BMPs for nonpoint source control. Additionally, the state shall encourage the use of watershed planning as a further means to protect surface waters of the state.

(3) No degradation shall be allowed in waters designated by the commission as outstanding national resource waters (ONRWs), except as provided in Subparagraphs (a) through (e) of this paragraph and in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection A.

~~(a) [Temporary and short term degradation of water quality shall be allowed only when such degradation can be shown to result in restoration or maintenance of the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the ONRW and is consistent with the objectives in 20.6.4.6 NMAC and with the purposes for which the commission designated the ONRW.] After providing a minimum 30-day public review and comment period, the commission determines that allowing temporary and short-term degradation of water quality is necessary to accommodate public health or safety activities in the area in which the ONRW is located. Examples of public health or safety activities include but are not limited to replacement or repair of a water or sewer pipeline or a roadway bridge. In making its decision, the commission shall consider whether the activity will interfere with activities implemented to restore or maintain the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the water. In approving the activity, the commission shall require that:~~

~~(i) the degradation shall be limited to the shortest possible time and shall not exceed six months;~~

~~(ii) the degradation shall be minimized and controlled by best management practices or in accordance with permit requirements as appropriate; all practical means of minimizing the duration, magnitude, frequency and cumulative effects of such degradation shall be utilized;~~

~~(iii) the degradation shall not result in water quality lower than necessary to protect any existing use in the ONRW; and~~

~~(iv) the degradation shall not alter the essential character or special use that makes the water an ONRW.~~

~~(b) [Temporary and short term degradation of water quality that complies with Subparagraph (a) of this paragraph shall be limited to the shortest possible time and last no longer than 12 months, unless approved by the commission.] Prior to the commission making a determination, the department or appropriate oversight agency shall provide a written recommendation to the commission. If the commission approves the activity, the department or appropriate oversight agency shall oversee implementation of the activity.~~

~~(c) [Temporary and short term degradation shall only be approved on a case by case basis by the commission, the department or a designated management agency as appropriate. Temporary and short term degradation resulting from applications under 20.6.4.16 NMAC shall be considered and may be approved by the commission. All other temporary and short term degradation shall be considered and may be approved by the department or by a designated management agency pursuant to a commission approved memorandum of agreement between the department and the designated management agency. In approving temporary and short term degradation, the commission, the department or the designated management agency shall consider and minimize the frequency and cumulative effects of such degradation. The approval of temporary and short term degradation shall not result in permanent degradation of water quality in the ONRW or in water quality lower than necessary to protect existing uses in the ONRW and shall not alter the essential character or special use that makes the water an ONRW.] Where an emergency response action that may result in temporary and short-term degradation to an ONRW is necessary to mitigate an immediate threat to public health or safety, the emergency response action may proceed prior to providing notification required by Subparagraph (a) of this paragraph in accordance with the following:~~

(i) only actions that mitigate an immediate threat to public health or safety may be undertaken pursuant to this provision; non-emergency portions of the action shall comply with the requirements of Subparagraph (a) of this paragraph;

(ii) the discharger shall make best efforts to comply with requirements (i) through (iv) of Subparagraph (a) of this paragraph;

(iii) the discharger shall notify the department of the emergency response action in writing within seven days of initiation of the action;

(iv) within 30 days of initiation of the emergency response action, the discharger shall provide a summary of the action taken, including all actions taken to comply with requirements (i) through (iv) of Subparagraph (a) of this paragraph.

~~(d) [In implementing activities that may result in temporary and short term degradation of water quality, all practical means of minimizing such temporary and short term degradation shall be utilized.~~

~~(e) ]Preexisting land-use activities, including grazing, allowed by federal or state law prior to designation as an ONRW, and controlled by best management practices (BMPs), shall be allowed to continue so long as there are no new or increased discharges resulting from the activity after designation of the ONRW.~~

(e) Acequia operation, maintenance, and repairs are not subject to new requirements because of ONRW designation. However, the use of BMPs to minimize or eliminate the introduction of pollutants into receiving waters is strongly encouraged.

(4) This antidegradation policy does not prohibit activities that may result in degradation in surface waters of the state when such activities will result in restoration or maintenance of the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the water.

(a) For ONRWs, the department or appropriate oversight agency shall review on a case-by-case basis discharges that may result in degradation from restoration or maintenance activities, and may approve such activities in accordance with the following:

(i) the degradation shall be limited to the shortest possible time;

(ii) the degradation shall be minimized and controlled by best management practices or in accordance with permit requirements as appropriate, and all practical means of minimizing the duration, magnitude, frequency and cumulative effects of such degradation shall be utilized;

(iii) the degradation shall not result in water quality lower than necessary to protect any existing use of the surface water; and

(iv) the degradation shall not alter the essential character or special use that makes the water an ONRW.

(b) For surface waters of the state other than ONRWs, the department shall review on a case-by-case basis discharges that may result in degradation from restoration or maintenance activities, and may approve such activities in accordance with the following:

(i) the degradation shall be limited to the shortest possible time;

(ii) the degradation shall be minimized and controlled by best management practices or in accordance with permit requirements as appropriate, and all practical means of minimizing the duration, magnitude, frequency and cumulative effects of such degradation shall be utilized; and

(iii) the degradation shall not result in water quality lower than necessary to protect any existing use of the surface water.

~~(4)(5)~~ (5) In those cases where potential water quality impairment associated with a thermal discharge is involved, this antidegradation policy and implementing method shall be consistent with Section 316 of the federal Clean Water Act.

~~(5)(6)~~ (6) In implementing this section, the commission through the appropriate regional offices of the United States environmental protection agency will keep the administrator advised and provided with such information concerning the surface waters of the state as he or she will need to discharge his or her responsibilities under the federal Clean Water Act.

**B. Implementation Plan:** The department, acting under authority delegated by the commission, implements the water quality standards, including the antidegradation policy, by describing specific methods and procedures in the continuing planning process and by establishing and maintaining controls on the discharge of pollutants to surface waters of the state. The steps summarized in the following paragraphs, which may not all be applicable in every water pollution control action, list the implementation activities of the department. These implementation activities are supplemented by detailed antidegradation review procedures developed under the state's continuing planning process. The department:

- (1) obtains information pertinent to the impact of the effluent on the receiving water and advises the prospective discharger of requirements for obtaining a permit to discharge;
- (2) reviews the adequacy of existing data and conducts a water quality survey of the receiving water in accordance with an annually reviewed, ranked priority list of surface waters of the state requiring total maximum daily loads pursuant to Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act;
- (3) assesses the probable impact of the effluent on the receiving water relative to its attainable or designated uses and numeric and narrative criteria;
- (4) requires the highest and best degree of wastewater treatment practicable and commensurate with protecting and maintaining the designated uses and existing water quality of surface waters of the state;
- (5) develops water quality based effluent limitations and comments on technology based effluent limitations, as appropriate, for inclusion in any federal permit issued to a discharger pursuant to Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act;
- (6) requires that these effluent limitations be included in any such permit as a condition for state certification pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act;
- (7) coordinates its water pollution control activities with other constituent agencies of the commission, and with local, state and federal agencies, as appropriate;
- (8) develops and pursues inspection and enforcement programs to ensure that dischargers comply with state regulations and standards, and complements EPA's enforcement of federal permits;
- (9) ensures that the provisions for public participation required by the New Mexico Water Quality Act and the federal Clean Water Act are followed;
- (10) provides continuing technical training for wastewater treatment facility operators through the utility operators training and certification programs;
- (11) provides funds to assist the construction of publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities through the wastewater construction program authorized by Section 601 of the federal Clean Water Act, and through funds appropriated by the New Mexico legislature;
- (12) conducts water quality surveillance of the surface waters of the state to assess the effectiveness of water pollution controls, determines whether water quality standards are being attained, and proposes amendments to improve water quality standards;
- (13) encourages, in conjunction with other state agencies, implementation of the best management practices set forth in the New Mexico statewide water quality management plan and the nonpoint source management program, such implementation shall not be mandatory except as provided by federal or state law;
- (14) evaluates the effectiveness of BMPs selected to prevent, reduce or abate sources of water pollutants;
- (15) develops procedures for assessing use attainment as required by 20.6.4.15 NMAC and establishing site-specific standards; and
- (16) develops list of surface waters of the state not attaining designated uses, pursuant to Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act.

[20.6.4.8 NMAC - Rp 20 NMAC 6.1.1101, 10-12-00; A, 05-23-05; A, 08-01-07; A, 01-14-11]

#### **20.6.4.9 OUTSTANDING NATIONAL RESOURCE WATERS:**

**A. Procedures for nominating an ONRW:** Any person may nominate a surface water of the state for designation as an ONRW by filing a petition with the commission pursuant to the guidelines for water quality control commission regulation hearings. A petition to designate a surface water of the state as an ONRW shall include:

- (1) a map of the surface water of the state, including the location and proposed upstream and downstream boundaries;
- (2) a written statement and evidence based on scientific principles in support of the nomination, including specific reference to one or more of the applicable ONRW criteria listed in Subsection B of this section;
- (3) water quality data including chemical, physical or biological parameters, if available, to establish a baseline condition for the proposed ONRW;
- (4) a discussion of activities that might contribute to the reduction of water quality in the proposed ONRW;
- (5) any additional evidence to substantiate such a designation, including a discussion of the economic impact of the designation on the local and regional economy within the state of New Mexico and the benefit to the state; and

(6) affidavit of publication of notice of the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected counties and in a newspaper of general statewide circulation.

**B. Criteria for ONRWs:** A surface water of the state, or a portion of a surface water of the state, may be designated as an ONRW where the commission determines that the designation is beneficial to the state of New Mexico, and:

(1) the water is a significant attribute of a state special trout water, national or state park, national or state monument, national or state wildlife refuge or designated wilderness area, or is part of a designated wild river under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; or

(2) the water has exceptional recreational or ecological significance; or

(3) the existing water quality is equal to or better than the numeric criteria for protection of aquatic life and contact uses and the human health-organism only criteria, and the water has not been significantly modified by human activities in a manner that substantially detracts from its value as a natural resource.

**C.** Pursuant to a petition filed under Subsection A of this section, the commission may classify a surface water of the state or a portion of a surface water of the state as an ONRW if the criteria set out in Subsection B of this section are met.

**D. Waters classified as ONRWs:** The following waters are classified as ONRWs:

(1) Rio Santa Barbara, including the west, middle and east forks from their headwaters downstream to the boundary of the Pecos Wilderness; and

(2) the waters within the United States forest service Valle Vidal special management unit including:

(a) Rio Costilla, including Comanche, La Cueva, Fernandez, Chuckwagon, Little Costilla, Powderhouse, Holman, Gold, Grassy, LaBelle and Vidal creeks, from their headwaters downstream to the boundary of the United States forest service Valle Vidal special management unit;

(b) Middle Ponil creek, including the waters of Greenwood Canyon, from their headwaters downstream to the boundary of the Elliott S. Barker wildlife management area;

(c) Shuree lakes;

(d) North Ponil creek, including McCrystal and Seally Canyon creeks, from their headwaters downstream to the boundary of the United States forest service Valle Vidal special management unit; and

(e) Leandro creek from its headwaters downstream to the boundary of the United States forest service Valle Vidal special management unit.

(3) the named perennial surface waters of the state, identified in Subparagraph (a) below, located within United States department of agriculture forest service wilderness. Wilderness are those lands designated by the United States congress as wilderness pursuant to the Wilderness Act. Wilderness areas included in this designation are the Aldo Leopold wilderness, Apache Kid wilderness, Blue Range wilderness, Chama River Canyon wilderness, Cruces Basin wilderness, Dome wilderness, Gila wilderness, Latir Peak wilderness, Pecos wilderness, San Pedro Parks wilderness, Wheeler Peak wilderness, and White Mountain wilderness.

(a) The following waters are designated in the Rio Grande basin:

(i) in the Aldo Leopold wilderness: Byers Run, Circle Seven creek, Flower canyon, Holden Prong, Indian canyon, Las Animas creek, Mud Spring canyon, North Fork Palomas creek, North Seco creek, Pretty canyon, Sids Prong, South Animas canyon, Victorio Park canyon, Water canyon;

(ii) in the Apache Kid wilderness Indian creek and Smith canyon;

(iii) in the Chama River Canyon wilderness: Chavez canyon, Ojitos canyon, Rio Chama;

(iv) in the Cruces Basin wilderness: Beaver creek, Cruces creek, Diablo creek, Escondido creek, Lobo creek, Osha creek;

(v) in the Dome wilderness: Capulin creek, Medio creek, Sanchez canyon/creek;

(vi) in the Latir Peak wilderness: Bull creek, Bull Creek lake, Heart lake, Lagunitas Fork, Lake Fork creek, Rito del Medio, Rito Primero, West Latir creek;

(vii) in the Pecos wilderness: Agua Sarca, Hidden lake, Horseshoe lake (Alamitos), Jose Vigil lake, Nambe lake, Nat lake IV, No Fish lake, North Fork Rio Quemado, Rinconada, Rio Capulin, Rio de las Trampas (Trampas creek), Rio de Truchas, Rio Frijoles, Rio Medio, Rio Molino, Rio Nambe, Rio San Leonardo, Rito con Agua, Rito Gallina, Rito Jaroso, Rito Quemado, San Leonardo lake, Santa Fe lake, Santa Fe river, Serpent lake, South Fork Rio Quemado, Trampas lake (East), Trampas lake (West);

(viii) in the San Pedro Parks wilderness: Agua Sarca, Cañon Madera, Cave creek, Cecilia Canyon creek, Clear creek (North SPP), Clear creek (South SPP), Corralitos creek, Dove creek, Jose Miguel creek, La Jara creek, Oso creek, Rio Capulin, Rio de las Vacas, Rio Gallina, Rio Puerco de Chama, Rito Anastacio East, Rito Anastacio West, Rito de las Palomas, Rito de las Perchas, Rito de los Pinos, Rito de los Utes, Rito Leche, Rito Redondo, Rito Resumidero, San Gregorio lake;

(ix) in the Wheeler Peak wilderness: Black Copper canyon, East Fork Red river, Elk lake, Horseshoe lake, Lost lake, Sawmill creek, South Fork lake, South Fork Rio Hondo, Williams lake.

(b) The following waters are designated in the Pecos River basin:

(i) in the Pecos wilderness: Albright creek, Bear creek, Beatty creek, Beaver creek, Carpenter creek, Cascade canyon, Cave creek, El Porvenir creek, Hollinger creek, Holy Ghost creek, Horsethief creek, Jack's creek, Jarosa canyon/creek, Johnson lake, Lake Katherine, Lost Bear lake, Noisy brook, Panchuela creek, Pecos Baldy lake, Pecos river, Rio Mora, Rio Valdez, Rito Azul, Rito de los Chimayosos, Rito de los Esteros, Rito del Oso, Rito del Padre, Rito las Trampas, Rito Maestas, Rito Oscuro, Rito Perro, Rito Sebadillosos, South Fork Bear creek, South Fork Rito Azul, Spirit lake, Stewart lake, Truchas lake (North), Truchas lake (South), Winsor creek;

(ii) in the White Mountain wilderness: Argentina creek, Aspen creek, Bonito creek, Little Bonito creek, Mills canyon/creek, Rodamaker creek, South Fork Rio Bonito, Turkey canyon/creek.

(c) The following waters are designated in the Gila River basin:

(i) in the Aldo Leopold wilderness: Aspen canyon, Black Canyon creek, Bonner canyon, Burnt canyon, Diamond creek, Falls canyon, Fisherman canyon, Running Water canyon, South Diamond creek;

(ii) in the Gila wilderness: Apache creek, Black Canyon creek, Brush canyon, Canyon creek, Chicken Coop canyon, Clear creek, Cooper canyon, Cow creek, Cub creek, Diamond creek, East Fork Gila river, Gila river, Gilita creek, Indian creek, Iron creek, Langstroth canyon, Lilley canyon, Little creek, Little Turkey creek, Lookout canyon, McKenna creek, Middle Fork Gila river, Miller Spring canyon, Mogollon creek, Panther canyon, Prior creek, Rain creek, Raw Meat creek, Rocky canyon, Sacaton creek, Sapillo creek, Sheep Corral canyon, Skeleton canyon, Squaw creek, Sycamore canyon, Trail canyon, Trail creek, Trout creek, Turkey creek, Turkey Feather creek, Turnbo canyon, West Fork Gila river, West Fork Mogollon creek, White creek, Willow creek, Woodrow canyon.

(d) The following waters are designated in the Canadian River basin: in the Pecos wilderness Daily creek, Johns canyon, Middle Fork Lake of Rio de la Casa, Middle Fork Rio de la Casa, North Fork Lake of Rio de la Casa, Rito de Gascon, Rito San Jose, Sapello river, South Fork Rio de la Casa, Sparks creek (Manuelitas creek).

(e) The following waters are designated in the San Francisco River basin:

(i) in the Blue Range wilderness: Pueblo creek;

(ii) in the Gila wilderness: Big Dry creek, Lipsey canyon, Little Dry creek, Little Whitewater creek, South Fork Whitewater creek, Spider creek, Spruce creek, Whitewater creek.

(f) The following waters are designated in the Mimbres Closed basin: in the Aldo Leopold wilderness Corral canyon, Mimbres river, North Fork Mimbres river, South Fork Mimbres river.

(g) The following waters are designated in the Tularosa Closed basin: in the White Mountain wilderness Indian creek, Nogal Arroyo, Three Rivers.

(h) The wetlands designated are identified on the *maps and list of wetlands within United States forest service wilderness areas designated as outstanding national resource waters* published at the New Mexico state library and available on the department's website.

[20.6.4.9 NMAC - Rn, Subsections B, C and D of 20.6.4.8 NMAC, 05-23-05; A, 05-23-05; A, 07-17-05; A, 02-16-06; A, 12-01-10; A, 01-14-11]