



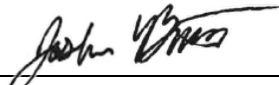
START ACTION NOTICE (SAN)

SAN # 2026-04

1. TYPE OF ACTION AND THE REGULATION NUMBER AND NAME:
This action is to amend **7 DE Admin. Code 7401**: Surface Water Quality Standards.
2. PURPOSE OF ACTION:
The purpose of this action is to update the Delaware Surface Water Quality Standards and their respective definitions to reflect current scientifically defensible assessment standards.
3. STATUTORY BASIS:
7 Del. C. Section 6010
4. IS THIS PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF FEDERAL STATUTE OR REGULATION? IF SO, PROVIDE LINK TO FEDERAL MANDATE.
Yes. The Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq. (1972)) requires that all States review their surface water quality standards every three years and adopt revised standards to comply with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-131/subpart-C/section-131.20>
5. DATE OF MOST RECENT AMENDMENT/REVIEW (indicate if review was pursuant to 29 Del.C. §10407):
January 11, 2023 was the date of the last accepted review/amendments.
6. LIKELY AFFECTED PUBLIC:
Fisherman, boaters, water recreators, and any other users of Delaware's surface water bodies.
7. PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:
September 2026, Start Action Notice
November 2026, Meeting with external partners and stakeholders
December 2026, Request public input
January 2027 – March 2027, Publish Draft Criteria, Hold Hearing
April 2027, Final Regulation Promulgation.
8. REVIEW COMMITTEE:
The need for a review committee will be evaluated based upon input received and issues raised.
9. RESPONSIBLE STAFF MEMBER (name, physical address, phone number and e-mail address):
Joshua Barth
Division of Watershed Stewardship
285 Beiser Blvd
Suite 102
Dover, DE 19904

P: 302-739-9939
E: Joshua.barth@delaware.gov

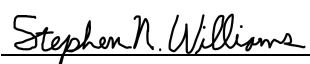
10. APPROVALS:



Joshua Barth
Responsible Staff Member

9/3/2026

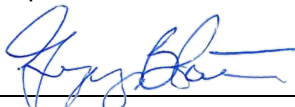
Date



Stephen Williams
Director, Division of Watershed Stewardship

9/8/2026

Date



Gregory Patterson
Secretary

Oct. 12, 2026

Date