

**567—61.2 (455B) General considerations.**

**61.2(1) Policy statement.** It shall be the policy of the commission to protect and enhance the quality of all the waters of the state. In the furtherance of this policy it will attempt to prevent and abate the pollution of all waters to the fullest extent possible consistent with statutory and technological limitations. This policy shall apply to all point and nonpoint sources of pollution.

These water quality standards establish selected criteria for certain present and future designated uses of the surface waters of the state. The standards establish the areas where these uses are to be protected and provide minimum criteria for waterways having nondesignated uses as well. Many surface waters are designated for more than one use. In these cases the more stringent criteria shall govern for each parameter.

Certain of the criteria are in narrative form without numeric limitations. In applying such narrative standards, decisions will be based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's methodology described in "Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses," (1985) and on the rationale contained in "Quality Criteria for Water," published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1977), as updated by supplemental Section 304 (of the Act) Ambient Water Quality Criteria documents. To provide human health criteria for parameters not having numerical values listed in 61.3(3) Table 1, the required criteria will be based on the rationale contained in these EPA criteria documents. The human health criterion considered will be the value associated with the consumption of fish flesh and a risk factor of  $10^{-5}$  for carcinogenic parameters. For noncarcinogenic parameters, the recommended EPA criterion will be selected. For Class C water, the EPA criteria for fish and water consumption will be selected using the same considerations for carcinogenic and noncarcinogenic parameters as noted above.

All methods of sample collection, preservation, and analysis used in applying any of the rules in these standards shall be in accord with those prescribed in 567—Chapter 63.

**61.2(2) Antidegradation policy.** It is the policy of the state of Iowa that:

*a.* Existing surface water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses will be maintained and protected.

*b.* Chemical integrity: For those water bodies where water quality significantly exceeds levels necessary to protect existing uses and the waters designated as high quality in 61.3(5) "e," that water quality will be maintained at or above existing quality, except when it is determined by the environmental protection commission after public hearing and after intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions noted in the continuing planning process that there is need to allow a lower chemical quality because of necessary and justifiable economic and social development in the area. The state shall ensure adequate chemical quality to fully protect existing uses.

- (1) Bear Creek, mouth in Winneshiek County and tributary to the Upper Iowa River.
- (2) Bloody Run, mouth in Clayton County and tributary to the Mississippi River.
- (3) Catfish Creek from Swiss Valley Park in Dubuque County to its source.
- (4) Unnamed Creek known locally as Coldwater Creek with mouth in Winneshiek County and tributary to the Upper Iowa River.
- (5) Fenchel Creek, mouth to Richmond Springs, in Delaware County and tributary to the Maquoketa River.
- (6) Odell Branch (aka Fountain Spring Creek), mouth (section 10, T90N, R4W, Delaware County), tributary to Elk Creek, which is tributary to the Turkey River to west line of section 9, T90N, R4W, Delaware County.
- (7) Iowa Great Lakes chain of lakes in Dickinson County, including West Lake Okoboji, Spirit Lake, East Lake Okoboji, Minnewashta Lake, Upper Gar Lake, and Lower Gar Lake.
- (8) North Bear Creek, with mouth in Winneshiek County and tributary to Bear Creek, listed as number 1 in this listing.
- (9) North Cedar Creek, with mouth in Clayton County and tributary to Sny Magill Creek.
- (10) Sny Magill Creek, with mouth in Clayton County and tributary to the Mississippi River.

(11) Turkey River, from the point where it is joined by the Volga River in Clayton County to Vernon Springs in Howard County.

(12) Waterloo Creek, with mouth in Allamakee County and tributary to the Upper Iowa River.

(13) Maquoketa River, from confluence with South Fork Maquoketa River (section 16, T90N, R6W, Delaware County) to Highway 3 (north line of section 24, T91N, R7W, Fayette County).

(14) Spring Branch, mouth (section 10, T88N, R5W, Delaware County) to spring source (section 35, T89N, R5W, Delaware County).

(15) Little Turkey River, Clayton-Delaware County line to south line of section 11, T90N, R3W, Delaware County.

(16) Middle Fork Little Maquoketa River (aka Bankston Creek), west line of section 31, T90N, R1E to north line of section 33, T90N, R1W, Dubuque County.

(17) Brush Creek, north line of section 23, T85N, R3E to north line of section 1, T85N, R3E, Jackson County.

(18) Dalton Lake — Jackson County.

(19) Little Mill Creek, mouth (Jackson County) to west line of section 29, T86N, R4E, Jackson County.

(20) Mill Creek (aka Big Mill Creek), from confluence with Little Mill Creek in section 13, T86N, R4E, Jackson County, to confluence with Unnamed Creek, section 1, T86N, R3E, Jackson County.

(21) Unnamed Creek (tributary to Mill Creek), mouth (section 1, T86N, R3E, Jackson County) to west line of section 1, T86N, R3E, Jackson County.

(22) Unnamed Creek (aka South Fork Big Mill), tributary to Mill Creek, from mouth (section 8, T86N, R4E, Jackson County) to west line of section 17, T86N, R4E, Jackson County.

(23) Clear Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to west line of section 25, T99N, R4W, Allamakee County.

(24) French Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to east line of section 23, T99N, R5W, Allamakee County.

(25) Hickory Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to south line of section 28, T96N, R5W, Allamakee County.

(26) Little Paint Creek, mouth to north line of section 30, T97N, R3W, Allamakee County.

(27) Paint Creek, from confluence with Little Paint Creek to road crossing in section 18, T97N, R4W, Allamakee County.

(28) Patterson Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to east line of section 3, T98N, R6W, Allamakee County.

(29) Silver Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to south line of section 31, T99N, R5W, Allamakee County.

(30) Village Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to west line of section 19, T98N, R4W, Allamakee County.

(31) Wexford Creek, mouth to west line of section 25, T98N, R3W, Allamakee County.

(32) Buck Creek, mouth (Clayton County) to west line of section 9, T93N, R3W, Clayton County.

(33) Ensign Creek (aka Ensign Hollow), mouth (section 28, T92N, R6W, Clayton County) to spring source (section 29, T92N, R6W, Clayton County).

(34) South Cedar Creek (aka Cedar Creek), mouth (Clayton County) to north line of section 7, T92N, R3W, Clayton County.

(35) Bear Creek, mouth (Fayette County) to west line of section 6, T92N, R7W, Fayette County.

(36) Unnamed Creek (aka Glover's Creek), mouth to west line of section 15, T94N, R8W, Fayette County.

(37) Grannis Creek, mouth to west line of section 36, T93N, R8W, Fayette County.

(38) Mink Creek, mouth to west line of section 15, T93N, R7W, Fayette County.

(39) Otter Creek, mouth (Fayette County) to confluence with Unnamed Creek (aka Glover's Creek) in section 22, T94N, R8W, Fayette County.

(40) Nichols Creek (aka Bigalk Creek), mouth (section 18, T100N, R10W, Winneshiek County) to west line of section 23, T100N, R11W, Howard County.

(41) Spring Creek, mouth (Mitchell County) to north line of section 8, T97N, R16W, Mitchell County.

(42) Turtle Creek, mouth (Mitchell County) to east line of section 7, T99N, R17W, Mitchell County.

(43) Wapsipinicon River, from the town of McIntire to north line of section 20, T99N, R15W, Mitchell County.

(44) Bohemian Creek, mouth (Winneshiek County) to Howard County Road V58 (west line of section 2, T97N, R11W, Howard County).

(45) Coon Creek, mouth (Winneshiek County) to road crossing in section 13, T98N, R7W, Winneshiek County.

(46) Smith Creek (aka Trout River), mouth to south line of section 33, T98N, R7W, Winneshiek County.

(47) Unnamed Creek (aka Trout Run), mouth to south line of section 27, T98N, R8W, Winneshiek County.

(48) Twin Springs Creek, mouth to springs in Twin Springs Park in section 20, T98N, R8W, Winneshiek County.

(49) Canoe Creek (aka West Canoe Creek), from Winneshiek County Road W38 to west line of section 8, T99N, R8W, Winneshiek County.

*c.* Standards and restrictions more stringent than those applied to other waters may be applied by the commission to those waters listed below when it is determined that such more stringent standards and restrictions are necessary to fully maintain water quality at existing levels.

West Lake Okoboji in Dickinson County.

*d.* The Mississippi River and the Missouri River do not meet the criteria of 61.2(2) “*c*” but nevertheless constitute waters of exceptional state and national significance. Water quality management decisions will be made in consideration of the exceptional value of the resource.

*e.* In furtherance of the policy stated in 61.2(2) “*b*,” there shall be achieved the highest statutory and regulatory requirements for all new and existing point sources, and feasible management and regulatory programs pursuant to Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for nonpoint sources, both existing and proposed.

*f.* Physical and biological integrity: The waters designated as high-quality resource waters in 61.3(5) “*e*” will receive protection of existing uses through maintaining water quality levels necessary to fully protect existing uses or improve water quality to levels necessary to meet the designated use criterion in Tables 1, 2 and 3 and at preserving or enhancing the physical and biological integrity of these waters. This involves the protection of such features of the water body as channel alignment, bed characteristics, water velocity, aquatic habitat, and the type, distribution and abundance of existing aquatic species.

*g.* It is the intent of the antidegradation policy to protect and maintain the existing physical, biological, and chemical integrity of all waters of the state. Consistency with Iowa’s water quality standards requires that any proposed activity modifying the existing physical, biological, or chemical integrity of a water of the state shall not adversely impact these resource attributes, either on an individual or cumulative basis. An adverse impact shall refer to the loss of or irreparable damage to the aquatic, semiaquatic or wildlife habitat or population, or a modification to the water body that would cause an overall degradation to the aquatic or wildlife population and diversity. The fish and wildlife division of the department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall serve as consultants to the department for assessing impacts. Exceptions to the preceding will be allowed only if full mitigation is provided by the applicant and approved by the department.

For those waters of the state designated as high quality or high quality resource waters and the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, any proposed activity that will adversely impact the existing physical, chemical, or biological integrity of that water will not be consistent with Iowa’s water quality standards. Mitigation will not be allowed except in highly unusual situations where no other project alternatives exist. In these cases, full mitigation must be provided by the applicant and approved by the department.

*h.* This policy shall be applied in conjunction with water quality certification review pursuant to Section 401 of the Act. In the event that activities are specifically exempted from flood plain development permits or any other permits issued by this department in 567—Chapters 70, 71, and 72, the activity will be considered consistent with this policy. Other activities not otherwise exempted will be subject to 567—Chapters 70, 71, and 72 and this policy. The repair and maintenance of a drainage district ditch as defined in 567—70.2(455B,481A) will not be considered a violation of the antidegradation policy for the purpose of implementing Title IV of these rules. United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) nationwide permits 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50 as well as Corps regional permits 7, 33, and 34 as promulgated October 29, 2008, are certified pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act subject to the following Corps regional conditions and the state water quality conditions:

(1) Side slopes of a newly constructed channel will be no steeper than 2:1 and planted to permanent, perennial, native vegetation if not armored.

(2) Nationwide permits with mitigation may require recording of the nationwide permit and pertinent drawings with the registrar of deeds or other appropriate official charged with the responsibility for maintaining records of title to, or interest in, real property and may also require the permittee to provide proof of that recording to the Corps.

(3) Mitigation shall be scheduled prior to, or concurrent with, the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

(4) For discharges of dredged or fill material resulting in the permanent loss of more than 1/10 acre of waters of the United States (including jurisdictional wetlands), a compensatory mitigation plan to offset those losses will be required. In addition, a preconstruction notice to the Corps of Engineers in accordance with general condition 27 will be required.

(5) For newly constructed channels through areas that are unvegetated, native grass filter strips, or a riparian buffer with native trees or shrubs a minimum of 35 feet wide from the top of the bank must be planted along both sides of the new channel. A survival rate of 80 percent of desirable species shall be achieved within three years of establishment of the buffer strip.

(6) For single-family residences authorized under nationwide permit 29, the permanent loss of waters of the United States (including jurisdictional wetlands) must not exceed 1/4 acre.

(7) For nationwide permit 46, the discharge of dredged or fill material into ditches that would sever the jurisdiction of an upstream water of the United States from a downstream water of the United States is not allowed.

(8) For projects that impact fens, bogs, seeps, or sedge meadows, an individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be required (Iowa Section 401 Water Quality Certification condition).

(9) For nationwide permits when the Corps' district engineer has issued a waiver to allow the permittee to exceed the limits of the nationwide permit, an individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be required (Iowa Section 401 Water Quality Certification condition). Written verification by the Corps or 401 certification by the state is required for activities covered by these permits as required by the nationwide permit or the Corps, and the activities are allowed subject to the terms and conditions of the nationwide and regional permits. The department will maintain and periodically update a guidance document listing special waters of concern. This document will be provided to the Corps for use in determining whether preconstruction notices should be provided to the department and other interested parties prior to taking action on applications for projects that would normally be covered by a nationwide or regional permit and not require preconstruction notice under nationwide permit conditions.

**61.2(3) *Minimum treatment required.*** All wastes discharged to the waters of the state must be of such quality that the discharge will not cause the narrative or numeric criteria limitations to be exceeded. Where the receiving waters provide sufficient assimilative capacity that the water quality standards are not the limiting factor, all point source wastes shall receive treatment in compliance with minimum effluent standards as adopted in rules by the department.

There are numerous parameters of water quality associated with nonpoint source runoff which are of significance to the designated water uses specified in the general and specific designations in 61.3(455B), but which are not delineated. It shall be the intent of these standards that the limits on such nonpoint source related parameters when adopted shall be those that can be achieved by best management practices as defined in the course of the continuing planning process from time to time. Existing water quality and nonpoint source runoff control technology will be evaluated in the course of the Iowa continuing planning process, and best management practices and limitations on specific water quality parameters will be reviewed and revised from time to time to ensure that the designated water uses and water quality enhancement goals are met.

**61.2(4) *Regulatory mixing zones.*** Mixing zones are recognized as being necessary for the initial assimilation of point source discharges which have received the required degree of treatment or control. Mixing zones shall not be used for, or considered as, a substitute for minimum treatment technology required by subrule 61.2(3). The objective of establishing mixing zones is to provide a means of control over the placement and emission of point source discharges so as to minimize environmental impacts. Waters within a mixing zone shall meet the general water quality criteria of subrule 61.3(2). Waters at and beyond mixing zone boundaries shall meet all applicable standards and the chronic and human health criteria of subrule 61.3(3), Tables 1 and 3, for that particular water body or segment. A zone of initial dilution may be established within the mixing zone beyond which the applicable standards and the acute criteria of subrule 61.3(3) will be met. For waters designated under subrule 61.3(5), any parameter not included in Tables 1, 2 and 3 of subrule 61.3(3), the chronic and human health criteria, and the acute criterion calculated following subrule 61.2(1), will be met at the mixing zone and zone of initial dilution boundaries, respectively.

*a.* Due to extreme variations in wastewater and receiving water characteristics, spatial dimensions of mixing zones shall be defined on a site-specific basis. These rules are not intended to define each individual mixing zone, but will set maximum limits which will satisfy most biological, chemical, physical and radiological considerations in defining a particular mixing zone. Additional details are noted in the “Supporting Document for Iowa Water Quality Management Plans,” Chapter IV, July 1976, as revised on November 11, 2009, for considering unusual site-specific features such as side channels and sand bars which may influence a mixing zone. Applications for operation permits under 567—subrule 64.3(1) may be required to provide specific information related to the mixing zone characteristics below their outfall so that mixing zone boundaries can be determined.

*b.* For parameters included in Table 1 only (which does not include ammonia nitrogen), the dimensions of the mixing zone and the zone of initial dilution will be calculated using a mathematical model presented in the “Supporting Document for Iowa Water Quality Management Plans,” Chapter IV, July 1976, as revised on November 11, 2009, or from instream studies of the mixing characteristics during low flow. In addition, the most restrictive of the following factors will be met:

(1) The stream flow in the mixing zone may not exceed the most restrictive of the following:

1. Twenty-five percent of the design low stream flows noted in subrule 61.2(5) for interior streams and rivers, and the Big Sioux and Des Moines Rivers.

2. Ten percent of the design low stream flows noted in subrule 61.2(5) for the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

3. The stream flow contained in the mixing zone at the most restrictive of the applicable mixing zone length criteria, noted below.

(2) The length of the mixing zone below the point of discharge shall be set by the most restrictive of the following:

1. The distance to the juncture of two perennial streams.

2. The distance to a public water supply intake.

3. The distance to the upstream limits of an established recreational area, such as public beaches, and state, county and local parks.

4. The distance to the middle of a crossover point in a stream where the main current flows from one bank across to the opposite bank.

5. The distance to another mixing zone.
6. Not to exceed a distance of 2000 feet.
7. The location where the mixing zone contained the percentages of stream flow noted in 61.2(4) "b"(1).

(3) The width of the mixing zone is calculated as the portion of the stream containing the allowed mixing zone stream flow. The mixing zone width will be measured perpendicular to the basic direction of stream flow at the downstream boundary of the mixing zone. This measurement will only consider the distance of continuous water surface.

(4) The width and length of the zone of initial dilution may not exceed 10 percent of the width and length of the mixing zone.

*c.* The stream flow used in determining wasteload allocations to ensure compliance with the maximum contaminant level (MCL), chronic and human health criteria of Table 1 will be that value contained at the boundary of the allowed mixing zone. This stream flow may not exceed the following percentages of the design low stream flow as measured at the point of discharge:

- (1) Twenty-five percent for interior streams and rivers, and the Big Sioux and Des Moines Rivers.
- (2) Ten percent for the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

The stream flow in the zone of initial dilution used in determining effluent limits to ensure compliance with the acute criteria of Table 1 may not exceed 10 percent of the calculated flow associated with the mixing zone.

*d.* For toxic parameters noted in Table 1, the following exceptions apply to the mixing zone requirements:

- (1) No mixing zone or zone of initial dilution will be allowed for waters designated as lakes or wetlands.
- (2) No zone of initial dilution will be allowed in waters designated as cold water.
- (3) The use of a diffuser device to promote rapid mixing of an effluent in a receiving stream will be considered on a case-by-case basis with its usage as a means for dischargers to comply with an acute numerical criterion.
- (4) A discharger to interior streams and rivers, the Big Sioux and Des Moines Rivers, and the Mississippi or Missouri Rivers may provide to the department, for consideration, instream data which technically supports the allowance of an increased percentage of the stream flow contained in the mixing zone due to rapid and complete mixing. Any allowed increase in mixing zone flow would still be governed by the mixing zone length restrictions. The submission of data should follow the guidance provided in the "Supporting Document for Iowa Water Quality Management Plans," Chapter IV, July 1976, as revised on November 11, 2009.

*e.* For ammonia criteria noted in Table 3, the dimensions of the mixing zone and the zone of initial dilution will be calculated using a mathematical model presented in the "Supporting Document for Iowa Water Quality Management Plans," Chapter IV, July 1976, as revised on November 11, 2009, or from instream studies of the mixing characteristics during low flow. In addition, the most restrictive of the following factors will be met:

- (1) The stream flow in the mixing zone may not exceed the most restrictive of the following:
  1. One hundred percent of the design low stream flows noted in subrule 61.2(5) for locations where the dilution ratio is less than or equal to 2:1.
  2. Fifty percent of the design low stream flows noted in subrule 61.2(5) for locations where the dilution ratio is greater than 2:1, but less than or equal to 5:1.
  3. Twenty-five percent of the design low stream flows noted in subrule 61.2(5) for locations where the dilution ratio is greater than 5:1.

4. The stream flow contained in the mixing zone at the most restrictive of the applicable mixing zone length criteria, noted below.

(2) The length of the mixing zone below the point of discharge shall be set by the most restrictive of the following:

1. The distance to the juncture of two perennial streams.
2. The distance to a public water supply intake.
3. The distance to the upstream limits of an established recreational area, such as public beaches, and state, county, and local parks.
4. The distance to the middle of a crossover point in a stream where the main current flows from one bank across to the opposite bank.
5. The distance to another mixing zone.
6. Not to exceed a distance of 2000 feet.
7. The location where the mixing zone contained the percentages of stream flow noted in 61.2(4)“e”(1).

(3) The width of the mixing zone is calculated as the portion of the stream containing the allowed mixing zone stream flow. The mixing zone width will be measured perpendicular to the basic direction of stream flow at the downstream boundary of the mixing zone. This measurement will only consider the distance of continuous water surface.

(4) The width and length of the zone of initial dilution may not exceed 10 percent of the width and length of the mixing zone.

*f.* For ammonia criteria noted in Table 3, the stream flow used in determining wasteload allocations to ensure compliance with the chronic criteria of Table 3 will be that value contained at the boundary of the allowed mixing zone. This stream flow may not exceed the percentages of the design low stream flow noted in 61.2(4)“e”(1) as measured at the point of discharge.

The pH and temperature values at the boundary of the mixing zone used to select the chronic ammonia criteria of Table 3 will be from one of the following sources. The source of the pH and temperature data will follow the sequence listed below, if applicable data exists from the source.

(1) Specific pH and temperature data provided by the applicant gathered at their mixing zone boundary. Procedures for obtaining this data are noted in the “Supporting Document for Iowa Water Quality Management Plans,” Chapter IV, July 1976, as revised on November 11, 2009.

(2) Regional background pH and temperature data provided by the applicant gathered along the receiving stream and representative of the background conditions at the outfall. Procedures for obtaining this data are noted in the “Supporting Document for Iowa Water Quality Management Plans,” Chapter IV, July 1976, as revised on November 11, 2009.

(3) The statewide average background values presented in Table IV-2 of the “Supporting Document for Iowa Water Quality Management Plans,” Chapter IV, July 1976, as revised on November 11, 2009.

The stream flow in the zone of initial dilution used in determining effluent limits to ensure compliance with the acute criteria of Table 3 may not exceed 5 percent of the calculated flow associated with the mixing zone for facilities with a dilution ratio of less than or equal to 2:1, and not exceed 10 percent of the calculated flow associated with the mixing zone for facilities with a dilution ratio of greater than 2:1. The pH and temperature values at the boundary of the zone of initial dilution used to select the acute ammonia criteria of Table 3 will be from one of the following sources and follow the sequence listed below, if applicable data exists from the source.

1. Specific effluent pH and temperature data if the dilution ratio is less than or equal to 2:1.
2. If the dilution ratio is greater than 2:1, the logarithmic average pH of the effluent and the regional or statewide pH provided in 61.2(4)“f” will be used. In addition, the flow proportioned average temperature of the effluent and the regional or statewide temperature provided in 61.2(4)“f” will be used. The procedures for calculating these data are noted in the “Supporting Document for Iowa Water Quality Management Plans,” Chapter IV, July 1976, as revised on November 11, 2009.

g. For ammonia criteria noted in Table 3, the following exceptions apply to the mixing zone requirements.

(1) No mixing zone or zone of initial dilution will be allowed for waters designated as lakes or wetlands.

(2) No zone of initial dilution will be allowed in waters designated as cold water.

(3) The use of a diffuser device to promote rapid mixing of an effluent in a receiving stream will be considered on a case-by-case basis with its usage as a means for dischargers to comply with an acute numerical criterion.

(4) A discharger to interior streams and rivers, the Big Sioux and Des Moines Rivers, and the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers may provide to the department, for consideration, instream data which technically supports the allowance of an increased percentage of the stream flow contained in the mixing zone due to rapid and complete mixing. Any allowed increase in mixing zone flow would still be governed by the mixing zone length restrictions. The submission of data should follow the guidance provided in the “Supporting Document for Iowa Water Quality Management Plans,” Chapter IV, July 1976, as revised on November 11, 2009.

h. Temperature changes within mixing zones established for heat dissipation will not exceed the temperature criteria in 61.3(3) “b”(5).

i. The appropriateness of establishing a mixing zone where a substance discharged is bioaccumulative, persistent, carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic will be carefully evaluated. In such cases, effects such as potential groundwater contamination, sediment deposition, fish attraction, bioaccumulation in aquatic life, bioconcentration in the food chain, and known or predicted safe exposure levels shall be considered.

**61.2(5) Implementation strategy.** Numerical criteria specified in these water quality standards shall be met when the flow of the receiving stream equals or exceeds the design low flows noted below.

Type of Numerical Criteria	Design Low Flow Regime
Aquatic Life Protection (TOXICS)	
Acute	1Q <sub>10</sub>
Chronic	7Q <sub>10</sub>
Aquatic Life Protection (AMMONIA - N)	
Acute	1Q <sub>10</sub>
Chronic	30Q <sub>10</sub>
Human Health Protection & MCL	
Noncarcinogenic	30Q <sub>5</sub>
Carcinogenic	Harmonic mean

a. The allowable 3°C temperature increase criterion for warm water interior streams, 61.3(3) “b”(5)“1,” is based in part on the need to protect fish from cold shock due to rapid cessation of heat source and resultant return of the receiving stream temperature to natural background temperature. On low flow streams, in winter, during certain conditions of relatively cold background stream temperature and relatively warm ambient air and groundwater temperature, certain wastewater treatment plants with relatively constant flow and constant temperature discharges will cause temperature increases in the receiving stream greater than allowed in 61.3(3) “b”(5)“1.”

b. During the period November 1 to March 31, for the purpose of applying the 3°C temperature increase criterion, the minimum protected receiving stream flow rate below such discharges may be increased to not more than three times the rate of flow of the discharge, where there is reasonable



assurance that the discharge is of such constant temperature and flow rate and continuous duration as to not constitute a threat of heat cessation and not cause the receiving stream temperature to vary more than 3°C per day.

*c.* Site-specific water quality criteria may be allowed in lieu of the specific numerical criteria listed in Tables 1 and 3 of this chapter if adequate documentation is provided to show that the proposed criteria will protect all existing or potential uses of the surface water. Site-specific water quality criteria may be appropriate where:

- (1) The types of organisms differ significantly from those used in setting the statewide criteria; or
- (2) The chemical characteristics of the surface water such as pH, temperature, and hardness differ significantly from the characteristics used in setting the statewide criteria.

Development of site-specific criteria shall include an evaluation of the chemical and biological characteristics of the water resource and an evaluation of the impact of the discharge. All evaluations for site-specific criteria modification must be coordinated through the department, and be conducted using scientifically accepted procedures approved by the department. Any site-specific criterion developed under the provisions of this subrule is subject to the review and approval of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. All criteria approved under the provisions of this subrule will be published periodically by the department. Guidelines for establishing site-specific water quality criteria can be found in "Water Quality Standards Handbook," published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, December 1983.

*d.* A wastewater treatment facility may submit to the department technically valid instream data which provides additional information to be used in the calculations of their wasteload allocations and effluent limitations. This information would be in association with the low flow characteristics, width, length and time of travel associated with the mixing zone or decay rates of various effluent parameters. The wasteload allocation will be calculated considering the applicable data and consistent with the provisions and restrictions in the rules.

*e.* The department may perform use assessment and related use attainability analyses on water bodies where uses may not be known or adequately documented. The preparation of use attainability analysis documents will consider available U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance or other applicable guidance. Credible data and documentation will be used to assist in the preparation of use assessments and use attainability analysis reports.