

# Industrial Facilities and TMDLs: What You Need to Know

## What is a TMDL?

A TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load, describes the greatest amount of a pollutant, such as phosphorus or *E. coli*, that a waterbody can receive without impacting its designated use. Designated uses include fishing, general recreation, and overall support of aquatic life. The load, or budget for the pollutant, is allocated among the known pollution sources in the watershed, and measures to reduce the pollutant are developed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) develops TMDLs for impaired waterways that exceed the pollutant load. In North Central Texas, the primary pollutant of concern is *E. coli*.

## How are TMDLs developed?

The TCEQ receives and reviews sampling and monitoring data biennially, and once a freshwater waterbody has exceeded the set limit for *E. coli*, the waterbody is added to the Texas Integrated Report's 303(d) list, officially categorizing it as impaired for bacteria. After it has been added to the 303(d) list, the TCEQ develops technical TMDL information, which is then adopted by TCEQ, added to the Texas Water Quality Management Plan, and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency. At this point, it is also added to the NCTCOG Implementation Plan.

## How do TMDLs impact Industrial Facilities and MSGPs?

Industrial facilities that are regulated by the Multi-Sector General Permit, or MSGP, must incorporate limitations, conditions, and other requirements applicable to their discharges in order to be eligible for permit coverage. Permittees must determine if the permitted authorized discharge is to an impaired waterbody on the EPA Clean Water Act (CWA) 303(d) list or has an established TMDL on the Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality for CWA Sections 303(b) or 303(d), even if they discharge through a storm sewer before reaching a waterbody.

## What are Industrial Facility Permittees responsible for related to TMDL requirements?

- Preventing exposure of stormwater to *E. coli*, including documentation of the preventative measures taken
- Documenting that *E. coli* is not present in the regulated industrial activity at the site
- Obtaining analytical data to support that the permitted discharge is not expected to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the water quality standard for bacteria
- Documentation of activities should be kept in an easily accessible location, such as the facility's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

## Where can I find more information?

- Additional information can be found in the 2021 Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for Industrial Facilities. This permit was effective as of August 14, 2021 and is available online at [www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/industrial](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/industrial).
- The Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality for CWA, including the 305(b) and 303(d) lists is available online at [www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/assessment](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/assessment).
- The current Implementation Plan for the Greater Trinity River Region is available at [www.nctcog.org/TMDL](http://www.nctcog.org/TMDL).
- For additional information, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at [wqap@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:wqap@tceq.texas.gov).

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*The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is working with stakeholders to implement best management practices to address and prevent bacteria impairments in the North Central Texas region. To view the current Implementation Plan, or to utilize available resources, please visit [www.nctcog.org/TMDL](http://www.nctcog.org/TMDL).*

