

NOTICES OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Notices of Public Information contain corrections that agencies wish to make to their notices of rulemaking; miscellaneous rulemaking information that does not fit into any other category of notice; and other types of information required by statute to be published in the *Register*. Because of the variety of material that is contained in a Notice of Public Information, the Office of the Secretary of State has not established a specific format for these notices.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

[M14-219]

1. Subject matter of Notice of Public Information:

In 1975, the seven Colorado River Basin states (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, UT and WY) adopted water quality standards for salinity and a plan of implementation for the entire Colorado River Basin (Basin) above Imperial Dam. Under the Clean Water Act, every three years, states are required to review and revise, as necessary, surface water quality standards. The seven Basin States conduct this review through an interstate organization known as the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum). The Forum has prepared a draft of the 2014 Triennial Review ("Review") and is asking each member state to solicit public comments on the Review. The draft 2014 Review may be viewed online from the Forum web site at: <http://www.coloradoriversalinity.org>.

2. Submitted by:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, a Forum-member State.

3. Background information:

As the state agency delegated responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the Clean Water Act in Arizona, ADEQ works with the Forum in developing and adopting new salinity control standards and policies. Once adopted by the Forum, ADEQ then adopts these standards and plan of implementation, by rule, into its surface water quality standards at A.A.C. R18-11-110.

In general, the findings of the Review are:

- Salinity concentrations in the Colorado River are below the numeric criteria;
- The numeric criteria are appropriate and no change is recommended; and
- With the updated plan of implementation, the probability of exceeding the numeric criteria is extremely low during this Review period (2014-2017).

The Review also finds that the Salinity Control Program has reduced the salinity load in the Colorado River by 1,326,000 tons a year and with the proposed plan of implementation the salinity load will be reduced another 67,000 tons per year by the year 2017. Damages due to the use of Colorado River water in the Lower Basin (California, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona) remains high. As a consequence, the Review states that the Forum intends to continue their support for additional funding for an aggressive salinity control program.

4. The name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate regarding the notice of public information and to submit written comments on the notice:

Comments should be submitted to the person listed below. Comments are due by close of business Monday, September 15, 2014 and can be made by e-mail or regular mail.

Name: Linda Taunt
Address: Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
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Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: (602) 771-4416, or toll-free in Arizona at 800-234-5677, ext. 4416
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