



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182
denr.sd.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, May 2, 2016
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Paul Lorenzen, 1-800-438-3367

DENR Seeks Comments on Waterbody Report and 303(d) Program Vision

PIERRE – The state Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is seeking public comments on the draft 2016 Integrated Report. Required under the federal Clean Water Act, this report is used by the state to identify impaired waterbodies in South Dakota. The Integrated Report also includes the 303(d) Program Vision.

Comments will be accepted through June 8, 2016. Comments can be emailed to DENRinternet@state.sd.us, submitted online at DENR’s One-Stop Public Notice page at <http://denr.sd.gov/public>, or submitted in writing to:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Surface Water Quality Program
523 East Capitol Avenue – Joe Foss Building
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3181

A copy of the draft 2016 Integrated Report is available by contacting DENR at the above address, by phone at 1-800-438-3367, or by visiting DENR’s One-Stop Public Notice page at: <http://denr.sd.gov/public>. Those persons desiring to only review the Vision can access the document at: <http://denr.sd.gov/dfta/wp/tmdl/tmdlvision.pdf>.

The draft 2016 Integrated Report contains an assessment of the surface water quality of South Dakota’s waters, a description of South Dakota’s water quality monitoring programs, pollutants causing impairments of the water bodies and identification of waters targeted for total maximum daily load development. A total maximum daily load (TMDL) is a determination of the amount of pollution a waterbody can receive and still maintain water quality standards.

“Because this list drives state water quality programs, it is important that people in South Dakota see the draft report and provide us comments before it is finalized and sent to EPA for approval,” said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner.

The draft 2016 report lists 143 waterbodies or waterbody segments needing a total maximum daily load. Of those listed, 88 are stream or river segments and 55 are lakes that periodically do not meet water quality standards.

The National 303(d) Program Vision is a new effort by EPA and the states to more effectively restore and protect waters by using a systematic process of prioritizing TMDL development and implementing alternative approaches and protection activities. Six elements of the Vision are discussed and include: engagement of stakeholders and the public, the TMDL prioritization process, protection activities, integrating the Vision into other programs, alternatives to developing TMDLs and assessment activities used in the Vision.