

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

January 31, 2012

## **Re: Request for Water Quality Data for the Arkansas and Rio Grande River Basins Triennial Review**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division (Division) is asking for your assistance in preparing for the triennial review of the Arkansas and Rio Grande River basins water quality classifications and standards. This effort requires the compilation of recent water quality parameters including biological, physical, chemical, and other related data collected throughout the river basins. This compilation of data from streams, lakes, and reservoirs will be the basis of the Division's recommendations to the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) for maintaining or modifying water quality classifications and standards in the Arkansas and Rio Grande River basins.

The schedule for the review of Regulation No. 32 Arkansas River Basin and Regulation No. 36 Rio Grande River Basin and subsequent rulemaking is as follows:

Regulation Nos. 32 and 36 Issues Formulation Hearing	November 5, 2012*
Regulation Nos. 32 and 36 Rulemaking Notice and Proposal	March 10, 2013*
Regulation Nos. 32 and 36 Rulemaking Hearing	June 10, 2013*

\* dates are approximate

The Division collected data in the Arkansas and Rio Grande River basins in 2010 and 2011 and recognizes that other parties may have water quality data that would be appropriate to include in the data analyses for the triennial review process. A list of the Division's monitoring sites is available upon request. In addition, there are numerous stream segments the Division was unable to sample and third party data may fill these data gaps.

Therefore, the Division is requesting water quality data from any sampling events conducted in these basins during the last ten years. There is no need to resubmit data previously submitted to the Environmental Data Unit. However, data previously submitted to other areas within the Division should be resubmitted in order to ensure it is used in this assessment process. The data will assist in determining ambient water quality across the state during this time period.

The data should follow the credible evidence guidelines used in the compilation of previous 303(d) lists and basin review rulemaking hearings. The guidelines are:

1. Information to describe the methods used for sample collection and field measurements or laboratory analysis.
2. Sufficient information and data to indicate that the measurement represents existing conditions.
3. In general, the Division assesses data from the most recent five year period of record. Older data may be used on a case-by-case basis if the Division believes conditions have not changed and this older data is still representative or the older data is used with newer data to determine trends.

4. Physical and biological assessments performed by an observer who has training and experience in performing such observations, and recorded observations adequately account for seasonal variation.

The division requests sampling data for all parameters and analytical techniques. However, parameters of particular interest are listed below. Parameter data should be accompanied by site location (latitude/longitude and datum, descriptive information, and/or a map) and date and time of the sampling event. See example submission format for specific details.

Parameters of Interest

- Flow Rate
- pH
- Water Temperature
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Specific Conductivity
- Arsenic (dissolved and total recoverable)
- Cadmium (dissolved)
- Chromium III and VI
- Copper (dissolved)
- Iron (dissolved and total recoverable)
- Lead (dissolved)
- Manganese (dissolved)
- Mercury (total)
- Nickel (dissolved)
- Selenium (dissolved)
- Silver (dissolved)
- Zinc (dissolved)
- Ammonia (un-ionized and total with accompanying pH and temperature)
- Hardness (total as CaCO<sub>3</sub>)
- Nitrite
- Nitrate
- Kjeldahl Nitrogen
- Total Phosphorous
- Sulfate
- *E. Coli* (per 100 ml)
- Aquatic life data (fish, macroinvertebrates, algae, macrophytes)
- Aquatic life habitat data
- Fish tissue residue data
- Organic chemicals and/or pesticides

Additional Parameters of Interest for Lakes & Reservoirs

- Depth profiles including pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen
- Secchi depth
- Chlorophyll *a*

The water quality data should be provided in electronic format and include the associated meta-data, detection limits and information explaining that the samples were collected and analyzed according to established quality assurance procedures. The associated meta-data, including the analytical methodology, adds to the quality of the results and thus to the merit of the water quality assessments that utilize those results. An example of the acceptable data format is available at the Environmental Data Unit web page under the Forms and Documents tab (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/EDU/home.htm>). An agency contact person and telephone number should also be provided. **Data must be submitted to Arne Sjodin ([arne.sjodin@state.co.us](mailto:arne.sjodin@state.co.us)) with “2013 Rulemaking Hearings Data” in the subject line of the email.** Data must be received by **April 30, 2012**. Data received after this date will not be reviewed and incorporated into the Division’s proposals for the Regulation Nos. 32 and 36 rulemaking hearings in 2013. All information collected by the Division will be available for public review and use after the Division’s Pre-Hearing Statements are submitted. If you currently work with the Colorado Data Sharing Network (CDSN) to store your data and are interested in submitting data to us directly from CDSN please contact us to discuss an alternative data submittal approach. Submittal of macroinvertebrate data should follow the proposed format described in the “Bug data package” which can also be found on the Division’s website at (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/EDU/home.htm>). Templates for submittal of macroinvertebrate data will also be posted on the Division’s website in the same location.

For more information or any questions please contact Arne Sjodin (303-692-3522, [arne.sjodin@state.co.us](mailto:arne.sjodin@state.co.us)), Sarah Wheeler (303-692-3436, [sarah.wheeler@state.co.us](mailto:sarah.wheeler@state.co.us)), Skip Feeney (303-691-4928, [stanley.feeney@state.co.us](mailto:stanley.feeney@state.co.us)), Rebecca Anthony (303-692-3339, [rebecca.anthony@state.co.us](mailto:rebecca.anthony@state.co.us)), or Aimee Konowal (303-692-3530, [aimee.konowal@state.co.us](mailto:aimee.konowal@state.co.us)) of the Environmental Data Unit.

The Division uses email distribution lists from the WQCC Office. Please contact the WQCC office at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/wqcc/> or 303-692-3463 if you would like to be removed, or know of any individuals or organizations that should be added.

Sincerely,



Aimee Konowal  
Environmental Data Unit Manager  
Water Quality Control Division