



January 10, 2017

**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 is asking for your assistance in preparation for the triennial review of the water quality classifications and standards for the Arkansas River and Rio Grande Basins. This effort requires compilation of recent water quality parameters including biological, physical, chemical, and other related data that have been 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 these basins.

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

Regulation Nos. 32 and 36 Deadline to Submit Data to Division	April 15, 2017
Regulation Nos. 32 and 36 Issues Formulation Hearing	November 13, 2017*
Regulation Nos. 32 and 36 Rulemaking Notice and Proposal	February 12, 2018*
Regulation Nos. 32 and 36 Rulemaking Hearing	June 11, 2018*

\*dates are approximate

The division collected data in the Arkansas River and Rio Grande Basins in 2015 and 2016 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 five years (10/1/2011-12/31/2016). 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. Please note that this data call is separate from the data submittal requirements per Regulation 85.

The data should follow the credible evidence guidelines used in the compilation of previous 303(d) lists (see the 2016 303(d) Listing Methodology pgs. 10-14 <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/303dLM2016.pdf>). The guidelines are:



1. Information to describe the methods used for sample collection and field or laboratory analysis.
2. Information and data to indicate that the measurement represents existing conditions.
3. For physical and biological assessments, confirmation that data was collected by an observer who has training and experience in performing such observations, and that recorded observations adequately account for seasonal variation.

Along with the site location (latitude/longitude, descriptive information, and/or a map) and date and time of the sampling event, any of the following parameters are of particular interest to the division, although any other parameters or analytical techniques may be helpful and are welcomed:

Parameters of Interest	
• Flow Rate	• Total Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> and NH <sub>4</sub> ) as N
• pH	• Hardness (total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )
• Water Temperature (deg C)	• Total Phosphorous
• Dissolved Oxygen	• Sulfate as SO <sub>4</sub>
• Specific Conductivity	• Nitrite as N
• Arsenic (dissolved and total recoverable)	• Nitrate as N
• Cadmium (dissolved)	• Total Nitrogen as N
• Chromium III and VI	• Kjeldahl Nitrogen as N
• Copper (dissolved)	• <i>E. Coli</i> (per 100 ml)
• Iron (dissolved and total recoverable)	• Aquatic life data (fish, macroinvertebrates, algae, macrophytes)
• Lead (dissolved)	• Periphyton data
• Manganese (dissolved)	• Aquatic life habitat data
• Mercury (total)	• Fish tissue residue data
• Nickel (dissolved)	• Organic chemicals and/or pesticides
• Selenium (dissolved)	• Sediment data
• Silver (dissolved)	
• Zinc (dissolved)	
• Uranium (dissolved and total)	
Additional Parameters of Interest for Lakes & Reservoirs	
	• Depth profiles including pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen
• Secchi depth	• Chlorophyll <i>a</i>

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 if the older data are used with the newer data to determine trends. The water quality data should be provided in electronic format, including the associated meta-data, detection limits and information explaining that the samples were collected and analyzed according to established quality assurance procedures. An example of the acceptable data formats is available on the WQCD web page under the heading *River*,



Lake, and Stream Data (Data submittal forms) (<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/rivers-lakes-and-streams-data>). An agency contact person and telephone number should also be submitted. Data must be submitted to [cdphe\\_wqcd\\_surfacewaterdata@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_wqcd_surfacewaterdata@state.co.us) with "2018 Regulation 32 and 36 Data" in the subject line of the email. Please email this same address for instructions on how to use google drive if your file size is too large to send by email. Data must be received by **April 15, 2017**. Data received after this date will not be reviewed and incorporated into the division's proposals for Regulation Nos. 32 and 36 rulemaking hearings in 2017. All information collected by the division will be available for public review and use after the division's pre-hearing statements are submitted.

The division is also working with the Colorado Data Sharing Network (CDSN) on this data call for Regulation Nos. 32 and 36. If you are working with CDSN on the management of your data, or would like to start using CDSN, please submit your data through them by going to [http://www.coloradowaterdata.org/datacalls\\_cdsn.html](http://www.coloradowaterdata.org/datacalls_cdsn.html). There is no reason to submit your data to both the division and the CDSN. An added benefit of using the CDSN is that your data will be available, along with all other participating entities' data, for other uses including the CDSN mapping and analytical tools. If you are using the CDSN, please notify the division that you are doing so by March 1, 2017. You will also need to begin working with the CDSN as soon as possible, but no later than February 15, 2017.

For more information or any questions please email [cdphe\\_wqcd\\_surfacewaterdata@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_wqcd_surfacewaterdata@state.co.us) or call Sarah Wheeler at 303-692-3436 or Arne Sjodin at 303-692-3522 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,

*Andrew M Ross*

Andrew M Ross  
Environmental Data Unit Manager  
Water Quality Control Division





## Map and HUCs of the Region Included in the WQCD 2017 Data Call



Basin	Hydrologic Unit Code	Basin	Hydrologic Unit Code
Apishapa	11020007	Sand Arroyo	11040004
Arkansas Headwaters	11020001	Two Butte	11020013
Bear	11040005	Upper Arkansas	11020002
Big Sandy	11020011	Upper Arkansas-John Martin Res.	11020009
Canadian Headwaters	11080001	Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith	11020005
Chico	11020004	Upper Cimarron	11040002
Cimarron Headwaters	11040001	Whitewoman	11030002
Fountain	11020003	Alamosa-Trinchera	13010002
Horse	11020008	Conejos	13010005
Huerfano	11020006	Rio Chama	13020102
Middle Arkansas-Lake McKinney	11030001	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010001
North Fork Cimarron	11040003	Saguache	13010004
Purgatoire	11020010	San Luis	13010003
Rush	11020012	Upper Rio Grande	13020101