

ALABAMA (REGION 4)

A Snapshot of Alabama's TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
<http://www.adem.state.al.us/WaterDivision/WQuality/TMDL/WQTMDLInfo.htm>

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Water Quality Branch

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters 190

Number of Causes of Impairment 340

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion
2. Pathogens
3. Nutrients
4. Sediment
5. Mercury

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 12 (and 24 delistings)

Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA) 151

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 42/4/24

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) EPA has approved

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 8

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? Y

Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.) Y

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters? Y

Example(s) Category 4b, 4c

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program approximately \$1 million

Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding federal 106 & 319 funds

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required? N

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

--decision document protocol for waterbodies impaired due to legacy pollutants

--proposal to perform a statewide mercury TMDL in collaboration with Florida

TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

--Cahaba River nutrient TMDL: one of first in the nation for a free-flowing river system

<http://www.adem.state.al.us/WaterDivision/WQuality/TMDL/FinalCahabaRiverNutrientTMDL.pdf>

--Coosa River nutrient TMDLs: a multi-state, multiple-reservoir system requiring nutrient reductions employing EFDC and WASP (still in progress)

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. changing federal requirements
2. third-party lawsuits (*e.g.*, the “daily loads” ruling)
3. inadequate resources for data requirements

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. inadequate resources for BMP implementation for NPSs
2. inadequate resources for follow-up monitoring
3. implementation of low-level targets for which the technology is still unavailable