

TEXAS (REGION 6)

A Snapshot of Texas' TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

N/A (water programs very spread out in TX)

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters 307

Number of Causes of Impairment 416

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Pathogens
2. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion
3. Salinity/TDS/Sulfates/Chlorides
4. PCBs
5. Mercury

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 40

Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA) 99

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 0/5/35

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) 4/1/2008

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 14

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? N

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

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters?

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program \$4 million

Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding 50% state funds;
50% federal funds

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required? Y

Innovations

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

--subcategories: 5a, TMDLs; 5b, do UAA; 5c, get more spatial data before deciding on TMDL; three separate water programs work on a,b,c; division of labor more efficient

--produce biennial status report ("Implementing TMDLs in Texas")

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/water/tmdl/2006tmdlstatusreport.pdf>

--TMDL a separate document from implementation plan (which doesn't go to EPA for approval)

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. opposition from unregulated NPS entities
2. not having secondary contact recreation standards for waters that are perennial, but shallow
3. perception that government is trying to regulate NPSs and fix water quality problems that public doesn't agree need fixing

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. lack of sustainable entities to carry through with implementation efforts
2. dichotomy by regulated and unregulated entities that PSs are regulated and a "must do," while NPSs are voluntary
3. bacteria #1 problem: no way to implement against wildlife or non-anthropogenic sources, at least in this state