

**Madison Brame**

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Osenbach, Matt; Glendon King; Franzese, Evan B.; Eyster, Emily; IRRC
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577)

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**Re: eComment System****The Environmental Quality Board has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577).**

Commenter Information:

Kelly Anderson
Philadelphia Water Department (Kelly.Anderson@phila.gov)
1101 Market Street 4th Floor-Philadelphia Water Department
Philadelphia, PA 19107 US

Comments entered:

No text comments were provided as part of this comment submittal. Please refer to attachments below.

These links provide access to the attachments provided as part of this comment.

Comments
Attachment: [PWD Comments Proposed Triennial Review 11 10 2023 Philadelphia Water Department.pdf](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Ezra Thrush

Ezra Thrush
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PA Department of Environmental Protection
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Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577)

November 10, 2023

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposed rulemaking. PWD has the following comments:

PWD supports the continued exclusion of Water Contact Sports (WC) use from the designated uses for river miles 108.4 to 81.8 of the Delaware Estuary. Available water quality and safety data do not support changing this exclusion.

In June 2023, PWD submitted a comprehensive recreational safety study to DEP. The [Delaware River Recreation Safety Study](#) identifies maritime, hydraulic, and shoreline hazards in the tidal Delaware River from river miles 108.4 to 81.8 and the tidal Schuylkill River between the Fairmount Dam and the Delaware River confluence. This report details safety considerations that may arise from primary contact recreation activities (e.g., swimming, wading, paddle sports, and jet-skiing) taking place in a location with such hazards.

In 2022, PWD completed a detailed analysis of near-shore and center channel bacteria monitoring in river miles 108.4 to 81.8 of the Delaware Estuary. This combined dataset includes 11,570 fecal indicator bacteria samples collected from 1999-2021 by DEP, DRBC, EPA, USGS, PWD, Water Center at Penn, Schuylkill River Greenways, and Bartram's Garden. PWD analyzed geometric mean by agency, site, and year and found that *E. coli* results consistently exceeded DEP's water quality criterion (126 colony forming units/100 ml) for WC use during the swimming season (May 1 through September 30).

In the Triennial Review # 9 final rulemaking published in the PA Bulletin on July 11, 2020, DEP concluded "the WC use remains excluded from the designated uses for river miles 108.4 to 81.8 because of continuing significant impacts from combined sewer overflows (CSO), and hazards associated with commercial shipping and navigation." PWD wants to understand DEP's reasoning for why this justification was not included in this proposed rulemaking. PWD believes this language is still applicable and recommends that it be included in the final rulemaking.

PWD fully supports the long-term vision for achieving swimmable water quality in river miles 108.4 to 81.8 of the Delaware Estuary. PWD will continue to plan, design, and implement infrastructure projects that will further improve the capacity of its sewer system and reduce combined sewer overflows over time. PWD notes, however, that water quality improvements will not ameliorate the very real recreational safety concerns pertaining to maritime, hydraulic and shoreline hazards in this segment of the Delaware River.

PWD looks forward to continuing to work with DEP and regional partners to achieve shared goals for water quality improvement in river miles 108.4 to 81.8 of the Delaware Estuary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Cammarata", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Marc Cammarata, P.E.
Deputy Water Commissioner, Planning & Environmental Services
marc.cammarata@phila.gov