Alabama's 2000 Section 303(d) List

Fact Sheet

Background

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires that each state identify those waters that do not currently support designated uses, and establish a priority ranking of the waters taking into account the severity of the pollution and the uses to be made of the waters. For each water on the list, the state is required to establish the total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the pollutant or pollutants of concern at a level necessary to implement the applicable water quality standards. Guidance issued in August 1997 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that states also include a schedule for TMDL development. The schedule is included as part of Alabama's 2000 list and provides expected completion dates for waterbodies on the list. Expected completion dates range from one to ten years following EPA approval of the 2000 list and were established to be consistent with the TMDL completion schedule outlined in EPA's settlement agreement with plaintiffs in the 1998 TMDL lawsuit. As a result, TMDL completion dates for many of the segments shown on the 2000 Section 303(d) list may be different than those shown on the 1998 list.

2000 Section 303(d) List

Alabama's 2000 Section 303(d) list includes segments of rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and estuaries that either do not support or partially support their currently designated use or uses. Most of the waterbodies on the 2000 Section 303(d) list also appeared on Alabama's 1998 Section 303(d) list, which was developed using the 1996 Water Quality Report to Congress (305(b) Report). The Department has attempted to obtain and evaluate all existing and readily available water quality related data and information. The 2000 §303(d) list was developed using the 1998 §303(d) list as the starting point. Data in EPA's STOrage and RETrieval (STORET) database, information from §319 nonpoint assessments, other federal and state agencies, industries, and watershed initiatives were evaluated as the 2000 §303(d) list was compiled. Any individual or organization could submit additional data or information during the advertised comment period relative to water quality impairment in stream segments not included on the draft list. Chemical, physical, and biological data collected primarily during the previous five years were considered when adding new waterbodies to the 2000 Section 303(d) list. Data older than five years was generally not considered, except when the data may be used to demonstrate water quality trends. Data sources include the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Geological Survey of Alabama, the United States Geological Survey, the Tennessee Valley Authority, other public agencies, universities, and industries.

The list contains information such as the waterbody name, county(s) in which the listed segment is located, dates when the data on which the listing is based were collected, cause(s) for the use impairment, the source(s) of the pollutant(s) causing the impairment, the size of the impaired segment, and the location of the listed waterbody. Also included on the list is the segment's priority ranking (high, low, medium), which was developed using the attached prioritization strategy.

Use-support status for waterbodies was determined in several ways. In cases where the monitored data was primarily chemical data from the water column, use-support status was based on the percentage of measurements not meeting the applicable water quality standard. When 10 percent or fewer measurements exceeded a water quality standard, the waterbody was considered to be fully supporting its designated use. When less than 25 percent but more than 10 percent of the measurements exceeded a water quality standard, the waterbody was considered to be partially supporting its designated use. When more than 25 percent of the measurements exceeded a water quality standard, the waterbody was considered to be not supporting its designated use. In other waterbodies, use-support status was assigned based on fish consumption or shellfish harvesting advisories issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health. Best professional judgment was used in assigning use-support status in cases where monitored data was limited in areal extent or temporal coverage and where numeric water quality criteria were not available. Where available, biological assessment data were used in combination with other surface water quality data or information to arrive at an overall use support determination.

Changes Since the 1998 Section 303(d) List

A number of differences exist between the 2000 Section 303(d) List and the 1998 list. Many of the changes were to correct errors in the 1998 list and to provide additional or updated information about waterbodies on the list. Other significant changes since 1998 include the addition and deletion of waterbodies. The following tables show the additions to (Table 1) and deletions from (Table 2) the 1998 Section 303(d) List and provide a rationale for the changes. In Table 1 the basis for listing each new segment is given.

Changes have also been made to the TMDL completion schedule included on the 2000 Section 303(d) list. The changes reflect the pace of TMDL development that can reasonably be expected given ADEM's current funding and staffing levels and the need to meet court-ordered TMDL completion dates. The dates shown are for completion of all TMDLs required for the listed segment. Where more than one TMDL is required for a segment, TMDLs for specific pollutants may be developed well in advance of the expected completion date given on the list.

Table 1

Alabama's 2000 §303(d) List

Waters Added to the List

The waterbodies listed in the following table were added to Alabama's 2000 §303(d) list for the reasons presented in the table.

Waterbody ID	Waterbody Name	River Basin	County	Pollutant	Basis for Addition to the List
AL/03160205-040_01	Bay Minette Creek – from its mouth at Bay Minette to its source	Mobile	Baldwin	Mercury	Alabama Fish Consumption Advisory issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health in March 2000 advising "No Consumption" of largemouth bass.
AL/03160204-050_04	Chickasaw Creek – from its mouth at Mobile River to its source	Mobile	Mobile	Mercury	Alabama Fish Consumption Advisory issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health in March 2000 advising "No Consumption" of largemouth bass.
AL/03160205-030_01	Fowl River – from its mouth at Mobile Bay to its source (includes part of East Fowl River)	Mobile	Mobile	Mercury	Alabama Fish Consumption Advisory issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health in March 2000 advising "No Consumption" of largemouth bass.
AL/Mobile R_01	Mobile River – from its mouth at Mobile Bay to Cold Creek	Mobile	Mobile	Mercury	Alabama Fish Consumption Advisory issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health in March 2000 advising "Limited Consumption" of largemouth bass.
AL/03160204-060_02	Threemile Creek – from Telegraph Road to Illinois Central Gulf Railroad	Mobile	Mobile	Chlordane	Alabama Fish Consumption Advisory issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health in March 2000 advising "Limited Consumption" of striped bass and speckled trout and "No Consumption" of Atlantic croaker .
AL/03140106-070_02	Brushy Creek - from the Alabama – Florida state line to Boggy Branch	Perdido-Escambia	Escambia	Organic Enrichment / Low Dissolved Oxygen	Of 4 dissolved oxygen measurements made by ADEM at Escambia Co. Rd. 1 between May and September 1999, all were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.

AL/03150110-050_01	Moores Mill Creek – from its mouth at Chewacla Creek to its source	Tallapoosa	Lee	Sedimentation (Siltation)	Sedimentation was identified as the principle cause of biological impairment at a site upstream of Chewacla Lake at site MMLT-1a in 1998. ("Monitoring of Watersheds Associated with Alabama State Parks Utilizing Chemical, Physical, and Biological Assessments", ADEM, p. 27, 1999.)
AL/Alabama R_03	Alabama River – from Pursley Creek to Beaver Creek	Alabama	Wilcox	Nutrients Organic Enrichment / Low Dissolved Oxygen	This segment separates two segments already included on the §303(d) list for the indicated causes. Of 106 dissolved oxygen measurements made at river monitoring stations within this segment between 1995 and 1999, 12 (11.3%) were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.
AL/06030002-160-02	Hester Creek – from Mountain Fork to its source	Tennessee	Madison	Fecal Coliform	Of 25 samples collected by USGS in 1999, 5 samples exceeded the 2000 colonies/100 ml single sample criterion for fecal coliform bacteria.
AL/06030002-190-02	Flint River – From U. S. Highway 72 (RM 27.3) to Mountain Fork	Tennessee	Madison	Fecal Coliform	Of 17 samples collected by USGS in 1999, 3 samples exceeded the 2000 colonies/100 ml single sample criterion for fecal coliform bacteria.
AL/03150202-020_01	Lee Branch – From Lake Purdy to its source	Cahaba	Shelby	Fecal Coliform	Of 10 samples collected by USGS between 1996 and 1999 at station 242340575, 4 samples exceeded the 2000 colonies/100 ml single sample criterion for fecal coliform bacteria.
AL/03170008-090_04	Collins Creek – From Big Creek to its source	Escatawpa	Mobile	Fecal Coliform	Of 23 samples collected by USGS between 1996 and 1999 at station 2479950, 3 samples exceeded the 2000 colonies/100 ml single sample criterion for fecal coliform bacteria.

Table 2

Alabama's 2000 §303(d) List

Waters Removed from the 1998 List

The waterbodies listed in the following table were removed from Alabama's 1998 §303(d) list and are not included on the 2000 §303(d) list for the reasons presented.

Waterbody ID	Waterbody Name	River Basin	County	Pollutant	Good Cause Justification for Removal
AL/03160109-020-01	Duck Creek	Black Warrior	Cullman	pH	Of 73 measurements made by ADEM and others between 1991 and 1998, only 3 values (2.7%) were outside acceptable limits.
AL/03160109-180-01	Wolf Creek	Black Warrior	Walker	pH	Of 20 measurements made by ADEM in 1996, only 1 value (5%) was outside acceptable limits.
AL/03160109-180-01	Wolf Creek	Black Warrior	Walker	Metals	Of 15 measurements of total iron made by ADEM in 1996, none exceed EPA's guidance criterion of 1.0 mg/l.
AL/03160109-180-01	Wolf Creek	Black Warrior	Walker	Pathogens	Error in the original listing in 1999. Data considered in the original listing decision was collected on Wolf Creek in Baldwin County.
AL/03160111-150-01	Short Creek	Black Warrior	Jefferson	pH	Of 52 measurements made by ADEM between 1995 and 1999, 1 value (1.9%) was outside acceptable limits.
AL/03160111-150-01	Short Creek	Black Warrior	Jefferson	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 50 measurements made by ADEM between 1995 and 1999, 2 values (4.0%) were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.

AL/30160112-050-01	Big Yellow Creek	Black Warrior	Tuscaloosa	pH	Of 17 measurements made by ADEM between 1988 and 1999, none were outside acceptable limits.
AL/03160112-110-01	Black Warrior River	Black Warrior	Tuscaloosa	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 42 measurements made by ADEM between 1995 and 1998, only 1 value (2.4%) was less than the 4.0 mg/l criterion.
AL/03150202-010-01	Big Black Creek	Cahaba	St. Clair	Siltation	Benthic invertebrate communities were assessed by ADEM in 1999 at 4 stations and were rated as good or excellent. Habitat at these stations was also assessed as good or excellent. In 1997 USGS benthic invertebrate assessments conducted by USGS indicated that the communities were unimpaired to slightly impaired.
AL/03150202-010-01	Big Black Creek	Cahaba	St. Clair	Other habitat alteration	Benthic invertebrate communities were assessed by ADEM in 1999 at 4 stations and were rated as good or excellent. Habitat at these stations was also assessed as good or excellent. In 1997 USGS benthic invertebrate assessments conducted by USGS indicated that the communities were unimpaired to slightly impaired.
AL/03150202-030-05	Little Shades Creek	Cahaba	Jefferson	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 36 measurements made by ADEM in 1998, only 1 value (2.8%) was less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.
AL/03150202-030-05	Little Shades Creek	Cahaba	Jefferson	Priority Organics	Of 4 measurements made by ADEM in 1998 and analyzed for volatile organic compounds, none were found in excess of the method detection limit of 5 ug/l.
AL/03150202-030-05	Little Shades Creek	Cahaba	Jefferson	Nonpriority Organics	Of 4 measurements made by ADEM in 1998 and analyzed for volatile organic compounds, none were found in excess of the method detection limit of 5 ug/l.

AL/03130003-180-01	Barbour Creek	Chattahoochee	Barbour	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 30 measurements made by ADEM and Auburn University in 1998 and 1999, none were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.
AL/03130002-200-01	West Point Lake	Chattahoochee	Chambers	Pesticides (Chlordane)	Declining chlordane levels in fish resulted in the removal of this segment from the March 2000 Fish Consumption Advisory issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health.
AL/03130002-310-01	Lake Harding	Chattahoochee	Lee	Pesticides (Chlordane)	Declining chlordane levels in fish resulted in the removal of this segment from the March 2000 Fish Consumption Advisory issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health.
AL/03140201-150-01	UT to Harrand Creek	Choctawhatchee	Coffee	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 5 measurements made by ADEM in 1999, none were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.
AL/03150106-340-02	Lake Neely Henry	Coosa	Etowah	Priority Organics (PCBs)	This pollutant for this segment was mistakenly included on the 1998 §303 (d) list. The 1998, 1999, and 2000 Fish Consumption Advisory lists published by the Alabama Department of Public Health do not include a consumption advisory for Lake Neely Henry.
AL/03150107-190-01	Lay Lake	Coosa	Talladega	Flow Alteration	This cause was inadvertently included on the 1998 §303(d) list. It does not appear on the 1994 or 1996 lists. Flow alteration is not a pollutant for which a TMDL can be developed and is, therefore, not appropriate for inclusion on the §303(d) list.
AL/03150105-280-01	Weiss Lake	Coosa	Cherokee	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 565 measurements made by ADEM and others between 1989 and 1999, 11 (1.9%) were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.

AL/03150105-240-01	Wolf Branch	Coosa	Cherokee	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 8 measurements made by ADEM in 1999, none were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.
AL/03150105-240-01	Wolf Branch	Coosa	Cherokee	Ammonia	Of 7 measurements made by ADEM in 1999, all were less than the method detection level of 0.015 mg/l.
AL/03170008-090-01	Boggy Branch	Escatawpa	Mobile	Pathogens	Of 23 measurements made by USGS between 1996 and 1999, 2 (8.7%) exceeded the 2000 colonies/100 ml criterion.
AL/03170009-030-01	Bayou La Batre	Escatawpa	Mobile	pH	Low pH values measured at Alabama Highway 188 are due to natural conditions (acid clay soils and tannic acid from decaying vegetation) and are typical of coastal blackwater streams.
AL/03170008-090-02	Hamilton Creek	Escatawpa	Mobile	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 129 measurements made by USGS between 1990 and 1999, none (0.0%) were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.
AL/03140107-040-01	Intracoastal Waterway	Mobile	Baldwin	Temperature	Of 675 measurements made by ADEM at trend station IC1 and at Coastal ALAMAP stations in Regions 4 and 6 between 1990 and 1999, 18 (2.7%) exceeded the temperature criterion of 90 °F.
AL/03160204-050-03	Chickasaw Creek	Mobile	Mobile	pH	Low pH values measured at several locations throughout this watershed are due to natural conditions (acid clay soils and tannic acid from decaying vegetation) and are typical of coastal blackwater streams.
AL/03160204-060-01	Threemile Creek	Mobile	Mobile	pH	Of 68 measurements made by ADEM between 1990 and 1999, six (8.8%) were outside acceptable limits.

AL/03160205-020-02	Dog River	Mobile	Mobile	pH	Low pH values measured at Navco Park are due to natural conditions (acid clay soils and tannic acid from decaying vegetation) and are typical of coastal blackwater streams.
AL/03160205-050-03	Cowpen Creek	Mobile	Baldwin	pH	Low pH values measured at Baldwin County Road 33 near Clay City are due to natural conditions (acid clay soils and tannic acid from decaying vegetation) and are typical of coastal blackwater streams.
AL/03160205-050-02	Fish River	Mobile	Baldwin	pH	Low pH values measured at several locations throughout this watershed are due to natural conditions (acid clay soils and tannic acid from decaying vegetation) and are typical of coastal blackwater streams.
AL/03140103-050-01	Indian Creek	Perdido-Escambia	Covington	Organic enrichment / DO	The point source contributing to low dissolved oxygen levels in 1985 was removed in 1988. Data collected in 1999 indicates full use support.
AL/03140103-050-01	Indian Creek	Perdido-Escambia	Covington	Nutrients	The point source contributing nutrients in 1985 was removed in 1988. Data collected in 1999 indicates full use support.
AL/03140103-080-01	Bay Branch	Perdido-Escambia	Covington	Organic enrichment / DO	The point source contributing to low dissolved oxygen levels in 1985 was removed in 1988. Data collected in 1999 indicates full use support.
AL/03140103-080-01	Bay Branch	Perdido-Escambia	Covington	Nutrients	The point source contributing nutrients in 1985 was removed in 1988. Data collected in 1999 indicates full use support.

AL/03140103-080-01	Bay Branch	Perdido-Escambia	Covington	Pathogens	Of 9 measurements made by ADEM at several locations in 1991 and 1999, none exceeded the 2000 colonies/100 ml criterion.
AL/03140106-190-01	Blackwater River	Perdido-Escambia	Baldwin	Metals (Cu, Pb, Zn)	Metal concentrations at the USGS sampling location are the result of natural conditions and are, therefore, not a violation of Alabama water quality standards.
AL/03150109-050-01	Tallapoosa River	Tallapoosa	Randolph	Flow alteration	Flow alteration is not a pollutant for which a TMDL can be developed and is, therefore, not appropriate for inclusion on the §303(d) list.
AL/03150110-140_01	Line Creek	Tallapoosa	Macon	Flow alteration	Flow alteration is not a pollutant for which a TMDL can be developed and is, therefore, not appropriate for inclusion on the §303(d) list.
AL/06030002-160-02	Hester Creek	Tennessee	Madison	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 38 measurements made by ADEM, TVA, and USGS between 1997 and 1999, none were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.

Waterbody ID	Waterbody Name	River Basin	County	Pollutant	Good Cause Justification for Removal
AL/06030002-160-02	Hester Creek	Tennessee	Madison	Siltation	The 1997 TVA habitat assessment rates the habitat for this segment as excellent. The maximum turbidity and total suspended solids levels measured by TVA in 1997 were 5.3 NTU and 5.0 mg/l, respectively.

AL/06030002-160-01	Mountain Fork	Tennessee	Madison	Siltation	The 1997 TVA habitat assessment rates the habitat for this segment as excellent. In 1998 ADEM assessed two reaches of Mountain Fork at three sites. Habitat quality was assessed as excellent at all three sites. The maximum turbidity and total suspended solids levels measured by ADEM were 11.2 NTU and 12.0 mg/l, respectively, during a high flow event on May 13, 1998.
AL/06030002-160-01	Mountain Fork	Tennessee	Madison	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 13 measurements made by ADEM and TVA in 1997 and 1998, none were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.
AL/06030002-330-08	Rock Creek	Tennessee	Cullman	Organic enrichment / DO	Of 5 measurements made by TVA in 1997, none were less than the 5.0 mg/l criterion.
AL/06030005-040-01	Town Creek	Tennessee	Lawrence	pH	Of 81 measurements made by ADEM and TVA between 1988 and 1998, 7 (8.6%) were outside acceptable limits.
AL/06030001-280-01	Short Creek	Tennessee	Marshall	Pathogens	Of 62 measurements made by ADEM at several locations between 1996 and 1998, 3 (4.8%) exceeded the 2000 colonies/100 ml criterion.
AL/03160106-200-01	Tombigbee River	Upper Tombigbee	Pickens	Flow alteration	Flow alteration is not a pollutant for which a TMDL can be developed and is, therefore, not appropriate for inclusion on the §303(d) list.