

## EPA 2002 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report Guidance

### **Category #1. Attaining the water quality standard and no use is threatened.**

Assessment units (AU) should be listed in this category if there are data and information that meet the requirements of the state's or territory's assessment and listing methodology and support a determination that the water quality standard is attained and no use is threatened. States and territories should consider scheduling these AUs for future monitoring to determine if the water quality standard continues to be attained.

### **Category #2. Attaining some of the designated uses; no use is threatened; and insufficient or no data and information is available to determine if the remaining uses are attained or threatened.**

Assessment units should be listed in this category if there are data and information, which meet the requirements of the state's or territory's assessment and listing methodology, to support a determination that some, but not all, uses are attained and none are threatened. Attainment status of the remaining uses is unknown because there is insufficient or no data or information. Monitoring should be scheduled for these AUs to determine if the uses previously found to be in attainment remain in attainment, and to determine the attainment status of those uses for which data and information was previously insufficient to make a determination.

**Category #3. Insufficient or no data and information to determine if any designated use is attained.** AUs should be listed in this category where the data or information to support an attainment determination for any use is not available, consistent with the requirements of the state's or territory's assessment and listing methodology. To assess the attainment status of these AU's, the state or territory should obtain supplementary data and information, or schedule monitoring as needed.

### **Category #4. Impaired or threatened for one or more designated uses but does not require the development of a TMDL.**

- 4A. **TMDL has been completed.** AUs should be listed in this subcategory once all TMDL(s) have been developed and approved by EPA that, when implemented, are expected to result in full attainment of the standard. Where more than one pollutant is associated with the impairment of an AU, the AU will remain in Category 5 until all TMDLs for each pollutant have been completed and approved by EPA. Monitoring should be scheduled for these AUs to verify that the water quality standard is met when the water quality management actions needed to achieve all TMDLs are implemented.
- 4B. **Other pollution control requirements are reasonably expected to result in the attainment of the water quality standard in the near future.** Consistent with the regulation under 130.7(b)(i),(ii), and (iii), AUs should be listed in this subcategory where other pollution control requirements required by local, state, or federal authority are stringent enough to implement any water quality standard (WQS) applicable to such waters. EPA expects that these requirements must be specifically applicable to the particular water quality problem. Monitoring should be scheduled for these AUs to verify that the water quality standard is attained as expected.
- 4C. **Impairment is not caused by a pollutant.** AUs should be listed in this subcategory if the impairment is not caused by a pollutant. States and territories should consider scheduling these AUs for monitoring to confirm that there continues to be no pollutant-caused impairment and to support water quality management actions necessary to address the cause(s) of the impairment.

### **Category #5. The water quality standard is not attained. The AU is impaired or threatened for one or more designated uses by a pollutant(s), and requires a TMDL.**

This category constitutes the Section 303(d) list of waters impaired or threatened by a pollutant(s) for which one or more TMDL(s) are needed. An AU should be listed in this category if it is determined, in accordance with the state's or territory's assessment and listing methodology, that a pollutant has caused, is suspected of causing, or is projected to

cause an impairment. Where more than one pollutant is associated with the impairment of a single AU, the AU will remain in Category 5 until TMDLs for all pollutants have been completed and approved by EPA.

For AUs listed in this category, states or territories should provide monitoring schedules that describe when data and information will be collected to support TMDL establishment and to determine if the standard is attained. EPA recommends that while the state or territory is monitoring the AU for a specific pollutant to develop a TMDL, it also monitor the watershed to assess the attainment status of other uses.

A state or territory must submit a schedule for the establishment of TMDLs for all waters in Category 5. This schedule must reflect the state's or territory's own priority ranking of the listed waters.