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**Public comment sought on bacteria TMDL document using  
new statewide method for 39 stream segments in the Green  
and Tradewater river basins**  
*Comment period ends June 11, 2018*

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (March 14, 2018) – The Energy and Environment Cabinet is seeking public comment until June 11, 2018 on a draft report addressing bacteria impairments in surface waters throughout Kentucky. The report includes a new, streamlined method for developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the impairments.

“Total Maximum Daily Load” is a term used to describe the amount of pollution a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. These standards protect beneficial uses of the water, or “designated uses.” Standards for *E. coli* and fecal coliform bacteria are intended to protect the health of those using surface water for swimming, wading, boating, and other recreation.

The Clean Water Act requires each state to periodically identify specific waters where designated uses are not being met and water quality impairments exist. The state is also required to prioritize the list of impaired waters, calculate a TMDL of pollutants for those waters, and devise plans to improve the water quality.

The report, prepared by the Division of Water, discusses bacteria sources that occur in Kentucky, how bacteria enter surface water, and what stakeholders can do to improve water quality.

Initially, the report includes an appendix for the Green River basin with TMDLs for 34 bacteria-impaired stream segments and an appendix for the Tradewater River basin with TMDLs for 5 segments. These 39 impaired streams are located in the following counties: Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Green, Hardin, Hart, Hopkins, McLean, Monroe, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Taylor, Todd, Union, Warren, and Webster.

Additional impaired streams from other watersheds will be added to the report under future public notices.

Revisions to the report may be made following the public comment period and before it is sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

The report may be viewed on the [Division of Water Web site](http://water.ky.gov/Pages/PublicNotices.aspx) at <http://water.ky.gov/Pages/PublicNotices.aspx>. Comments should be sent in writing to Lauren McDonald, Division of Water, 300 Sower Blvd, Frankfort, KY 40601 or by email to [lauren.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:lauren.mcdonald@ky.gov).