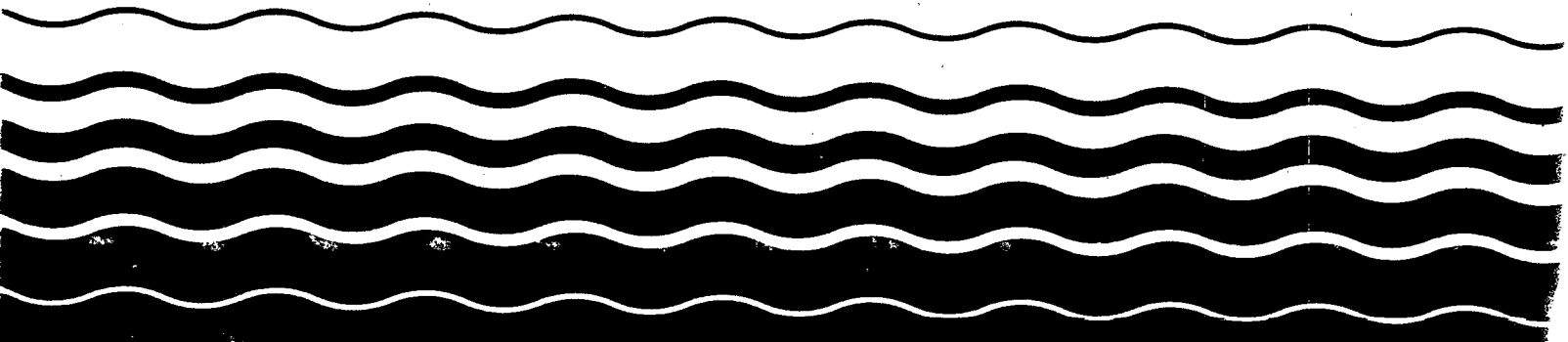
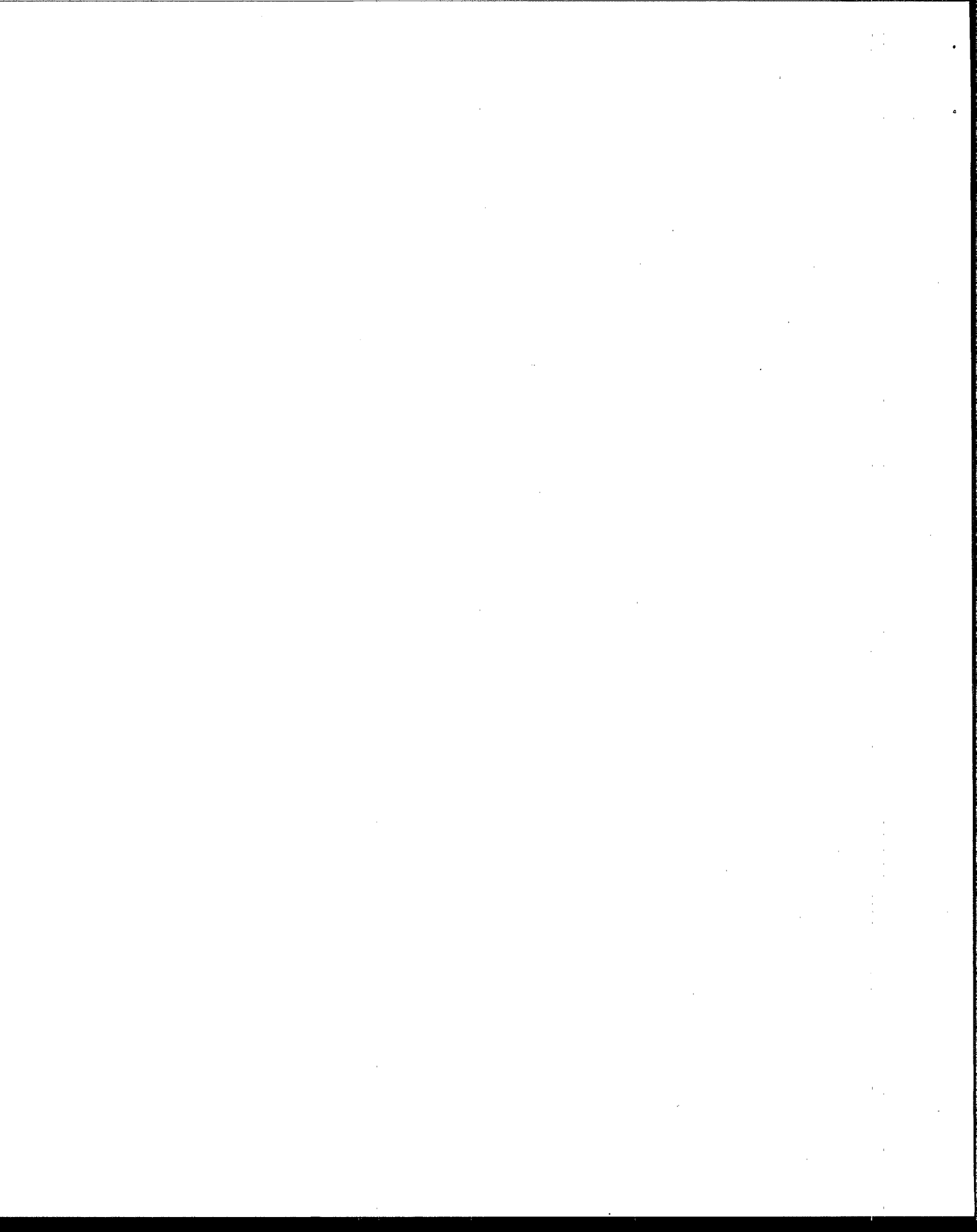


Water



State Water Quality Standards Summary: Louisiana





DISCLAIMER

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The reader should consult the water quality standards of a particular State for exact regulatory language applicable to that State. Copies of State water quality standards may be obtained from the State's Water Pollution Control Agency or its equivalent.

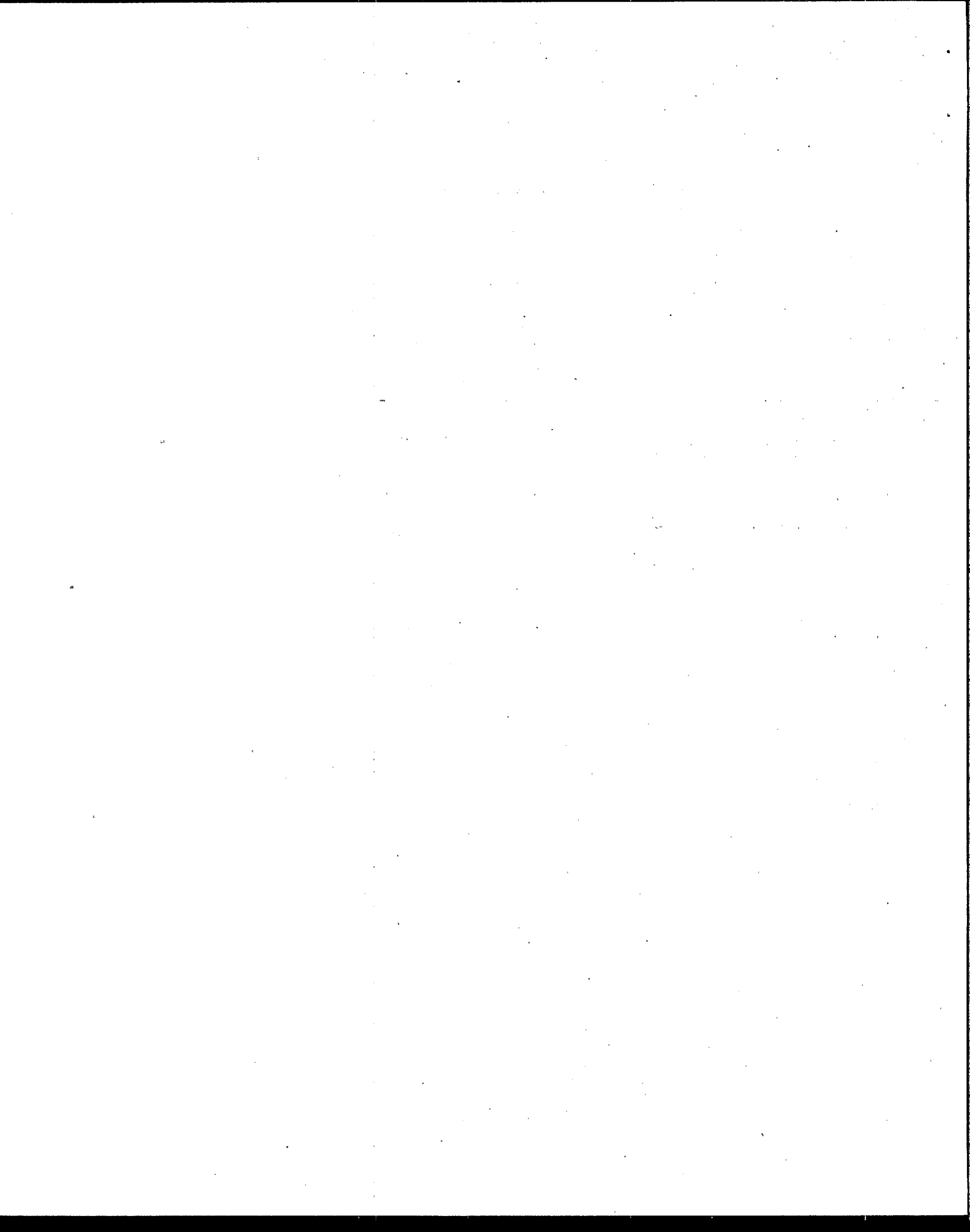
Additional information may also be obtained from the:

Standards Branch
Criteria and Standards Division (WH-585)
Office of Water Regulations and Standards
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460
202-475-7315

This document may be obtained only from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at the following address:

National Technical Information Service
5285 Front Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22161
703-487-4650

The NTIS order number is: PB89-141857



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Standards Available From:

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State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

It is the policy of the State that all interstate, intrastate, and coastal waters, including any portions thereof, whose existing quality exceeds the approved water quality standards or otherwise supports an unusual abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife resources will be maintained at their existing high quality. Under special circumstances, the state may choose to lower water quality in streams that exceed the Standards to allow for necessary and justifiable economic and/or social development, but not to the extent of violating the established Water Quality Standards. No such changes, however, will interfere with or become injurious to the existing water uses. The state administrative authority will not approve any wastewater discharge or certify any activity for federal permit that would cause water quality or use impairment of state or interstate waters. Waste discharges must comply with applicable state and federal laws for the attainment of water quality goals. Any new, existing, or expanded point source or nonpoint source discharging into state waters, including any land clearing which is the subject of a federal permit application, will be required to provide the necessary level of waste treatment to protect state waters as determined by the administrative authority. Further, there shall be achieved the highest statutory and regulatory requirements for all existing point sources and best management practices (BMP's) for non point sources pursuant to Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. Additionally, no degradation shall be allowed in high quality waters which constitute an outstanding natural resource. Consistent with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, the state will keep the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) informed of its activities and will furnish the EPA informational reports, in such form as to allow the EPA, to carry out its function under the Clean Water Act. The state will consult and cooperate with the EPA on matters that are the proper consideration of the federal agency; the EPA will reciprocate in matters that are the proper consideration of the state.

State Narrative Language For: Toxics

All waters shall be free from such concentrations of substances attributable to wastewater or other discharges sufficient to injure, be toxic or produce demonstrated adverse physiological response in humans, animals, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or plants.

Toxic substances shall not be present in quantities that alone or in combination will be toxic to plant or animal life. Concentrations of persistent toxic substances for which no numerical criteria are given in the standards shall not exceed the 96-hour LC50/100 (one-hundredth of the 96-hour LC50). Persistent toxic substances are defined herein as refractory substances subject to very limited or no biodegradation and/or detoxification and subject to food chain bioaccumulation; they include but are not limited to pesticides, PCB's and heavy metals that are designated by EPA as priority pollutants. Concentrations of non-persistent, biodegradable toxic substances for which no numerical criteria are given in the standards, shall not exceed the 96-hour LC50/10 (one-tenth of the 96-hour LC50). Bioassay techniques comparable with those given in the latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater will be used in evaluating toxicity using specific methods, dilutions, and species of aquatic animals best suited to the area of concern.

State Narrative Language For: Free From

All waters shall be free from such concentrations of substances attributable to wastewater or other discharges

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sufficient to:

- A. settle to form objectionable deposits;
- B. float as debris, scum, oil, or other matter to form nuisances;
- C. result in objectionable color, odor, taste, or turbidity;
- D. injure, be toxic or produce demonstrated adverse physiological response in humans, animals, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or plants; or
- E. produce undesirable or nuisance aquatic life.

State Narrative Language For: Low Flow

Intermittent Stream Policy - Certain watercourses may be considered for application of an excepted water use classification on the basis of being an intermittent stream. Only those streams which have low flow conditions or water levels that preclude the attainment of recreation and the propagation of desirable species of fish and wildlife will be considered for classification as intermittent. At a minimum, the "General Criteria" of these Standards shall apply to all watercourses approved as intermittent streams.

In order for a stream to be considered for this excepted water use classification the stream must not have a sufficient drainage area to maintain a perennial flow and/or the 7Q10 for the stream must be less than a projected or measured 0.1 cfs. The no flow condition must be natural and not a result of man's activities. The no flow condition is generally characterized by dry stream reaches during dry weather conditions; however, the watercourse may exhibit flow or contain pools for short periods after rainfall.

The State administrative authority and the EPA must approve and designate a stream for the intermittent classification. Candidate streams for intermittent status will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In the event that a wastewater discharge is proposed for an approved and designated intermittent stream the following conditions must be met:

1. The discharge will not by itself or in conjunction with other discharges violate the "General Criteria" of State of Louisiana Water Quality Standards.
2. The discharge will not by itself or in conjunction with other discharges violate the numerical criteria of any perennial stream which receives water from an intermittent stream.
3. The discharge will be disinfected to protect from health hazards that may result from inadvertent primary contact.

State Narrative Language For: Mixing Zones

Mixing zones are exempted from criteria for those substances that are rendered non-toxic by dilution, dissipation or transformation. Mixing zones must, however, be defined and have identifiable limits, and the waters outside of mixing zones must meet the Standards for that particular body of water. Mixing must be accomplished as quickly as possible to insure that the waste is mixed with the allocated dilution water in the smallest practicable area.

A mixing zone shall not significantly affect a nursery area for aquatic life or habitat for waterfowl nor any area approved by the state for shellfish harvesting. A mixing zone shall not include an existing public water supply intake nor include any other existing water supply intake if such mixing zone would significantly impair the purposes for which the supply is utilized.

The state shall on a case-by-case basis specify definable geometric limits for mixing zones.

As a guideline, the mixing zone in canals, rivers, streams, and other flowing waterbodies shall be no more than one-third the width of the receiving stream at the point of discharge. A mixing zone shall not overlap another mixing zone in such a manner, or be so large, as to impair any designated water use in the receiving stream when considered as a whole.

In lakes, estuaries, bays, lagoons, and sounds, the area of mixing shall not be so large as to cause impairment of a designated use and will be defined by the Office on a case-by-case basis.

In rivers, streams, reservoirs, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters, zones of passage are continuous water routes of the volume, area and quality necessary to allow passage of free-swimming and drifting organisms with no significant effects produced on their populations. These zones must be provided wherever mixing zones are allowed.

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Classifications:

Primary Contact Recreation	Defined as any recreational or other water use in which there is prolonged and intimate contact with the water involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a significant health hazard such as swimming, water skiing, skin diving, wading, and other similar activities.
Secondary Contact Recreation	Defined as any recreational or other water use in which contact with the water is either incidental or accidental and in which the probability of ingesting appreciable quantities of water is minimal, such as fishing, commercial or recreational boating and any limited contact incident to shoreline activity.
Fish and Wildlife Propagation	Includes the use of water for preservation and reproduction of aquatic biota such as indigenous species of fish and invertebrates as well as reptiles, amphibians and other wildlife associated with the aquatic environment.
Public Water Supply	Refers to the use of water for human consumption and general household use.
Shellfish Propagation	Is the use of water to sufficiently maintain the health of biological systems which support commercially important species of shellfish primarily oyster, and to protect the health of human consumers of these shellfish.
Agriculture	Involves the use of water for crop spraying, irrigation, livestock watering, poultry operations, and other farm purposes, not related to human consumption.
Outstanding Natural Resource Waters	Includes areas designated for preservation, protection, reclamation or enhancement of wilderness and aesthetic qualities and ecological regimes, such as Louisiana natural and scenic streams, and waters within wildlife refuges.

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All
Classes

Primary Contact

Secondary Conta.. Fish and

Physical

Nutrients

Toxic Metals

Pesticides

Organics

Bacteria

Fecal Coliform

Upper Value

Narr.

Narr.

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Public Water Su.. Shellfish

Agriculture

Outstanding Nat..

Physical

Nutrients

Toxic Metals

Pesticides

Organics

Bacteria

Fecal Coliform
Upper Value
Total Coliform
Upper Value

Narr.

Narr.

Narr.

