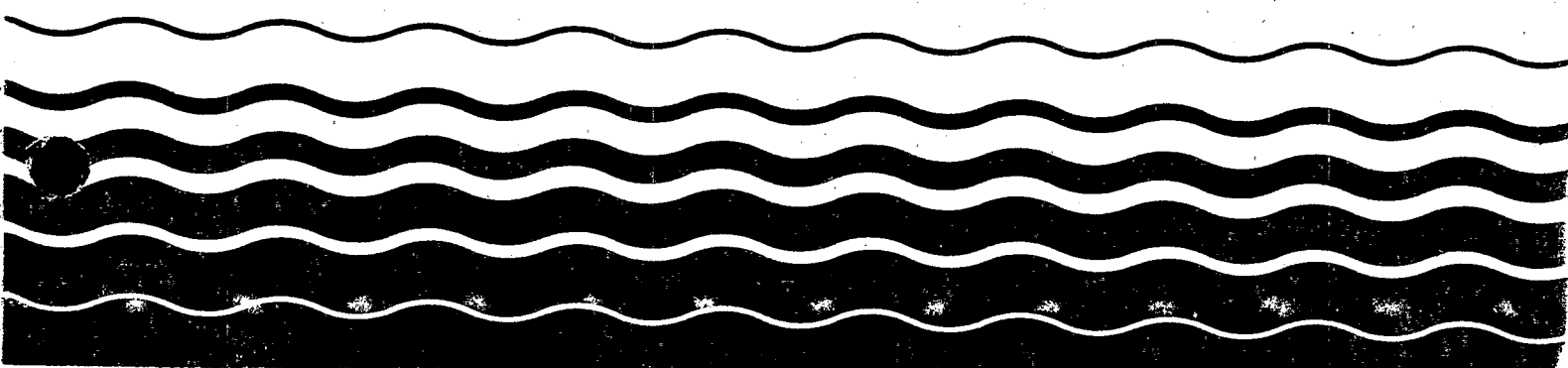


Water



State Water Quality Standards Summary: New Mexico





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.

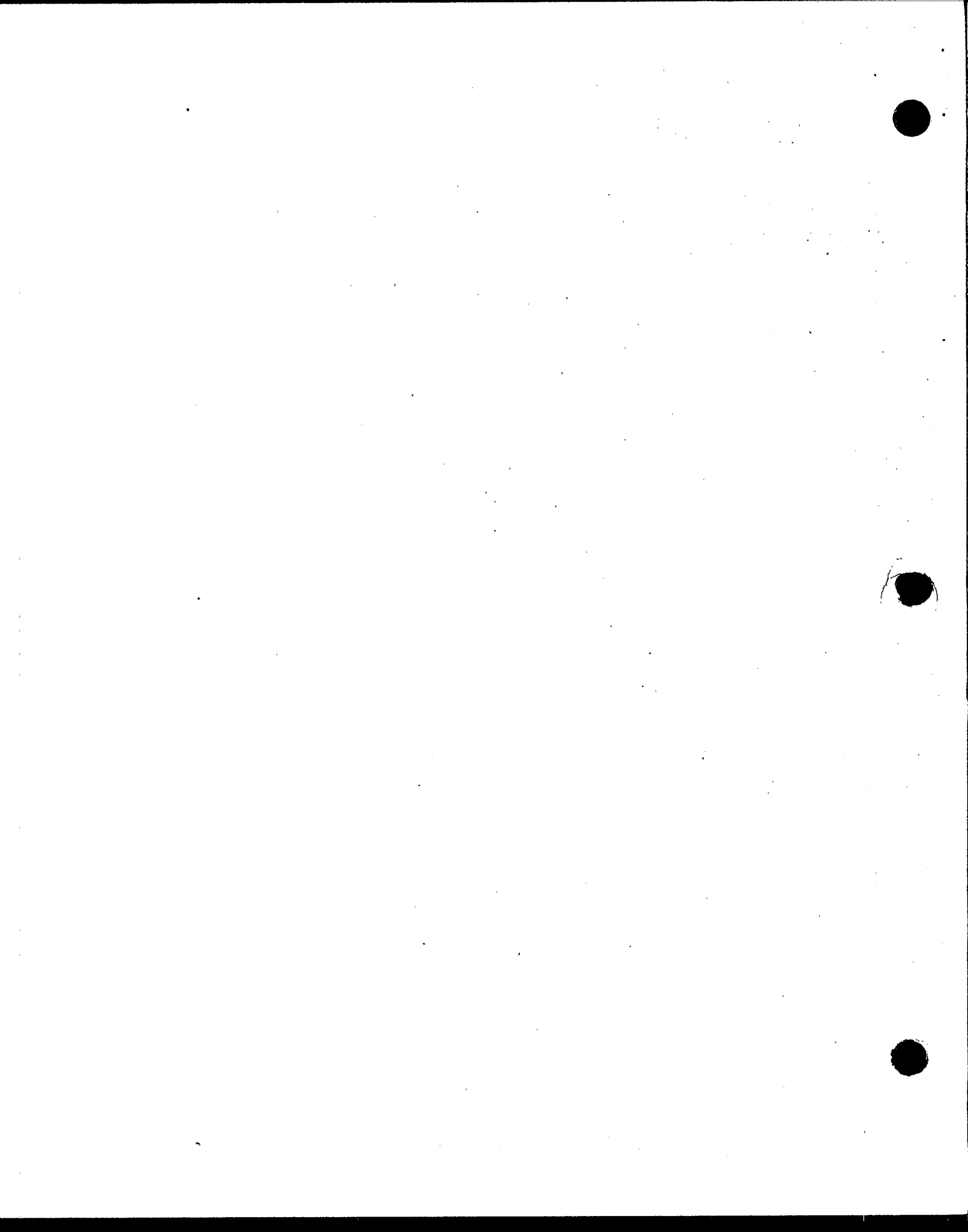
Additional information may also be obtained from the:

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: PB89-141998



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Responsible Agency:

New Mexico Health and Environment Department
Environmental Improvement Division
P.O. Box 968

State Contact:

Santa Fe 87504-0968
505-827-2834

Standards Available From:

David F. Tague, Program Manager
New Mexico Health and Environment Dept.
Surveillance and Standards Section
P.O. Box 968

State Contact:

Santa Fe 87504-0968
505-827-2822 Fee: no Mailing List: yes

State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

Degradation of waters the quality of which is better than the stream standards established by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission is not reasonable degradation and is the subject to abatement under the authority granted the Commission by the New Mexico Water Quality Act, as amended, unless it is justifiable as a result of necessary economic and social development. Existing instream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No degradation shall be allowed in high quality waters of designated national and state parks and wildlife refuges if such degradation would impair any of the qualities which caused designation of the parks and wildlife refuges. To protect the existing quality of water, the Commission under that Act will require the highest and best degree of effluent treatment practicable. In those cases where potential water quality impairment associated with a thermal discharge is involved, this antidegradation policy shall be consistent with Section 316 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. In implementing this section, the Commission through the appropriate regional offices of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency will keep the Administrator advised and provided with such information concerning the waters of New Mexico as he will need to discharge his responsibilities under the Federal Clean Water Act.

State Narrative Language For: Toxics

Toxic substances such as, but not limited to, pesticides, herbicides, heavy metals, and organics, shall not be present in receiving waters in concentrations which will change the ecological conditions of receiving waters to an extent detrimental to man or other organisms of direct or indirect commercial, recreation, or aesthetic value. Toxicities of substances in receiving waters will be determined by appropriate bioassay techniques, or other acceptable means, for the particular form of aquatic life which is to be preserved with the concentrations of toxic substances not to exceed 5% of the LC-50 provided that: toxic substances which, through uptake in the aquatic food chain and/or storage in plant and animal tissues, can be magnified to levels which are toxic to man or other organisms, shall not be present in concentrations which result in this biological magnification or exceed 1% of the LC-50. Waters designated for use as domestic water supplies shall not contain substances in concentrations that exceed drinking water standards set forth in Section 202.B of the New Mexico Regulations Governing Water Supplies.

State Narrative Language For: Free From

- A. The stream shall be free of water contaminants from other than natural causes that will settle and adversely inhibit the growth of normal flora and fauna or significantly alter the physical or chemical properties of the bottom. Siltation resulting from the reasonable operation and maintenance of irrigation and flood control facilities is not subject to these standards.
- B. Receiving water shall be free of objectionable oils, scum, grease and other floating materials resulting from other than natural causes.
- C. Color-producing materials resulting from other than natural causes shall not create an aesthetically undesirable condition nor should color impair the use of the water by desirable aquatic life presently common in New Mexico waters.
- D. Water contaminants from other than natural causes shall be limited to concentrations that will not impart

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unpalatable flavor to fish, or result in offensive odor arising from the stream or otherwise interfere with the reasonable use of the water.

H. The stream shall be virtually free of pathogens. In particular, waters used for irrigation of table crops such as lettuce shall be virtually free of *Salmonella* and *Shigella* species.

State Narrative Language For: Low Flow

The general standards and numeric standards may not be attainable when streamflow is less than critical low flow of the stream in question. The critical low flow of a stream at a particular site is the minimum average seven consecutive day flow which occurs with a frequency of once in ten years (7Q10). Critical low-flow numeric values may be determined on an annual, a seasonal or a monthly basis, as appropriate, after due consideration of site-specific conditions.

State Narrative Language For: Mixing Zones

In any waters receiving a waste discharge, a continuous zone must be maintained in the stream or reservoir where the water is of adequate quality to allow the migration of all desirable aquatic life presently common in New Mexico waters with no significant effect on their populations. Wastewater mixing zones, in which the standards may be exceeded, shall generally be less than 1/4 of the cross-sectional area of the stream or reservoir, allowing at least 3/4 of the stream or reservoir as a zone of passage.

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Classifications:

Industrial Water
Supply

Irrigation

Livestock and
Wildlife Watering

Secondary Contact
Recreation

Warmwater Fishery

Primary Contact
Recreation

Limited Warmwater
Fishery

Coldwater Fishery

Marginal Coldwater
Fishery

High Quality
Coldwater Fishery

Domestic Water
Supply

Fish Culture

Irrigation Storage

Municipal Water
Supply

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All Industrial Wate.. Irrigation Livestock and
Classes

Physical

Dissolved Oxygen
Upper Value Narr. site-spec.
Temperature
Upper Value 0.0 C
Secondary Upper Limit 32.2 C
Temperature Change
Upper Value 2.7 C
Secondary Upper Limit 1.7 C
Turbidity
Upper Value Narr. site-spec.
Total Dissolved Solids
Upper Value Narr. site-spec.

Nutrients

Phosphorus
Upper Value 0.1 mg/L

Toxic Metals

Pesticides

Organics

Bacteria

Fecal Coliform
Upper Value Narr. site-spec. Narr.

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Secondary Conta.. Warmwater Fishe.. Primary Contact Limited Warmwat..

Physical
pH

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|
| Upper Value | 9.0 | 9.0 |
| Lower Value | 6.0 | 6.6 |

Nutrients

Toxic Metals

Pesticides

Organics

Bacteria

Fecal Coliform
Upper Value

Narr.

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Coldwater Fishe.. Marginal Coldwa.. High Quality Domestic Water

Physical

pH

Upper Value
Lower Value

8.8
6.6

9.0
6.6

Nutrients

Ammonia (un-ion)

Upper Value

0.2 mg/L as N

Phosphorus

Upper Value

0.1 mg/L

Toxic Metals

Pesticides

Organics

Bacteria

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Fish Culture Irrigation Stor.. Municipal Water

Physical

Nutrients

Toxic Metals

Pesticides

Organics

Bacteria

