



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-831-5508

**SOLICITATION OF WATER QUALITY DATA AND INFORMATION
FOR 2012 INTEGRATED REPORT – LIST OF IMPAIRED WATERS
AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENTS**
[Clean Water Act Sections 303(d)/305(b)]

The RIDEM Office of Water Resources (OWR) is soliciting water quality data and information to support surface water quality assessments. The assessment information is used to develop the Integrated Lists, including the Section 303(d) Impaired Waters List, associated with the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report). The Integrated Report describes the extent to which waters of the State are attaining water quality standards pursuant to Section 305(b) and identifies waters that are impaired and need TMDLs (total maximum daily loads) as required under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

RIDEM/OWR is interested in receiving all types of surface water quality data and information for consideration in development of surface water quality assessments. For development of the 2012 Integrated Report, a special emphasis is given to obtaining and considering data and information for Narragansett Bay – particularly data collected from 2009 through 2011. Data and information from outside of Narragansett Bay will be considered for future surface water quality assessments (2014 Integrated Report), RIPDES permitting decisions, TMDL development and/or other environmental management and regulatory-decision making needs.

RIDEM/OWR strives to consider all readily available water quality data and related information in developing assessments of surface water quality conditions and identifying and listing impaired waters. Data must be of a certain quantity and quality to adequately meet environmental management and regulatory decision-making needs associated with these programs. Data quality requirements for use in development of the Integrated Report are outlined in the *Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology For 305(b) and 303(d) Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (CALM)*. For development of the 2012 Integrated Report, RIDEM/OWR will utilize the 2010 CALM which can be found on RIDEM's website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/pdf/finlcalm.pdf>.

More specifically, as outlined in the CALM, in determining if data are appropriate for use in the assessments and listings, OWR considers quality assurance/quality control, data quality objectives, monitoring design, age of data, accuracy of sampling location information, data documentation and data format in addition to other factors. If data does not meet the criteria outlined in the CALM, it is still useful and may guide future monitoring and investigation efforts designed to fill data gaps needed to conduct assessments.

Schedule

Submittal of surface water quality data and information is welcome and encouraged at any time. However, to be considered for water quality assessments associated with this solicitation, data should be submitted to RIDEM, at the address below, by **December 30, 2011**. Data and information submitted after the deadline will be considered for future assessments.

What To Submit

While numeric data is preferred to be in electronic format to facilitate analyses, RIDEM will also accept data in hard copy format. Both electronic and paper submittals of surface water data and information should include the following:

- Contact Information:
 - Your name and organization
 - Mailing address
 - Email
 - Phone number
- Name of Waterbody(s);
- Location information where surface water data/information was collected, including lat/long coordinates, road crossing, and city or town;
- Surface water quality data and information (including all metadata such as dates, time of collection, measurement results, detection limits, quantitation levels, pictures, maps, etc. See 2010 CALM);
- Documentation of the monitoring project and design, quality assurance methods used in collecting, analyzing and reporting the data; Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), etc.;
- It is preferred that numeric data be submitted electronically and in an approved format (field-specific Excel spreadsheet) that may be easily uploaded into the OWR's WQUAL database. Please contact Connie Carey for a copy of this spreadsheet and further information. Electronic submittal of numeric data must be accompanied by electronic or paper copy of the additional documentation noted above.

How To Send Data to DEM

All data must be submitted to RIDEM by December 30, 2011 for consideration in the surface water quality assessments. Submit surface water quality data/information and supporting documentation to RIDEM via the following methods:

By Mail: Connie Carey
 RI Department of Environmental Management
 Office of Water Resources
 235 Promenade Street
 Providence, RI 02908

By Email: <mailto:connie.carey@dem.ri.gov>

Questions?

Contact Connie Carey at 401-222-3961 ext 7239