



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Sept. 17, 2010

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EPA Approves Amended Surface Water Quality Standards for the Sheyenne River

BISMARCK, N.D. – After completion of a thorough federal review, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved amendments to the North Dakota Surface Water Quality Standards, according to Dave Glatt, section chief of the Environmental Health Section of the North Dakota Department of Health.

The amendments were part of the federally mandated triennial review of the surface water quality standards. The amendments include a change in the sulfate standard from 450 milligrams per liter (mg/L) to 750 mg/L for the segment of the Sheyenne River from the headwaters to a point just downstream of the Baldhill Dam.

“To determine the new standards, the Department of Health evaluated existing designated uses, ambient water quality, and previously adopted standards in other states,” Glatt said. “The new standard amendments follow the law and science and will continue to be protective of the Sheyenne River’s current designated uses.”

North Dakota has asked the EPA and other federal agencies to find additional ways to relieve Devils Lake flooding while protecting downstream designated uses.

For more information, contact Dave Glatt, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5150 or visit www.ndhealth.gov/EHS.

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