

	Date Received	Submitted By	Comment	Response
1	3/21/2025	City of Boise	Reference to IDEQ's Statistical Guidance in 58.01.11.003 sh	Thank you for your comment. Yes, DEQ agrees and removed the date to allow for revisions.
2			The city recommends the following edits to 58-01.11.007.13 to increase clarity regarding IDEQ's definition and interpretation of "degradation": "The lowering of groundwater quality and injury of beneficial use as measured in a statistically significant and reproducible manner."	Thank you for your comment. The addition of the phrase "and injury to beneficial use" to the definition of degradation adds another "test" or requirement. This would be outside the scope of the rulemaking. No change was made to the definition.
3			Inconsistent terminology appears to be used throughout the GWQR when referring to the degradation of beneficial uses (e.g., injury, impairment, impact, threat, etc.). The city recommends using consistent terminology throughout the GWQR when referring to degradation of beneficial uses by utilizing the terms "injury" or "injure." to increase clarity.	Thank you for the comment. DEQ did review the language: injury was used twice in the mining section 401; impairment was used twice and was used in the Groundwater Quality Plan twice; impact was used four times with 70 uses in the Groundwater Quality Plan; and threat was used once with 18 uses in the Groundwater Quality Plan. There are no clear single definitions to meet the rule without potentially changing the connotation and use. The plan is to discuss this further in our next rulemaking meeting. No changes made at this time. [changes were made for version 3 of the rule]
4			Constituents without primary or secondary standards do not appear to be included within the scope or implementation of the rule and recommends these be addressed through applicable permitting guidance and negotiated on a case by case basis.	Thank you for the comment. DEQ has authority within the scope of the rule to allow for narrative standards, consistent with the Idaho Code 39-120(4) for narrative standards, intended to address contaminants that may not have drinking water standards. No change was made to the rule.
5			Some GWQR standards (e.g., chloroform) are stricter than EPA MCLs; update or justify these discrepancies.	Thank you for the comment. DEQ agrees that there are standards that do not mirror EPA's current drinking water standards. Therefore, DEQ removed the majority of the chemical and radiological contaminants in the table, and adopted the drinking water standards by reference. This did align the contaminants to include arsenic, uranium, and PFAS.

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6			Clarify applicability of narrative standards in 58.01.11.200.02.a using language such as 'Best scientific information currently available on human health risk of the contaminant(s)'.'	Thank you for your comment. The request was to add "human health risk." While it is true that the current standards are using drinking water standards, not all groundwater quality issues may be of human health risk. For example, the rule is also intended to protect beneficial uses for fish, and for other activities. No changes were made.
7			Include allowance for groundwater modeling to assess degradation potential; add to 58.01.11.301.02. Recommends collaboration with stakeholders to develop guidance.	Thank you for your comment. Modeling is used to assess hydrogeological and water quality conditions. The addition of modeling was added to section 301 for all categories of aquifers. DEQ currently has a peer reviewed guidance document used for modeling and when the guidance is revised, there will be public input and comments following our usual guidance development process.
8			Develop guidance for evaluating regulatory significance of degradation (58.01.11.400.02.b).	Thank you for your comment. Ther request is to add the term "regulatory" significance. This term does not currently exist in the rules and would require an additional term be defined. The existing language allows for the determination of statistical significance versus regulatory significance. No changes were made.
9			Move land application rules for recharge from IDAPA 58.01.16 to GWQR to clarify regulatory treatment.	Thank you for your comment. DEQ staff discussed the merit of moving this section and the Wastewater rules are currently undergoing a ZBR effort but they are not yet at this section. At the time the section is reviewed, they will make the determination then. [5/22 update - the determination was made not to move this section of the rules.]
10	5/6/20251	Idaho Conservation League	Comment regarding City of Boise's narrative standards and did not suport potential removal of narrative standards.	Thank you for your comment. DEQ is not making changes to the section regarding narrative standards.

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11	5/21/2025	City of Boise	Clarification to 3/21, item 3: The intent of the city's comment was to simply recognize that the scope (58-01.11.001) and implementation (58-01.11.150) sections of the GWQR do not specifically address constituents without standards. Adding relevant language to these sections of the rule to specifically address constituents without standards appears to be outside of the scope of the ZBR process.	Thank you for your comment and clarification.
12	4/25/2025	Idaho Rural Water Association	Move Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer classification from rule text to a separate updateable table.	Thank you for your comment. The Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer as the only sensitive aquifer is outlined in rule in large part due to it being a rule-driven process for that determination. The reference in the rule allows for ease of reference. No changes were made.
13			Consider classifying Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer as a sensitive resource.	Thank you for your comment. The re-categorization of an aquifer is performed through a petition process outlined in section 350. Although it states the Department may petition the Board, the process is intended to be a local decision. The Snake River Plain Aquifer is a large aquifer, and would require significant evaluation. DEQ suggests that if there is interest in reclassifying the aquifer or a portion of the aquifer, local parties petition the Board of Environmental Quality with the appropriate documentation for consideration. The DEQ Board would then determine the approval to move forward with a rulemaking. No changes were made.
14			Incorporate local source water protection ordinances and Aquifer Protection Districts into review criteria.	Thank you for your comment. Both source water protection ordinances and Aquifer Protection Districts are intended to protect groundwater quality. The additional requirements are outside the scope of the rulemaking but note that the information on source water assessments has been used as they provide some of the criteria outlined in rule. No changes were made.

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15			Require public comment opportunities during aquifer categorization or recategorization processes.	Thank you for your comment. If the Board determines that an aquifer should be recategorized, the Department would initiate a rulemaking with the appropriate public comment process. No changes were made.
16	5/20/2025	Idaho Conservation League	Support IRWA's April 25, 2025 comment to designate Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer as a sensitive resource.	Thank you for your comment. Please see DEQ's response in item 16.
17			Support IRWA's April 25, 2025 comment to require public comment opportunities during aquifer categorization.	Thank you for your comment. Please see DEQ's response in item 19.