Comment #	Date Received	Submitted By	Comment	Response
1	5/19/2026	Idaho Rural Water Association	IRWA supports the proposed changes in the Groundwater Quality Rule to remove outdated standards within Table II under Section 200.a, and to replace them with incorporation by reference to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. These changes will establish clarity and foster consensus between national and state regulatory agencies as well as with the drinking water personnel who ultimately uphold these rules for the health of their communities. We recommend that DEQ further clarify the contaminants listed in Table II between inorganic contaminants (Lead and Copper) and bacteriological contaminants (Total Coliform, E. Coli, and fecal coliform). While these five contaminants are regulated under Treatment Technique rather than MCL, it would prevent confusion for all parties to recognize their differences in the table.	Thank you for your comment. DEQ agrees and has modified the table to indicate the type of contaminant.
			While aquifer categorization is not directly addressed in the current iteration of negotiated rulemaking for Idaho's Groundwater Quality Rule, IRWA would address this area of policy to encourage DEQ to incorporate local groundwater and/or source water protection efforts into the criteria for the petition process (Section 350.02). These efforts include source water protection plans, local ordinances, and locally established Aquifer Protection Districts. Acknowledging and integrating these protective measures into Idaho's Groundwater Quality Rule will develop local buy-in, establish a framework for future collaboration, and build trust between communities and regulatory partners. IRWA continues to advocate for required public comment opportunities within the petition process for aquifer categorization and prior to any final adoption of categorization or recategorization. Public comment and discussion fosters local involvement, demonstrates transparency, and ensures broader stakeholder involvement.	DEQ appreciates IRWA's recommendation to recognize local groundwater and source water protection efforts in the aquifer categorization process. DEQ agrees that these efforts could provide useful supporting information when evaluating a petition to categorize or recategorize an aquifer and has modified the rule in section 350.02. DEQ did not add a separate public comment at the petition stage because a petition submitted by a petitioner would not yet reflect DEQ's technical review, conclusions, or proposed agency action, which could create confusion about whether DEQ is seeking comment on the petitioner's proposal or on a DEQ-supported proposal. If DEQ proceeds with categorization or recategorization, the action would move through rulemaking, which includes public notice and formal comment opportunities.