IDAPA 58 – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

58.01.02 – WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

DOCKET NO. 58-0102-2602

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROMULGATE RULES – NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5220(1) and 67-5220(2), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency intends to promulgate a rule and desires public participation before publishing a proposed rule. This rulemaking action is authorized by Sections 39-105, 39-107, and Chapter 36, Title 39, Idaho Code.

MEETING SCHEDULE: A negotiated rulemaking meeting will be held as follows:

Monday August 10, 2026
1:00 p.m. MT

ATTEND IN PERSON OR VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/292281612599780?p=CcIeI3b7kEnonqU6Ob
Meeting ID: 292 281 612 599 780
Passcode: Xr2oC3YW

Dial in by phone
+1 208-985-2810,,130132492# United States, Boise
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: 130 132 492#

DEQ State Office
Conference Rooms A & B
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

The meeting location will be accessible to persons with disabilities, and language translators will be made available upon request. Requests must be made no later than five (5) business days prior to the meeting date. For arrangements contact the undersigned.

METHOD OF PARTICIPATION: Those interested in participating in the negotiated rulemaking process are encouraged to attend the scheduled meeting. For those who cannot participate by attending the meeting, information for submission of written comments is provided at the end of this notice.

Upon conclusion of the negotiated rulemaking, any unresolved issues, all key issues considered, and conclusion reached during the negotiated rulemaking will be addressed in a written summary. The summary will be made available to interested persons on the rulemaking webpage as provided at the end of this notice.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: DEQ intends to update its cold water aquatic life ammonia criteria using a recalculation of EPA's 2013 recommendations which substitutes eastern unionid species toxicity values with recently developed western unionid (Idaho resident) toxicity values. The new criteria are to be temperature and pH dependent and to contain an acute (1-hour maximum) and chronic (30-day average maximum) component.

DEQ would also like to remove the site-specific ammonia criteria for the Spokane River, which are currently identical to the statewide criteria. The species and conditions in this waterbody do not warrant a separate criteria from the proposed new statewide criteria.

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS: For assistance on questions concerning this rulemaking, contact Elizabeth Spelsberg at Elizabeth.Spelsberg@deq.idaho.gov or (208) 373-0158.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS, OBTAINING DRAFT COPIES, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For meeting details, information on how and when to submit comments, and to access materials pertaining to the negotiated rulemaking, contact the undersigned or visit: Water Quality Standards: Docket No. 58-0102-2602 | Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

Dated this 5th day of August, 2026.

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