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Subject: DEQ SEEKING COMMENTS ON WATER QUALITY REPORT

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For Immediate Release  
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For More Information  
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DEQ SEEKING COMMENTS ON WATER QUALITY REPORT

Helena - The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking public comment on Montana's 2004 Draft Integrated Water Quality Report.

The 2004 draft report is now available for review and comments will be accepted during a 60-day public comment period extending from January 9, to March 12, 2004.

The report integrates the 303(d) list, which includes a list of Montana water bodies that are impaired and in need of water quality restoration as well as a water quality atlas, known as the 305(b) report, which provides a summary of state water quality information.

The draft 2004 report contains revisions to the list of impaired waters, changes in assessment information for waters already on the list, and proposed changes to the schedule for preparing total maximum daily loads or TMDLs. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant that a water body may receive from all sources without exceeding water quality standards.

The draft 2004 report identifies 417 waters impaired by "pollutants" and 113 waters impaired solely by "pollution" in various categories. In addition, changes are proposed to a TMDL schedule originally published in October 2000 and revised in the 2002. The DEQ will use the collected comments to prepare a final 2004 Montana Integrated Report for submittal to EPA.

The actual material that the DEQ submits to the EPA consists of electronic database and computer map files so the department has made a more readable version of the draft list available at: <http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/environet>. Anyone experiencing problems accessing this site should contact the Montana Integrated Report Coordinator online at 303listcomments@state.mt.us or by phone at (406) 444-7424.

Comments on the list should be mailed to: Integrated Report

Coordinator, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901,  
Helena, MT  
59620-0901, or they may be emailed to 303listcomments@state.mt.us. The  
DEQ  
cannot guarantee that comments received after the March 12 closing date  
will  
be considered in developing the final list.

### END ###

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# Draft

# 2004 Montana Water Quality Integrated Report

## Integrated Report Overview

Introduction  
Montana's Assessment Process  
Prioritization for TMDL Development  
Public and Agency Consultation  
Glossary of Terms  
Acronyms, and Abbreviations

## Montana's Water Quality Assessment Database

This menu item leads to an interactive database containing all Montana surface waters included in the state water quality assessment database. For each waterbody basic geographic information is provided and the beneficial uses which the water is required to support are indicated. For those waters which have been assessed as being impaired, the specific uses identified as impaired are indicated along with the probable causes and sources of impairment. Maps and links to assessment record sheets for each water are provided.

## Montana Water Quality Atlas

Surface Waters of Montana  
Water Quality Assessment Summary

[Appendix A: Water Quality Assessment Process and Methods](#)  
[Appendix B: Previously Listed Waters Requiring Reassessment](#)

- Appendix C: Waters Scheduled for Assessment Completion by 2006
- Appendix D: Planning Area List of Waters Requiring TMDLs
- Appendix E: EPA Approved TMDLs

