

# *Powell River and Tributaries TMDL*



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## What's Happened Since 2008?

- DEQ and DMME held a public meeting to kickoff the development of the Powell River TMDL in 2008.
- A Phase I TMDL was submitted to EPA in April 2010.
- Comments were received from the public and EPA Region III on the draft TMDL in July 2010.
- The Phase I Powell River TMDL was approved by EPA in March 2011.
- A public meeting to discuss the monitoring plan was held in April 2013.
- Monitoring was completed and results available in March 2014.
- A Draft Phase II TMDL was completed in July 2014.
- Edits to the Phase II TMDL have been ongoing thru 2017.
- Phase II TMDL will likely be submitted to EPA by end of 2017. Once there is preliminary approval from EPA it will be submitted to the State Water Control Board for adoption.



*Powell River near the confluence of Wallen Creek*

## What's a Phased TMDL?

The Powell River TMDL was submitted and approved as a Phased TMDL due to uncertainties and differences of interpretation regarding data and predictive tools.

Additional monitoring, analysis, and model refinement was completed to resolve the uncertainties and differences. Monitoring has been completed and used in developing the Phase II TMDL.

## Addressing Nested Water Quality Impairments for Bacteria

In 2012, DEQ obtained concurrence with EPA for a procedure to address new “nested” impairments.

A TMDL has been completed and EPA approved. Post-development water quality monitoring has identified new impairments in tributaries or mainstem that suggests a new TMDL is needed within the boundaries of an existing TMDL.

The following scenarios describe how DEQ handles these new impairments within an existing TMDL boundary.

New Bacterial Impairments may be nested within an existing TMDL if:

1. The segment is completely within an existing TMDL boundary.
2. Land uses are comparable and consistent
3. Bacteria reductions called for in the TMDL apply to the entire TMDL watershed and will address the new segment.
4. Point sources on the nested segment are included in the previously completed TMDL.

## Nested Water Quality Impairments for Non-Bacterial Impairments

A newly identified non-bacterial segments (e.g. benthic) may be nested within an existing TMDL if:

1. Watershed conditions and stressors are similar and no new stressors exist.
2. Land uses are comparable and consistent.
3. Point sources on the nested segment are included in the previously completed TMDL.

DEQ staff will prepare justification and documentation to EPA to nest the newly identified segment within an existing boundary. A final decision will be provided by EPA.

One newly identified impaired segment was nested in 2014: VAS-P17R\_POW03C14

Name: Powell River

Description: Headwaters of the mainstem Powell River, Wise County.

Length: 1.57 miles

## Water Quality Improvements—Delisting

VAS-P19R\_POW03A00, the **Powell River** near Dryden from the Poor Valley Creek confluence to the Public Water Supply segment was delisted for bacteria in 2010.

VAS-P21R\_POW02A02, the **Powell River** from the confluence of Station Creek downstream to the confluence of Town Creek was delisted for bacteria in 2012.

VAS-P22R\_WAL01A00, the mainstem of **Wallen Creek** from the confluence of Lone Branch downstream to the confluence with the Powell River near Towell Fork was delisted for bacteria in 2014.

## More information:

The Phase I Approved TMDL is available on DEQ’s website at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/tenbigrvr/powell.pdf>

The Phase II Draft TMDL is available on DEQ’s website at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/drftmdls/powellphase2.pdf>

Documentation for the development of the Powell River TMDL including meeting presentations can be found at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DocumentationforSelectTMDLs.aspx#bull>