



**For immediate release:**  
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## **Alabama's 303(d) List Approved by EPA**

**MONTGOMERY** – Alabama's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for 2008 has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The federal Clean Water Act directs all states to identify those waters that are impaired and do not currently support their designated uses. States also establish a priority ranking of those waters by taking into account the severity of the impairment and the designated uses of such waters.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management, which administers the Clean Water Act in Alabama, submitted its 2008 list to EPA in April. Based upon their thorough review, EPA determined that Alabama's list meets the requirements and implementation regulations of the Clean Water Act.

The preparation of Alabama's 2008 list included the removal of portions of 21 water bodies from the impaired list. This signifies that segments of these water bodies have been found to meet applicable water quality standards or that a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the pollutant responsible for the impairment has been approved by EPA.

"We are pleased that the Environmental Protection Agency has agreed with our assessment of water quality in Alabama," said ADEM Director Trey Glenn. "The removal of specific streams, lakes, and portions of rivers from the 303(d) list illustrates that our assessment activities are working along with our efforts to restore water quality in impaired areas. However, more work is still to come and we will continue to effectively utilize our resources to address the remaining impaired segments."

ADEM water quality experts also made the decision to add 20 water body segments to the list based upon their review of water quality data and evaluation of special watershed studies. These segments were added based on water quality data illustrating impairment due to the chemical, physical, or biological characteristics of the water. Waterways that were added to the 303(d) list are scheduled to have a TMDL established that will provide a foundation for the improvement of water quality in that watershed.

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