

Fecal Coliform TMDL Development in Virginia. (A08-mostaghimi134227-Oral)

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Abstract:

The Virginia TMDL program was initiated in 1998 when the USEPA and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) entered into a Consent Decree to complete 636 TMDLs by 2010. Majority of the TMDLs developed to date have been for fecal coliform impairments. This presentation describes Virginia's approach to fecal coliform TMDL developments and, as a case study, discusses the general approach used to develop TMDL plans for five impaired segments in the Big Otter River Basin (BOR). The fecal coliform sources in the BOR basin were human/residential, livestock, and wildlife. Human/residential sources of fecal coliform included failing septic systems, straight-pipes, pets, combined sewage overflows in the City of Bedford, permitted point source discharges, and biosolids applications. The watershed model used was HSPF. The development of these and other fecal coliform TMDL plans have led to actions to improve the TMDL process in Virginia, such as the use of bacterial source tracking to verify wildlife contributions, along with a reassessment of water quality standards and the use classification of water bodies.

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