



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

**Response to public comments pertaining to proposed amendments to  
Water Quality Regulations 250-RICR-150-05-1**

October 2, 2025

Public Notice of proposed amendments to the Rhode Island **Water Quality Regulations** was posted on the Rhode Island Secretary of State's website on August 29, 2025. A public hearing on the proposed rules was held at 3:00PM on September 18, 2025. No public comments were offered during the public hearing. The comment period during which the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) would accept written comments pertaining to the proposed rule amendments ended on September 28, 2025.

DEM received one written comment submission. The comment is summarized and presented below followed by DEM's response. Copies of this comment are on file and available for public review at the RI Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

Commenter #1 Antonia Bryson, representing Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council

**COMMENT 1:** Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council made a comment endorsing segments of the Pawcatuck River being designated as Special Resource Protection Waters within Section 1.28(C) of the proposed regulation and suggested an additional segment be designated as such in the future. No request to modify the current rule was included. Additionally, the Council endorsed the adoption of site-specific metals criteria for the Pawcatuck River within Section 1.26(G)(3) and 1.26(J)(1).

**DEM RESPONSE:** The comment expressed general support for the proposed changes, which is noted.