

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**Title of Rule:** Water Quality Regulations (250-RICR-150-05-1)

**Rule Identifier:** 250-RICR-150-05-1

**Rulemaking Action:** Proposed Amendment

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: August 29, 2025

Hearing Date: September 18, 2025

End of Public Comment: September 28, 2025

**Rulemaking Authority:**

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 46-12

42-17.1 and 42-17.6.

and in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

RIDEM is proposing to amend existing state Water Quality Regulations to adopt site specific metals criteria for specified segments as allowed in current regulation, clarify turbidity criteria, adopt EPA-recommended human health toxics criteria, change selected segment classifications to reflect already completed permit terminations, include Wild and Scenic Rivers as Special Resource Protection Waters (SRPWs) as already defined in the regulation, adopt two (2) new estuarine segments without changes to applicable criteria to better reflect current shellfish management, non-substantive typographical errors, and remove incorporated references by adopting the language into regulatory text.

**Additional Information and Public Comments:**

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until September 28, 2025 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Jane Sawyers  
Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Resources  
235 Promenade Street, 2nd Floor  
Providence, RI 02908  
jane.sawyers@dem.ri.gov

**Public Hearing:**

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

**Public Hearing Information:**

Date: September 18, 2025

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 280 C1/C2  
Office of Water Resources  
235 Promenade Street, 2nd Floor  
Providence, RI, 02908

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-423-1927 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) the benefits and costs of a reasonable range of regulatory alternatives reflecting the scope of discretion; (2) alternative approaches; (3) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (4) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.