Session6B: **Antidegradation Session**
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Antidegradation Report Out

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Antidegradation is a required component of a State's water quality standards program. The antidegradation concept, that high quality waters should be preserved unless a lowering of water quality is absolutely necessary, is strongly supported by the general public. Although the concept is simple, consensus on how antidegradation ought to be implemented has proven elusive. Region 5, in cooperation with the Region 5 States, is reviewing and comparing State antidegradation rules and implementation to highlight and share "best practices," research antidegradation issues of concern, and to potentially develop additional options for States/Tribes by integrating more recent EPA program ideas with antidegradation. This session will include an update on a regional antidegradation project, recent experiences from two States currently in the process of revising their antidegradation rules (Indiana and Minnesota), and ideas and experiences from a State located outside of Region 5 (Iowa) that recently proposed procedures for implementing antidegradation. New options for addressing antidegradation through sustainable development will also be discussed.

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