

TITLE 35: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
SUBTITLE C: WATER POLLUTION  
CHAPTER I: POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PART 303  
WATER USE DESIGNATIONS AND SITE-SPECIFIC WATER QUALITY  
STANDARDS

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**AUTHORITY:** Implementing Section 13 and authorized by Sections 11(b) and 27 of the Environmental Protection Act [415 ILCS 5/13, 11(b) and 27].

**SOURCE:** Filed with the Secretary of State January 1, 1978; amended at 2 Ill. Reg. 27, p. 221, effective July 5, 1978; amended at 3 Ill. Reg. 20, p. 95, effective May 17, 1979; amended at 5 Ill. Reg. 11592, effective October 19, 1981; codified at 6 Ill. Reg. 7818; amended at 6 Ill. Reg. 11161, effective September 7, 1982; amended at 7 Ill. Reg. 8111, effective June 23, 1983; amended in R87-27 at 12 Ill. Reg. 9917, effective May 27, 1988; amended in R87-2 at 13 Ill. Reg. 15649, effective September 22, 1989; amended in R87-36 at 14 Ill. Reg. 9460, effective May 31, 1990; amended in R86-14 at 14 Ill. Reg. 20724, effective December 18, 1990; amended in R89-14(C) at 16 Ill. Reg. 14684, effective September 10, 1992; amended in R92-17 at 18 Ill. Reg. 2981, effective February 14, 1994; amended in R91-23 at 18 Ill. Reg. 13457, effective August 19, 1994; amended in R93-13 at 19 Ill. Reg. 1310, effective January 30, 1995; amended in R95-14 at 20 Ill. Reg. 3534, effective February 8, 1996; amended in R97-25 at 22 Ill. Reg. 1403, effective December 24, 1997; amended in R01-13 at 26 Ill. Reg. 3517, effective February 22, 2002; amended in R03-11 at 28 Ill. Reg. 3071, effective February 4, 2004; amended in R06-24 at 31 Ill. Reg. 4440, effective February 27, 2007.

#### SUBPART A: GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Section 303.100 Scope and Applicability**

- a) Part 303 contains water use designations which determine for a given body of water which set of Part 302 water quality standards applies. Part 303 also contains short site specific water quality standards. Part 302

contains water quality standards which are either applicable to more than one area or are lengthy.

- b) Unless the contrary is clearly indicated, all references to "Parts" or "Sections" are to Ill. Adm. Code, Title 35: Environmental Protection. For example, "Part 309" is 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309, and "Section 309.101" is 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.101.

(Editor's Note: Paragraph (b) was added during the codification process to clarify references to other Parts or Sections of the Illinois Administrative Code.)

### **Section 303.101 Multiple Designations**

Unless otherwise expressly stated, waters designated for specific uses must meet the most restrictive standards listed in Part 302 for any specified use, in addition to meeting the general standards of Subpart B, Part 302.

### **Section 303.102 Rulemaking Required**

Designation of waters to meet secondary contact and indigenous aquatic life standards is governed by Part 102 of Subtitle A.

(Note: Prior to codification, Part II of Chapter I: Procedural Rules.)

(Source: Amended at 3 Ill. Reg. no. 20, page 95, effective May 17, 1979.)

## **SUBPART B: NONSPECIFIC WATER USE DESIGNATIONS**

### **Section 303.200 Scope and Applicability**

Subpart B contains general water use designations. These Sections, together with the specific designations of Subpart C, determine which set of water quality standards of Part 302 applies to a given body of water.

### **Section 303.201 General Use Waters**

Except as otherwise specifically provided, all waters of the State must meet the general use standards of Subpart B of Part 302.

### **Section 303.202 Public and Food Processing Water Supplies**

Except as otherwise specifically provided and in addition to the general use standards of Subpart B, Part 302, waters of the State shall meet the public and food processing water supply standards of Subpart C, Part 302, at any point at which water is withdrawn for treatment and distribution as a potable supply or for food processing.

### **Section 303.203      Underground Waters**

35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.Subparts B and C do not apply to underground waters, except as provided at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 620.450(b).

(Source: Amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 14684, effective September 10, 1992)

### **Section 303.204      Secondary Contact and Indigenous Aquatic Life Waters**

Waters which are required to meet the secondary contact and indigenous aquatic life standards of Subpart D, Part 302, are not required to meet the general use standards or the public and food processing water supply standards of Subparts B and C, Part 302.

### **Section 303.205      Outstanding Resource Waters**

An Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) is a surface water body or water body segment that is of exceptional ecological or recreational significance and must be designated by the Board pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 102.Subpart H.

- a) Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) shall be listed in Section 303.206 of this Part. In addition to all other applicable use designations and water quality standards contained in this Subtitle, an ORW is subject to the antidegradation provision of Section 302.105(b).
- b) A petition to designate a surface water body or water body segment as an ORW must be submitted to the Illinois Pollution Control Board pursuant to the procedural rules found in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 102.Subpart H.

(Source: Added at 26 Ill. Reg. 3517, effective February 22, 2002)

### **Section 303.206      List of Outstanding Resource Waters**

The Board has not designated any Outstanding Resource Waters pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 102.Subpart H.

(Source: Added at 26 Ill. Reg. 3517, effective February 22, 2002)

## **SUBPART C: SPECIFIC USE DESIGNATIONS AND SITE SPECIFIC WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

### **Section 303.300      Scope and Applicability**

Subpart C contains specific use designations which determine which set of water quality standards of Part 302 applies to a given water. In addition, Subpart C contains water

quality standards applicable to specified waters. Nonspecific designations are in Subpart B.

**Section 303.301 Organization**

Subpart C is arranged by river basin as follows:

<u>River Basin</u>	<u>Reserved Section Numbers</u>
Ohio	Section 303.310-Section 303.319
Wabash	Section 303.320-Section 303.329
Mississippi	
North	Section 303.330-Section 303.339
North Central	Section 303.340-Section 303.349
South Central	Section 303.350-Section 303.359
South	Section 303.360-Section 303.369
Rock	Section 303.370-Section 303.379
Kaskaskia	Section 303.380-Section 303.389
Big Muddy	Section 303.390-Section 303.399
Illinois	Section 303.400-Section 303.409
Sangamon	Section 303.410-Section 303.419
Kankakee	Section 303.420-Section 303.429
Fox	Section 303.430-Section 303.439
Des Plaines/Lake Michigan	Section 303.440-Section 303.449

**Section 303.311 Ohio River Temperature**

Instead of the standards of Section 302.211(e) the water temperature at representative locations in the main river of the Ohio River shall not exceed the maximum limits in the following table during more than 1% of the hours in the 12 month period ending with any month. Moreover, at no time shall the water temperature at such location exceed the maximum limits in the following table by more than 1.7° C (3°F).

	°C	°F		°C	°F
JAN.	10	50	JUL.	32	89
FEB.	10	50	AUG.	32	89
MAR.	16	60	SEPT.	31	87
APR.	21	70	OCT.	26	78
MAY	27	80	NOV.	21	70
JUN.	31	87	DEC.	14	57

**Section 303.312 Waters Receiving Fluorspar Mine Drainage**

- a) The fluoride standard of Section 302.208 shall not apply to waters which:

- 1) receive effluent from the mines and mills of the fluorspar mining and concentrating industry, and
  - 2) have been designated by the Illinois State Water Survey as streams which once in ten years have an average minimum seven day low flow of zero.
- b) Such waters shall meet the following standard with regard to fluoride:

CONSTITUENT	STORET NUMBER	CONCENTRATION mg/l
Fluoride	00950	5

**Section 303.321 Wabash River Temperature**

Instead of the standards of Section 302.211(e), the water temperature at representative locations in the main river of the Wabash River and its interstate tributaries shall not exceed the maximum limits in the following table during more than 1% of the hours in the 12 month period ending with any month. Moreover, at no time shall the water temperature at such locations exceed the maximum limits in the following table by more than 1.7° C (3°F).

	°C	°F		°C	°F
JAN.	10	50	JUL.	32	90
FEB.	10	50	AUG.	32	90
MAR.	16	60	SEPT.	32	90
APR.	21	70	OCT.	26	78
MAY	27	80	NOV.	21	70
JUN.	32	90	DEC.	14	57

**Section 303.322 Unnamed Tributary of the Vermilion River**

The fluoride standard of Sec. 302.208 shall not apply to waters of the State which are located from the point of a discharge from the foundry located at the intersection of Interstate 74 and G Street in Danville, Illinois, owned by General Motors Corporation on January 31, 1995, to an unnamed tributary of the Vermilion River, said point being located 3900 feet south of the Vermilion River, 1900 feet north of I-74, at 40° 6'35" north latitude and 87° 69'52" west longitude, to the confluence of said unnamed tributary with the Vermilion River; and from there downstream to a point 0.9 river miles downstream of the juncture at the crossing of a Norfolk and Western Railroad bridge. Fluoride levels in such waters as caused by the discharge from the foundry facility shall meet a water quality standard for fluoride (Storet Number 00950) of 10 mg/l.

(Source: Amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 1310, effective January 30, 1995)

**Section 303.323 Sugar Creek and Its Unnamed Tributary**

- a) This Section applies only to Sugar Creek and its unnamed tributary from the point at which Marathon Oil Company's outfall 001 discharges into the unnamed tributary to the confluence of Sugar Creek and the Wabash River.
- b) Section 304.105 shall not apply to total dissolved solids and chlorides discharged by Marathon Oil Company's outfall 001, so long as both of the following conditions are met:
  - 1) Effluent from Marathon Oil Company's outfall 001 does not exceed either 3,000 mg/L total dissolved solids or 1,000 mg/L chlorides, and
  - 2) The water in the unnamed tributary does not exceed 2,000 mg/L total dissolved solids or 750 mg/L chlorides.

(Source: Amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 13457, effective August 19, 1994)

**Section 303.326 Unnamed Tributary of Salt Creek, Salt Creek, and Little Wabash River**

The fluoride general use water quality standard of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.208(g) does not apply to the waters of the State that are located from the point of discharge of the POTW located at 903 E. Eichie Avenue in Effingham, Illinois, owned by the City of Effingham, to an unnamed tributary of Salt Creek, said point being located in Effingham County, T8N, R6E, Sec. 28, Lat: 39°06'24", Long: 88°31'55", to the confluence of said unnamed tributary with Salt Creek; to the confluence of Salt Creek with the Little Wabash River; to the confluence of Buck Creek and the Little Wabash River. Fluoride levels in such waters must meet a water quality standard for fluoride (STORET Number 00951) as set forth in this Section.

- a) From the point of discharge of the City of Effingham POTW to the unnamed tributary to the confluence of the unnamed tributary with Salt Creek and from the confluence of the unnamed tributary with Salt Creek to the confluence of Salt Creek with the Little Wabash River, the fluoride water quality standard is 5.0 mg/L.
- b) From the confluence of Salt Creek with the Little Wabash River to monitoring station C-19 located on the Little Wabash River approximately 2.8 miles downstream of Louisville, Illinois, the fluoride water quality standard is 3.2 mg/L.

- c) From monitoring station C-19 located on a point on the Little Wabash River approximately 2.8 miles downstream of Louisville, Illinois to the confluence of Buck Creek and the Little Wabash River, a point on the Little Wabash River located approximately 9.8 miles downstream of Louisville, Illinois, the fluoride water quality standard is 2.0 mg/L.

(Source: Added at 28 Ill. Reg 3071, effective February 4, 2004)

**Section 303.331 Mississippi River North Temperature**

Instead of the standards of Section 302.211(e) the water temperature at representative locations in the main river of the Mississippi River from the Wisconsin border to the Rock River shall not exceed the maximum limits in the following table during more than 1% of the hours in the 12 month period ending with any month. Moreover, at no time shall the water temperature at such locations exceed the maximum limits in the following table by more than 1.7° C (3° F).

	°C	°F		°C	°F
JAN.	7	45	JUL.	30	86
FEB.	7	45	AUG.	30	86
MAR.	14	57	SEPT.	29	85
APR.	20	68	OCT.	24	75
MAY	26	78	NOV.	18	65
JUN.	29	85	DEC.	11	52

**Section 303.341 Mississippi River North Central Temperature**

Instead of the standards of Section 302.211(e), the water temperature at representative locations in the main river of the Mississippi River in the indicated locations shall not exceed the maximum limits in the following tables during more than 1% of the hours in the twelve month period ending with any month. Moreover, at no time shall the water temperature at such locations exceed the maximum limits in the following table by more than 1.7° C (3° F).

- a) In the Mississippi River from the Rock River to the Iowa/Missouri border:

	°C	°F		°C	°F
JAN.	7	45	JUL.	30	86
FEB.	7	45	AUG.	30	86
MAR.	14	57	SEPT.	29	85
APR.	20	68	OCT.	24	75

MAY	26	78	NOV.	18	65
JUN.	29	85	DEC.	11	52

- b) In the Mississippi River from the Iowa/Missouri border to the Illinois River:

	°C	°F		°C	°F
JAN.	7	45	JUL.	31	88
FEB.	7	45	AUG.	31	88
MAR.	14	57	SEPT.	29	86
APR.	20	68	OCT.	24	75
MAY	26	78	NOV.	18	65
JUN.	30	86	DEC.	11	52

**Section 303.351 Mississippi River South Central Temperature**

Instead of the standards of Section 302.211(e), the water temperature at representative locations in the main river of the Mississippi River in the indicated locations shall not exceed the maximum limits in the following tables during more than 1% of the hours in the twelve month period ending with any month. Moreover, at no time shall the water temperature at such locations exceed the maximum limits in the following table by more than 1.7° C (3° F).

- a) In the Mississippi River from the Illinois River to Alton Lock and Dam:

	°C	°F		°C	°F
JAN.	7	45	JUL.	31	88
FEB.	7	45	AUG.	31	88
MAR.	14	57	SEPT.	29	86
APR.	20	68	OCT.	24	75
MAY	26	78	NOV.	18	65
JUN.	30	86	DEC.	11	52

- b) In the Mississippi River from Alton Lock and Dam to the Kaskaskia River:

	°C	°F		°C	°F
JAN.	10	50	JUL.	32	89
FEB.	10	50	AUG.	32	89
MAR.	16	60	SEPT.	31	87
APR.	21	70	OCT.	26	78
MAY	27	80	NOV.	21	70
JUN.	31	87	DEC.	14	57

**Section 303.352 Unnamed Tributary of Wood River Creek**

- a) This section applies to the unnamed tributary of Wood River Creek which enters Wood River Creek 4700 feet above the confluence of Wood River

Creek with the Mississippi River from a point 450 feet above the confluence of the unnamed tributary and Wood River Creek to said confluence, and in Wood River Creek from said confluence to the confluence of Wood River Creek and the Mississippi River.

- b) Such waters shall meet the following standard instead of the boron standard of Section 302.208:

CONSTITUENT	STORET NUMBER	CONCENTRATION mg/l
Boron	-----	15

(Source: Added at 2 Ill. Reg. no. 27, p. 221, effective July 5, 1978.)

**Section 303.353 Schoenberger Creek; Unnamed Tributary of Cahokia Canal**

- a) This rule shall apply to:
- 1) The final 1500 feet of Schoenberger Creek starting immediately south of the Baltimore and Ohio main tracks and running north to an unnamed tributary of the Cahokia Canal; and
  - 2) The unnamed tributary from its confluence with Schoenberger Creek as it runs west and northwest for a distance of 8000 feet to its confluence with the Cahokia Canal.
- b) The standard of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.208 for the parameter listed below does not apply to these waters. Instead, the following level shall not be exceeded:

Constituent	Storet Number	Concentration (mg/l)
Iron (total)	01045	20

(Source: Added at 7 Ill. Reg. 8111, effective June 23, 1983)

**Section 303.361 Mississippi River South Temperature**

Instead of the standards of Section 302.211(e), the water temperature at representative locations in the main river of the Mississippi River from the Kaskaskia River to the Ohio River shall not exceed the maximum limits in the following table during more than 1% of the hours in the 12 month period ending with any month. Moreover, at no time shall the water temperature at such locations exceed the maximum limits in the following table by more than 1.7° C (3° F).

	°C	°F		°C	°F
JAN.	10	50	JUL.	32	89
FEB.	10	50	AUG.	32	89
MAR.	16	60	SEPT.	31	87
APR.	21	70	OCT.	26	78
MAY	27	80	NOV.	21	70
JUN.	31	87	DEC.	14	57

**Section 303.400 Bankline Disposal Along the Illinois Waterway/River**

- a) The U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, may bankline dispose of sediment generated during maintenance dredging operations on the Illinois Waterway/River between river miles 80.2 and 291 if:
- 1) Less than 10% of representative samples from a proposed dredge cut are composed of fine-grained material, where a material is fine-grained if more than 20% of the sample passes a #230 sieve; or
  - 2) The SSTFATE model indicates that applicable water quality standards will be met at the perimeter of a temporary area of allowed dilution having a surface area no larger than 48,000 square feet, and not exceeding either 1,000 feet in length or 150 feet in width; and
  - 3) The U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, holds a Water Quality Certification for its dredging operations from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1341 (1988).
- b) When the provisions of subsection (a) are met, Section 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.105 (prohibition against causing a violation of any applicable water quality standard), shall not apply to bankline disposal by the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, but only as 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.105 pertains to the offensive conditions standard of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.203, the dissolved oxygen standard of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.206, the total lead, total zinc, mercury, and total copper standards of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.208, and the ammonia nitrogen and un-ionized ammonia nitrogen standards of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.212.

(Source: Added at 18 Ill. Reg. 2981, effective February 14, 1994)

**Section 303.430 Unnamed Tributary to Dutch Creek**

The general use water quality standard for fluoride contained in Section 302.208 shall not apply to the unnamed tributary of Dutch Creek which receives discharges from the

manufacturing facility located on Ringwood Drive in Ringwood in McHenry County from the outfall of that facility for a distance of 1200 yards downstream. Instead this water shall comply with a fluoride standard of 5.6 mg/l not to be exceeded at any time.

(Source: Added at 14 Ill. Reg. 9460, effective May 31, 1990)

**Section 303.431 Long Point Slough and Its Unnamed Tributary**

The general use water quality standards for total dissolved solids and for chloride contained in Section 302.208 shall not apply to Long Point Slough and its unnamed tributary, which receive discharges from the Illiopolis, Illinois facility of Borden Chemicals and Plastics Operating Limited Partnership, from the outfall of that facility to the point of the confluence of the unnamed tributary downstream with the Sangamon River. Instead this water shall comply with a total dissolved solids standard of 3,000 mg/l and a chloride standard of 900 mg/l.

(Source: Added at 14 Ill. Reg. 20724, effective December 18, 1990)

**Section 303.441 Secondary Contact Waters**

The following are designated as secondary contact and indigenous aquatic life waters and must meet the water quality standards of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.Subpart D:

- a) The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal;
- b) The Calumet-Sag Channel;
- c) The Little Calumet River from its junction with the Grand Calumet River to the Calumet-Sag Channel;
- d) The Grand Calumet River;
- e) The Calumet River, except the 6.8 mile segment extending from the O'Brien Locks and Dam to Lake Michigan;
- f) Lake Calumet;
- g) The South Branch of the Chicago River;
- h) The North Branch of the Chicago River from its confluence with the North Shore Channel to its confluence with the South Branch;
- i) The Des Plaines River from its confluence with the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to the Interstate 55 bridge; and

- j) The North Shore Channel, excluding the segment extending from the North Side Sewage Treatment Works to Lake Michigan. The dissolved oxygen in said Channel shall be not less than 5 mg/l during 16 hours of any 24 hour period, nor less than 4 mg/l at any time.

(Source: Amended at 12 Ill. Reg. 9917, effective May 27, 1988)

#### **Section 303.442 Waters Not Designated for Public Water Supply**

The following waters are not required to meet the public and food processing water supply standards of Subpart C, Part 302, even where designated as general use waters:

- a) The Chicago River
- b) The Little Calumet River.

#### **Section 303.443 Lake Michigan Basin**

The waters of the Lake Michigan Basin must meet the Lake Michigan Basin water quality standards of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302 Subpart E. Lake Michigan Basin waters under Illinois jurisdiction consist of the following:

- a) The Open waters of Lake Michigan means all of the waters within Lake Michigan in Illinois jurisdiction lakeward from a line drawn across the mouth of tributaries to Lake Michigan, but not including waters enclosed by constructed breakwaters;
- b) Lake Michigan harbors and waters within breakwaters, and waters (as defined in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 301.440) within Illinois jurisdiction tributary to Lake Michigan including streams, sloughs and other watercourses not named elsewhere in this Part; and
- c) The Chicago River, the North Shore Channel, and the Calumet River are not part of the Lake Michigan Basin.

(Source: Amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 1403, effective December 24, 1997.)

#### **Section 303.444 Salt Creek, Higgins Creek, West Branch of the DuPage River, Des Plaines River**

The General Use chronic water quality standard for cyanide (STORET number 00718) contained in Section 302.208 does not apply to Salt Creek, Higgins Creek, the West Branch of the DuPage River, and the Des Plaines River in Cook County, Illinois. Instead, for these waters the chronic cyanide standard is 10 µg/L.

(Source: Amended at 20 Ill. Reg.3534, effective February 8, 1996.)

**Section 303.445 Total Dissolved Solids Water Quality Standard for the Lower Des Plaines River**

- a) Beginning November 1 and continuing through April 30 of each year, the total dissolved solids (TDS) water quality standard for Secondary Contact and Indigenous Aquatic Life Use waters in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.407 does not apply to the portion of the Des Plaines River from the ExxonMobil refinery wastewater treatment plant discharge point located at Interstate 55 and Arsenal Road (said point being located in Will County, T34N, R9E, S15, Latitude: 41°, 25', 20" North, Longitude: 88°, 11', 20" West) and continuing to the Interstate 55 bridge. TDS levels in these waters must instead meet a water quality standard for TDS (STORET Number 70300) of 1,686 mg/L.
- b) Beginning November 1 and continuing through April 30 of each year, the TDS water quality standard for General Use Waters in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.208 does not apply to the Des Plaines River from the Interstate 55 bridge to the confluence of the Des Plaines River with the Kankakee River. TDS levels in these waters must instead meet a water quality standard for TDS (STORET Number 70300) of 1,686 mg/L.

Source: Added at 31 Ill. Reg. 4440, effective February 27, 2007)

**SUBPART D: THERMAL DISCHARGES**

**Section 303.500 Scope and Applicability**

Subpart D contains site specific water quality based thermal discharge standards. These are now determined without rulemaking pursuant to Section 302.211 and Part 106 of Subtitle A.

(Note: Prior to codification, Part VI of Ch 1: Procedural Rules.)

**Section 303.502 Lake Sangchris Thermal Discharges**

The thermal discharge to Lake Sangchris shall meet the following standards and conditions: The effluent temperature shall not exceed 37° C (99° F) during more than seven (7) percent of the hours in the 12 month period ending with any month and shall at no time exceed 44° C (111° F).

APPENDIX A  
REFERENCES TO PREVIOUS RULES

Chapter 3: Water Pollution  
Part III, Water Quality Standards

35 Ill. Admin. Code  
Part 303

Unnumbered Preamble  
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Rule 302 Main Body  
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## APPENDIX B SOURCES OF CODIFIED SECTIONS

35 Ill. Admin. Code  
Part 303

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