

EPA Integrated Reporting (IR) Categories and How ATTAINS Calculates Them

Version: 8/31/2018

The Assessment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) calculates the EPA Integrated Reporting (IR) Category based upon the data that are entered into the system. The following EPA IR Categories are from the IR Guidance--refer to the IR Guidance documents for more information. The table explains which data elements in ATTAINS are used to calculate the categories. A decision tree for calculating the IR Categories is also provided from the 2002 IR Guidance.

Table 1: EPA Integrated Reporting Categories and How ATTAINS Calculates Them

EPA Integrated Reporting Category	How ATTAINS Calculates the EPA IR Category
<p>Category 1: All designated uses are supported, and no use is threatened*.</p>	<p>All Uses associated with the Assessment Unit have a UseAttainment status of “Fully Supporting”.</p>
<p>Category 2: Available data and/or information indicate that some, but not all of the designated uses are supported.</p>	<p>All Uses associated with the Assessment Unit that have been assessed have a UseAttainment status of “Fully Supporting”, but one or more Uses may have a UseAttainment status of “Not Assessed” or “Insufficient Information”.</p>
<p>Category 3: There is insufficient available data and/or information to make a use support determination.</p>	<p>All Uses associated with the Assessment Unit have a UseAttainment status of “Not Assessed” or “Insufficient Information”.</p>
<p>Category 4: Available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported or is threatened*, but a TMDL is not needed.</p> <p>Waters belong in Category 4 if one or more designated uses are impaired or threatened but establishment of a TMDL is not required. States may place an impaired or threatened water that does not require a TMDL in one of the following three subcategories: a TMDL has been completed for the water-pollutant combination (Category 4A), other required control measures are expected to result in the attainment of Water Quality Standards in a reasonable period of time (Category 4B); and the impairment or threat is not caused by a pollutant (Category 4C).</p>	<p>The more specific categories of 4a, 4b, and 4c appear in ATTAINS. The more general category of 4 does not appear in ATTAINS.</p>

EPA Integrated Reporting Category	How ATAINS Calculates the EPA IR Category
<p>Category 4a: One or more designated uses are impaired or threatened* but establishment of a TMDL is not required because a state developed TMDL has been approved by EPA or a TMDL has been established by EPA for any water-pollutant combination.</p>	<p>The Assessment for the Assessment Unit has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Use with a UseAttainment status of “Not Supporting” AND • a ParameterName with a ParameterStatus of “Cause” AND • a PollutantIndicator of “Y” (Yes) AND • the ParameterName has a TMDL Action under AssociatedActions. •
<p>Category 4b: One or more designated uses are impaired or threatened* but establishment of a TMDL is not required because other required control measures are expected to result in the attainment of WQSs in a reasonable period of time (Category 4B).</p> <p>EPA regulations recognize that alternative pollution control requirements may obviate the need for a TMDL. Specifically, segments are not required to be included on the Section 303(d) list if “[o]ther pollution control requirements (e.g., best management practices) required by local, State, or Federal authority” are stringent enough to implement applicable water quality standards (WQS) (see 40 CFR 130.7(b)(1)) within a reasonable period of time. These alternatives to TMDLs are commonly referred to as Category 4b waters.</p>	<p>The Assessment for the Assessment Unit has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Use with a UseAttainment status of “Not Supporting” AND • a ParameterName with a ParameterStatus of “Cause” AND • a PollutantIndicator of “Y” (Yes) AND • the ParameterName has a 4B Action under AssociatedActions AND • the CycleExpectedToAttain field is populated with a year.
<p>Category 4c: One or more designated uses are impaired or threatened* but establishment of a TMDL is not required because the impairment or threat is not caused by a pollutant (Category 4C).</p> <p>When biological data and information indicates that the impairment is not caused by a pollutant, the Assessment Unit may be placed in Category 4C.</p>	<p>The Assessment for the Assessment Unit has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Use with a UseAttainment status of “Not Supporting” AND • a ParameterName with a ParameterStatus of “Cause” AND • a PollutantIndicator of “N” (No).
<p>Category 5: Available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported or is threatened*, and a TMDL is needed.</p>	<p>The Assessment for the Assessment Unit has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Use with a UseAttainment status of “Not Supporting” AND • a ParameterName with a ParameterStatus of “Cause” AND • a PollutantIndicator of “Y” (Yes) AND • the ParameterName does not have an AssociatedAction.

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<p>Category 5-alt: Available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported or is threatened*, and a TMDL is needed. An Alternative plan intended to achieve water quality standards has been associated with the water.</p>	<p>The Assessment for the Assessment Unit has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Use with a UseAttainment status of “Not Supporting” AND • a ParameterName with a ParameterStatus of “Cause” AND • a PollutantIndicator of “Y” (Yes) AND • the ParameterName has an Alternative Action under AssociatedActions.

***Threatened waters** (from the 2006 Integrated Report Guidance): States may define “threatened waters” in their assessment and listing methodologies. EPA recommends that states consider as threatened those waters that are currently attaining WQSs, but which are expected to not meet WQSs by the next listing cycle (every two years). For example, segments should be listed if the analysis demonstrates a declining trend in a specific water quality criteria (WQC), and the projected trend will result in a failure to meet a criterion by the date of the next list (i.e., 2008 for purposes of the 2006 assessment cycle); or, segments should be listed if there are proposed activities that will result in WQSs exceedances. In ATTAINS, if the ThreatenedIndicator = “Y” (Yes), then the water will be placed in either Category 4 or 5 (depending on the other relevant information provided).

Diagram 1, below, depicts a decision tree for calculating the EPA IR Category. This diagram is from the 2002 Integrated Reporting Guidance.

Diagram 1. Summary logic used to place assessment units (AUs) into each of the five categories in the 2002 Integrated Report

