



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)
FOR E. COLI IN THE LOWER TENNESSEE RIVER WATERSHED (HUC 06020001), TENNESSEE**

Announcement is hereby given of the availability of Tennessee's proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for *E. coli* in the Lower Tennessee River watershed, located in southeastern Tennessee. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to develop TMDLs for waters on their impaired waters list. TMDLs must determine the allowable pollutant load that the water can assimilate, allocate that load among the various point and nonpoint sources, include a margin of safety, and address seasonality.

A number of waterbodies in the Lower Tennessee River watershed are listed on Tennessee's Final 2024 List of Impaired Waters as not supporting designated use classifications due, in part, to grazing in riparian or shoreline zones and sanitary sewer overflows. The TMDL utilizes Tennessee's general water quality criteria, continuous flow data from a USGS discharge monitoring station located in proximity to the watershed, site specific water quality monitoring data, a calibrated hydrologic model, load duration curves, and an appropriate Margin of Safety (MOS) to establish allowable loadings of pathogens which will result in the reduced in-stream concentrations and attainment of water quality standards. The TMDL requires reductions of *E. coli* loading on the order of 10.9-83.1% in the listed waterbodies.

The Lower Tennessee River *E. coli* TMDL may be downloaded from the Department of Environment and Conservation website:

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/watershed-stewardship/tennessee-s-total-maximum-daily-load--tmdl--program.html>

Technical questions regarding this TMDL should be directed to the following members of the Division of Water Resources staff:

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Persons wishing to comment on the proposed TMDLs are invited to submit their comments in writing no later than October 9, 2024 to:

Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Water Resources
Watershed Planning Unit
Davy Crockett Tower
500 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

All comments received prior to that date will be considered when revising the TMDL for final submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The TMDL and supporting information are on file at the Division of Water Resources, Davy Crockett Tower, 500 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243. They may be inspected during normal office hours. Copies of the information on file are available on request.