

**Title 33  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Part IX. Water Quality**

**Chapter 11. Surface Water Quality Standards**

**§1105. Definitions**

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*Naturally Dystrophic Waters*—waters which are stained with organic material and which are low in dissolved oxygen because of natural conditions. ~~See LAC 33:IX.1109.C.3.~~

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AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2074(B)(1).  
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 10:745 (October 1984), amended LR 15:738 (September 1989), LR 17:264 (March 1991), LR 20:883 (August 1994), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 25:2401 (December 1999), LR 26:2545 (November 2000), LR 29:\*\*.

**§1109. Policy**

Water quality standards policies concerned with the protection and enhancement of water quality in the state are discussed in this Section. Policy statements on antidegradation, water use, water body exception categories, compliance schedules and variances, short-term activity authorization, errors, severability, revisions to standards, and sample collection and analytical procedures are described.

A. - C.2.d. ...

3. Naturally Dystrophic Waters. *Naturally dystrophic waters* are defined in LAC 33:IX.1105. Water bodies shall be designated as *naturally dystrophic waters* and assigned appropriate water quality criteria according to the procedure in the department’s current Water Quality Management Plan/Continuing Planning Process.

~~a. — Naturally dystrophic waters are defined as waters which receive large amounts of natural organic material largely of terrestrial plant origin, are commonly stained by the decomposition of such organic material, and are low in dissolved oxygen because of natural conditions. Only those water bodies primarily affected by natural sources of oxygen-demanding substances or naturally occurring cycles of oxygen depletion will be considered for classification as naturally dystrophic waters. These water bodies typically include or are surrounded by wetlands (such as bottomland hardwood forests, freshwater swamps and marshes, or intermediate, brackish, or saline marshes) and have sluggish, low gradient flows most of the year. Naturally dystrophic water bodies, though seasonally deficient in dissolved oxygen, may fully support fish and wildlife propagation and other water uses. Low dissolved oxygen concentrations (less than 5 mg/l) may occur seasonally during the warmer months of the year in naturally dystrophic water bodies.~~

~~b. — No water body may be classified as naturally dystrophic without the approval of both the administrative authority and the EPA. A use attainability analysis may be conducted to gather data to document the characteristics of a naturally dystrophic water body. Modified dissolved oxygen criteria and/or seasonal periods may be applicable if supported by the use attainability analysis. Applicable general and numerical criteria not specifically excepted shall remain applicable to designated naturally dystrophic water bodies.~~

~~c. — A wastewater discharge may be proposed into an approved, designated naturally dystrophic water body only if the discharge will not by itself or in conjunction with other discharges cause impairment of the applicable designated uses nor cause exceedance of any applicable general and site specific criteria in the receiving water body, as determined in the exception approval process, nor cause exceedance of any applicable general and site specific criteria in LAC 33:IX.1113 and 1123 in any water body which receives water from the naturally dystrophic water body.~~

~~d. — A wastewater discharge may be proposed for an approved, designated naturally dystrophic water body in a wetland only if the discharge will not by itself, or in conjunction with other discharges, cause inundation of the receiving area such that regeneration of characteristic vegetative species would be significantly reduced, will not significantly modify species composition of the receiving area, and will not increase biological succession of the receiving area above naturally occurring levels. Natural background conditions and significant changes will be determined through use attainability analyses.~~

D. - I.4. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2074(B)(1).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 10:746 (October 1984), amended LR 15:738 (September 1989), LR 17:264 (March 1991), LR 17:966 (October 1991), LR 20:883 (August 1994), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:2546 (November 2000), LR 29:\*\*.