

NOTICE OF HEARING AND COMMENTS  
FOR TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS  
IN THE LOWER ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has prepared Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Slate Creek near Wellington, Little Arkansas River from Alta Mills to Valley Center, and Cowskin Creek from Wichita to Belle Plaine watersheds in the Lower Arkansas River Basin. These watersheds are all impaired for total phosphorus. Additionally, the Little Arkansas River from Alta Mills to Valley Center is impaired for dissolved oxygen. Due to these impairments, these waters do not meet state surface water quality standards.

The total phosphorus TMDLs presented for public review are:

Lower Arkansas River Basin

*Little Arkansas (HUC 11030012)*

Little Arkansas River from Alta Mills to Valley Center  
Little Arkansas River at Alta Mills  
Black Kettle Creek near Halstead  
Kisiwa Creek near Halstead  
Emma Creek near Sedgwick  
Little Arkansas River at Valley Center

*Middle Arkansas-Slate (HUC 11030013)*

Cowskin Creek from Wichita to Belle Plaine  
Cowskin Creek at Wichita  
Cowskin Creek in Wichita-Valley Center Floodway  
Cowskin Creek near Belle Plaine  
Slate Creek near Wellington

The dissolved oxygen TMDL presented for public review is:

Lower Arkansas River Basin

*Little Arkansas (HUC 11030012)*

Little Arkansas River from Alta Mills to Valley Center  
Black Kettle Creek near Halstead  
Kisiwa Creek near Halstead  
Emma Creek near Sedgwick

Draft copies of these TMDLs can be obtained for review by contacting the Watershed Planning, Monitoring, and Assessment Section in the Bureau of Water (785-296-8229) or by accessing them online through the KDHE TMDL website at [http://www.kdheks.gov/tmdl/planning\\_mgmt.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/tmdl/planning_mgmt.htm).

A public hearing to take testimony from interested parties will be held:

**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020

**Time:** 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Location:** Remote

The first portion of the hearing will be a briefing by the Watershed Planning, Monitoring, and Assessment Section outlining each of the TMDLs, and the second portion of the hearing will be open for public comment. The public comment period for these TMDLs will be held open from November 19<sup>th</sup> of 2020 through December 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2020. After reviewing the testimony and public comments, KDHE will make appropriate revisions to the TMDLs and submit them to Region 7 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As part of ongoing efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Kansas, interested individuals are strongly encouraged to participate in the public hearing via Zoom or teleconference. To join the hearing, please access the Zoom room via the KDHE TMDL website at [http://www.kdheks.gov/tmdl/planning\\_mgmt.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/tmdl/planning_mgmt.htm) or dial 866-620-7326 and enter the conference code 785 296 5506.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public hearing process and may request the proposed TMDLs in an accessible format. Accommodations may be made for any individual wishing to attend the public hearing in-person by contacting Michelle Probasco through the contact information specified in this notice; in-person attendees will be required to adhere to current CDC and state of Kansas guidelines for COVID-19. Requests for accommodation to participate in the hearing process should be made at least five working days in advance of the hearing by contacting KDHE. Requests, questions, or written comments should be directed to Michelle Probasco of the Watershed Planning, Monitoring, and Assessment Section of KDHE at: 1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 420, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1367; by email: [Michelle.Probasco@ks.gov](mailto:Michelle.Probasco@ks.gov); by telephone: 785-296-8229; or by fax: 785-559-4258.