Appendix E
Impaired Water Data Tool

For many years, EPA has collected information on healthy and polluted waterways that States and territories report under the Clean Water Act. Tens of thousands of polluted waters have been identified nationally, and much has been done to reduce pollution risks to people's health, the economy, and the environment. However, many Americans care more about their local lake or stream rather than the thousands of waters described in national statistics. People want an easy way to learn about their local waters, pollution problems, why they matter, and what's being done to restore and protect them. Rather than sifting through baffling scientific information stored in complex databases, an average citizen might say, "All I really want to know is: how's MY waterway? And please tell me in words I understand." EPA developed *How's My Waterway*, an app and website, to provide quick and clear answers for people to access anytime, and anywhere.

How's My Waterway is a new EPA tool that helps users find information on the conditions of their local waters simply by using a smart phone, tablet, or desktop computer. The tool for technical and non-technical users offers easy access, a local-area focus, plain-English terms and descriptions, and results within seconds, based on the same technical data found in EPA's water quality data system, ATTAINS.

Permittees and the public can retrieve information on assessments, and reported conditions of local waters for anywhere in the nation by searching by zip code or place name. Results include a list and map of the waters within a roughly 5-mile radius, including which waters are assessed, and polluted or healthy based on the most recent State reporting under the Clean Water Act. Selecting a specific waterway from the list or map then shows the pollutants reported, TMDL cleanup plans completed, and nonpoint pollution control projects in the area.

How It Works

- SEARCH: use a smart phone to find out about a lake, river, or stream while standing right at the water's edge. Or check on any location in the US by entering a zip code or place name on your computer, smart phone or tablet.

- RETRIEVE: instantly receive a list of waterways within about five miles of the search location. Each waterway is identified as unpolluted, polluted, or unassessed, along with the year its condition was reported. A map option offers a view of the search area with the waters color-coded by assessment status. Zoom in for more details or pan across the map to check on new areas and new waters.

- DISCOVER: once you select a specific waterway from the map or the list of waters, the app and website offer more detailed results, including the type of pollution reported and what has been done by EPA and the States to reduce it. Technical users can follow links to detailed online scientific assessment reports.

- LEARN: read simple, non-technical descriptions of each type of water pollutant. These include what the pollutant is, where it comes from, how it can harm the environment, human health, or valuable economic uses of the waterway, and what you can do to help.

- FIND: looking for even more? The related links page connects you to popular water information on beaches, drinking water, fish habitat projects, and more!

Where does the water quality information in *How's My Waterway* come from?

The Clean Water Act requires states, territories, and authorized tribes (here called States for brevity) to monitor water pollution, and report to EPA every two years on the waters they have evaluated. This process is called assessment. Part of this process is deciding which waters do not meet water quality standards because they are too polluted. These degraded waters are called impaired (polluted enough to require action), and are placed on a State list for future actions to reduce pollution. *How's My Waterway* local information includes whether and when a waterway was assessed, what pollution may exist, and what has been done to improve conditions.

Visit ***How's My Waterway*** at: https://mywaterway.epa.gov/.