

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

**CHAPTER 61**

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 48-1-10 et seq.

**Notice of Drafting:**

The Department of Health and Environmental Control (“Department”) proposes amending R.61-68, Water Classifications and Standards. Interested persons may submit comment(s) on the proposed amendments to Andrew Edwards, Water Quality Standards Coordinator of the Bureau of Water; S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201; [edwardaj@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:edwardaj@dhec.sc.gov). To be considered, the Department must receive comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 28, 2022, the close of the Notice of Drafting comment period.

**Synopsis:**

Pursuant to Section 303(c) of the federal Clean Water Act (“CWA”), South Carolina’s water quality standards must be reviewed and revised, where necessary, at least once every three years. Referred to as the triennial review, this required process consists of reviewing the designated water uses, criteria, and antidegradation policy. The Department will review and adopt, where appropriate, the Environmental Protection Agency’s updated numeric and narrative criteria according to Section 304(a), Section 304(f), and Section 307(a) of the CWA. In reviewing its water classifications and standards, the Department will give consideration to the factors listed in S.C. Code Section 48-1-80 and update R.61-68, Water Classifications and Standards, where appropriate.

The Department proposes amending R.61-68 to adopt revised water quality standards as deemed necessary to comply with federal updates and recommendations. The Department also proposes amending R.61-68 as deemed necessary to comply with the Pollution Control Act, S.C. Code Sections 48-1-10 et seq.

The proposed amendments may also include corrections for clarity and readability, grammar, punctuation, codification, and other such regulatory text improvements.

The Administrative Procedures Act, S.C. Code Section 1-23-120(A), requires General Assembly review of these proposed amendments.