



## **WVDEP Releases Nutrient Criteria Development Plan November 2016**

In response to EPA pressure for states to develop nutrient criteria for rivers and streams, each state has been required to develop a Nutrient Criteria Development Plan. West Virginia recently published its plan, which can be found here:

<http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/wqs/Documents/Public%20Meetings/2016%20November%202015/2016%20WVNutrientPlan.pdf>

The plan outlines current West Virginia water quality standard nutrient criteria regulations [Requirements Governing Water Quality Standards Rule (47 CSR 2)] and presents the steps the state will take to continue the development of nutrient criteria for rivers and streams, including timelines and milestones.

West Virginia has both scientifically defensible narrative and numeric nutrient criteria that are protective of all designated uses for waters of the state, as well as an extensive monitoring program to determine impairment due to nutrient pollution. In addition, a 303(d) algae bloom listing methodology has been developed.

Once a waterbody is determined to be impaired and 303(d) listed due to nutrient pollution, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) will be developed with associated discharge permit limits or an EPA approved alternative restoration approach shall be conducted.

Significantly, after extensive evaluation of data and ongoing monitoring, nutrient pollution has been found to affect only specific waterbodies and/or waterbody segments in the state and, therefore, DEP believes that nutrient issues are appropriately addressed on an individual waterbody or watershed basis rather than with statewide one-size-fits-all criteria.