



Tribal Member Hearing and Supplemental Comment Period: Draft Water Quality Standards & Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Procedures



For all interested tribal members, a live on-line hearing regarding the Tribe's draft Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Procedures will be held on:

October 15, 2020 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tribal members can register and attend the meeting via Web-Ex on the Tribal Member Portal. *The live-online hearing will be recorded and posted on the Tribal Member Portal for tribal members to view at their convenience.*

A 60-day tribal member comment period on the Environmental Programs Division's proposed tribal water quality standards and Clean Water Act section 401 certification procedures will be from **Monday August 31, 2020 through Friday October 30, 2020.**

You can submit your comments by one of the following methods:

- **E-mail:** wqs@southernute-nsn.gov
- **Mail:** Water Quality Standards Committee, Environmental Programs Division, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737 #81, 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado 81137.
- **Phone:** (970) 563-4705, extension 7901 to comment on the water quality standards and Clean Water Act section 401 certification procedures.

Proposed Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters & Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Procedures

What does this mean for the Tribe?



- Protecting the Tribe's water resources from pollution.
 - Protecting tribal member health and welfare.
 - Protecting wildlife and aquatic species.
 - Exercising tribal sovereignty.
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What are water quality standards?



- A legal basis for controlling pollutants entering tribal waters (such as those from wastewater plants and industrial facilities).
 - Describes the condition of the waterbody.
 - Classify water bodies into designated uses (such as, recreation, agriculture, public water supply, protection of fish and wildlife).
 - Establish numeric and narrative criteria for pollutants in tribal waters.
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To what water bodies will the Tribe's water quality standards apply?



- All water bodies within the exterior boundary of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation (such as, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands) over which the Tribe has authority for establishing water quality standards.
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What are Section 401 Certification Procedures?



- Procedures the Tribe will follow to issue 401 water quality certifications.
 - A 401 water quality certification is needed for projects that require a federal permit (such as, pipeline construction projects that may impact water quality).
 - Under Clean Water Act section 401, the Tribe has the authority to review and certify certain projects for impacts to water quality.
 - If the Tribe believes a project could negatively impact tribal waters, the Tribe can add conditions to the federal permit that provide increased protection of tribal waters (such as, installing erosion control berms).
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