



State of Utah

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Quality Standards Workgroup

FROM: Chris Bittner, DWQ

DATE: March 11, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed changes to R317-2, Standards of Quality for Waters of the State of Utah

The table below summarizes the proposed changes shown on the attached redline/strikeout of R317-2. The *Proposed Site-specific Standard for Total Dissolved Solids, Blue Creek, Box Elder County, Utah, March 3, 2015* in support of the proposed site-specific total dissolved solids standard for Blue Creek is also attached.

Rule	Description of Change
R317-2-7.1	A new explicit condition was added that when background concentration of a pollutant is higher than the applicable water quality criterion, the criterion will be the background concentration. This change is per USEPA Guidance and is intended to allow Utah to delist or not list waters where the exceedance of criteria is determined to be caused by natural conditions. The rule was also reformatted into 3 sections for easier reading and based on intent.
Table 2.14.1Footnote 4	The site-specific TDS criteria for Blue Creek were revised in accordance with the recommendations of the 2015 DWQ report for Blue Creek. The previous site-specific criteria were too low and would likely result in false-positive impairment conclusions. The criteria were recalculated into 2 seasonal criteria, each having both maximum and average criteria. Comparison values for assessing against the average criteria are also included. The location of Blue Creek is corrected from Gunnison to Bear River Bay.

Table 2.14.2	The aquatic life criteria for gross alpha were changed to indicators. Footnote 10 that applies to the other pollutant indicators also previously applied to gross alpha. Gross alpha is a non-specific measurement and the source of the radioactivity should be determined if the gross alpha (or beta) indicators are exceeded. Criteria for gross alpha and beta remain for Class 1C and Class 4 waters. USEPA does not have aquatic life use criteria for gross alpha or beta.
Table 2.14.3b	Missing parentheses were added to correct formulas for the calculating acute aquatic life criteria for nickel, silver, and zinc.