



RECREATIONAL USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSES





Use-Attainability Analysis

- A use-attainability analysis (UAA) is an assessment of environmental and economic factors that affect the attainment of a use for a specific body of water.
- The goal is to ensure that appropriate uses and criteria are assigned to a particular water body.
- Conducting a UAA does not mean that a change in the water quality standard will/must occur.



RECREATIONAL USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSES (RUAA)

- RUAAAs are a tool to provide information on the type of recreational use occurring in a water body.
- Warm weather study consisting of physical measurements of the stream, observation of bank access, and current and historical recreational uses.
- The goal is to ensure the appropriate recreational use is assigned to a particular water body.



RECREATIONAL USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSES (RUAA)

- RUAA's conducted using TCEQ developed guidelines "Procedures for a Comprehensive RUAA and a Basic RUAA Survey".
- Procedures have recently been revised using feedback from entities conducting fieldwork.
- New procedures were implemented for RUAA's beginning in 2012.



RECREATIONAL CRITERIA

Recreation Category	Definition Summary	Geometric Mean Criteria (colonies/100mL)
Primary Contact	Significant risk of ingestion (swimming, diving, wading by children, tubing, etc.)	126
Secondary Contact 1	No significant risk of ingestion (wading by adults, fishing, boating, etc.)	630
Secondary Contact 2	Same as SC1, but recreational activities occur less frequently because of physical characteristics or limited public access	1030
Noncontact Recreation	No significant risk of ingestion and contact recreation does not occur because of unsafe conditions (ship and barge traffic, birding, etc.)	2060



STATUS OF RUAAs

- 73 RUAAs on water bodies are under review by TCEQ.
- 20 RUAAs have draft recommendations that have been released for public comment.
- Eight of those recommend a reclassification to SCR1
- Three recommend a reclassification to SCR2



STATUS OF RUAAs

- 32 RUAAs are currently in progress
 - These projects are in various levels of development from planning to report writing.
- Studies are being conducted in the Canadian, Red, Cypress, Neches, Brazos, San Antonio-Nueces and Nueces River Basins



<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/index>



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Recreational Use Attainability Analyses

RUAAs planned, in progress, or completed for Texas rivers and streams.

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RUAA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- Comments will be taken into consideration when making the final recommendation on a water body.
- Public comment can be made on recommendations once again when the proposed 2013 Texas Surface Water Quality Standards are released for a 45 day formal comment period.



NEXT STEPS

- Submit revisions to EPA with the next triennial revision of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.
- EPA must approve any revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.
- Future identification of impairments in each stream will be based on assigned uses.



Questions

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