

Appendix B

New York State Water Quality Classifications

Fresh Surface Waters

Class N fresh surface waters.

- (a) The best usages of Class N waters are the enjoyment of water in its natural condition and, where compatible, as a source of water for drinking or culinary purposes, bathing, fishing, fish propagation, and recreation.
- (b) There shall be no discharge of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes, waste effluents or any sewage effluents not having had filtration resulting from at least 200 feet of lateral travel through unconsolidated earth. A greater distance may be required if inspection shows that, due to peculiar geologic conditions, this distance is inadequate to protect the water from pollution.
- (c) These waters shall contain no deleterious substances, hydrocarbons or substances that would contribute to eutrophication, nor shall they receive surface runoff containing any such substance.

Class AA-Special (AA-S) fresh surface waters.

- (a) The best usages of Class AA-S waters are: a source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. The waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.
- (b) These waters shall contain no floating solids, settleable solids, oil, sludge deposits, toxic wastes, deleterious substances, colored or other wastes or heated liquids attributable to sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes.
- (c) There shall be no discharge or disposal of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes into these waters.
- (d) These waters shall contain no phosphorus and nitrogen in amounts that will result in growths of algae, weeds and slimes that will impair the waters for their best usages.

Class A-Special (A-S) fresh surface waters.

- (a) The best usages of Class A-S waters are: a source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. The waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.
- (b) This classification may be given to those international boundary waters that, if subjected to approved treatment, equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection with additional treatment, if necessary, to reduce naturally present impurities, meet or will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and are or will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes.

See also *Water Quality Regulations: Surface Water and Groundwater Classifications and Standards*, 6NYCRR Parts 700-706, effective August 4, 1999, NYSDEC, Albany, New York.

Class AA fresh surface waters.

- (a) The best usages of Class AA waters are: a source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. The waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.
- (b) This classification may be given to those waters that, if subjected to approved disinfection treatment, with additional treatment if necessary to remove naturally present impurities, meet or will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and are or will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes.

Class A fresh surface waters.

- (a) The best usages of Class A waters are: a source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. The waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.
- (b) This classification may be given to those waters that, if subjected to approved treatment equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection, with additional treatment if necessary to reduce naturally present impurities, meet or will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and are or will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes.

Class B fresh surface waters.

The best usages of Class B waters are primary and secondary contact recreation and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.

Class C fresh surface waters.

The best usage of Class C waters is fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival. The water quality shall be suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes.

Class D fresh surface waters.

The best usage of Class D waters is fishing. Due to such natural conditions as intermittence of flow, water conditions not conducive to propagation of game fishery, or stream bed conditions, the waters will not support fish propagation. These waters shall be suitable for fish survival. The water quality shall be suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes.

Saline (Marine) Surface Waters

Class SA saline surface waters.

The best usages of Class SA waters are shellfishing for market purposes, primary and secondary contact recreation and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.

Class SB saline surface waters.

The best usages of Class SB waters are primary and secondary contact recreation and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.

Class SC saline surface waters.

The best usage of Class SC waters is fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival. The water quality shall be suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes.

Class I saline surface waters.

The best usages of Class I waters are secondary contact recreation and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.

Class SD saline surface waters.

The best usage of Class SD waters is fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish survival. This classification may be given to those waters that, because of natural or man-made conditions, cannot meet the requirements for primary and secondary contact recreation and fish propagation.

Groundwaters

Class GA fresh groundwaters.

The best usage of Class GA waters is as a source of potable water supply. Class GA waters are fresh groundwaters.

Class GSA saline groundwaters.

The best usages of Class GSA waters are as a source of potable mineral waters, or conversion to fresh potable waters, or as raw material for the manufacture of sodium chloride or its derivatives or similar products. Class GSA waters are saline groundwaters.

Class GSB saline groundwaters.

The best usage of Class GSB waters is as a receiving water for disposal of wastes. Class GSB waters are saline groundwaters that have a chloride concentration in excess of 1,000 milligrams per liter or a total dissolved solids concentration in excess of 2,000 milligrams per liter.

Assignment of groundwater classifications.

- (a) The groundwater classifications defined above are assigned to all the groundwaters of New York State.
- (b) The Class GSB shall not be assigned to any groundwaters of the state, unless the commissioner finds that adjacent and tributary groundwaters and the best usages thereof will not be impaired by such classification.

